

Welcome to
St. Luke Cedar Hill
Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025 – 10 am
Holy Eucharist



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We acknowledge that we gather with respect on the traditional territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples, known in our day as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, the traditional custodians of these lands. We are grateful for their hospitality.

Picture on the Front Page:

Third Sunday of Advent, designed by Sharon McMillan

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Please stand as you are able.

Priest: May God be with you.

All: And also with you

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting for Week Three

Priest: Holy God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.

All: Amen.

Voice 1 When I look around, I see shadows of sadness,
families who have lost loved ones, people in prison,
people who are isolated and feel on their own...

Voice 2 When I look around, I see shadows of grief,
people dreading the holidays
because of painful memories,
or because they don't want to spend
another Christmas alone...

Voice 1 In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy...

Voice 2 In the face of grief, in the face of loss,
we light a candle of joy...
(Light the third candle in the Advent wreath.)

Voice 1 May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Voice 2 May the light from this candle say to all
that God's joy is coming,
on earth as it already is in heaven.

Voice 1 Friends, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!

Hope Is a Star
(by Brian Wren)

(Third Verse)

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Welcome and Introduction (*The Rev. Daniel Fournier*)

Opening Hymn: CP 102 Prepare the Way, O Zion
(tune: *Berend Väg För Herran*)

Invitation to Confession

Priest: Dear friends,
we are still waiting for the world we long to see.
Like our ancient ancestors, we yearn for peace
and justice, healing and restoration.
Today we are told that the signs of Jesus' presence
are all around us, if we know how to see them.
We hear in the Gospel the signs we are to look for,
especially when we are distracted or doubtful,
confused or disappointed.
The good news is that there is even more to come.
We live in an impatient world,
but today we are told: "Be patient!"
As we begin our Eucharistic celebration today,
let us take a moment and examine ourselves
and confess to almighty God, our own impatience.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie Confession (*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy*)

Priest: Lord Jesus, you gave sight to the blind.
Make us see the distress of those who are poor:
Kyrie eleison.

All: Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Priest: Christ Jesus, you made the deaf hear.
Open our ears to the cries of those who are weak:
Christe eleison.

All: Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you made the lame walk.
Make us lift up those paralyzed
by their fears and failures:
Kyrie eleison.

All: Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Priest: God, who is both mercy and love,
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by His Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Collect of the Day

Priest: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

God of glory and compassion,
at your touch the wilderness blossoms.
Grant perseverance and patience
to all who long for your Son's return,
so that we may announce in word and deed
the good news of the kingdom.
We ask this through Christ whose day draws near.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35: 1-10

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146: 4-9

*Response: **Come, O Lord, and save us***

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger. **(Response)**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; **(Response)**

The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah! **(Response)**

SECOND READING: JAMES 5: 7-10

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of James.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia (sung 4 times)

[From: Norah Duncan; GIA Publications, Inc.]

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11: 2-11

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the gospel:

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Hymn: CP 104 Joy Shall Come

(tune: Joy Shall Come)

Homily: The Rev. Daniel Fournier *(Please be seated.)*

Anthem: SNC 38 "Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"
(Daw/White)

Please stand as you are able.

An Affirmation of Faith *[Based on "A Liturgical Affirmation",
from A New Zealand Prayer Book]*

Leader: We declare our faith as we say:

**All: You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Sitting, standing or kneeling, as is your custom.

Let us offer our prayers to God for the life of the world
and for all God's people in their daily life and work.

IN THE WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN PRAYER CYCLE,
we pray today for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do
Brasil, The Most Revd Marinez Rosa Dos Santos
Bassotto, Primate. **Locally we pray for** Anna, our
Bishop, and for Abbey Church + Emmaus Community,
and their priest, Matt Humphrey. **We also pray for**
Lutheran Church of the Cross and Pastor Lyndon, **and**
for the Diocese of Caledonia and Bishop David
Lehmann.

God of all creation,
every creature finds its way to rejoice in your presence.
The desert blooms, a mountain top glistens,
a stream makes music flowing over rocks.
We give you thanks for the joy in nature
that can lift our hearts.

Thank you for the joy we can share with each other,
for familiar songs on our lips,
for greetings from old friends,
for the excitement of children in this season,
and for the promise born again in us
as we anticipate Jesus' birth.

Brief silence.

God who makes all things new:

All: Renew our life together.

God of the world, its wonders and its woes,
we know there are many people
who cannot rejoice this year,
so we open our concerns for the world
before you this day.

We remember those who have been silenced
by oppressive regimes
by shocking tragedy
by bullying and threats
or by illness that takes away speech.

Brief silence.

Help us listen with care
when words are not easy to find,
and show us when and how
to speak when others cannot.

God who makes all things new:

All: Renew our life together.

We remember those who have grown weaker
through changing economic circumstances,
through aging or illness,
through fear or loss,
through hunger and homelessness.

Brief silence.

Renew their strength and courage
to engage life as they are able,
and show us when and how
to offer our support and encouragement.

God who makes all things new:

All: Renew our life together.

We remember those whose days are filled with fear
because of war and conflict on their streets,
because of intimidation and discrimination,
because the security they relied on has disappeared.

Brief silence.

Bring them protection and comfort
in uncertain situations,
and make us wise and generous neighbours
who can offer relief.

God who makes all things new:

All: Renew our life together.

We remember those whose lives seem empty
because their cupboards are bare,
because someone precious is absent
because choices made have not been fulfilling.

Brief silence.

Fill empty lives with meaning and purpose.
Show us how to share what we have
in ways that are generous and dignified,
and let joy dawn again where it has died.

God who makes all things new:

All: Renew our life together.

Hear us as we offer our prayers, first in silence,
for all those on our hearts this day:

(Names added here.)

God who makes all things new:

All: Renew our life together.

Renew in us all the joy
that comes from the assurance of your love for us
as we offer these prayers in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Invitation and Peace *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Priest: The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus
and with all those who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth
in which Christ became incarnate.

So, come to this table, you who have faith
and you who would like to come to know it more.

You who have been to this sacrament often,
and you who have not been for a long time.

You who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

As we prepare to come to the table
let us exchange a sign of peace with one another.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: CP 106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

(tune: Ascension)

The Preparation of the Table

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest: God of hope,
renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

*Please remain standing for the whole Eucharistic Prayer,
as you are able.*

Eucharistic Prayer

*[Source: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) – The Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America]*

Priest: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people
with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes
to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! (x2)
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is the one
coming in the name, the name of our God.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! (x2)**

[From: St. Aidan Setting; John Bell, The Iona Community]

Priest: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you for the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son,
Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Priest: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth
in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Priest: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Priest: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Ameni, ameni, amen, amen, amen, ameni. *(repeat)*
[From: Young men; Christ the New Man Parish, Ga-Rankuwa, South Africa; GIA Publications, Inc.]

The Lord's Prayer

Priest: In the words that our Saviour taught us, we pray:

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us. (twice)
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**
[From: St. Bride Setting; John Bell, The Iona Community]

The Giving of Communion

Priest: God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please follow the directions of the sides-people as the congregation is invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine.

If you would prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing. Crossing your hands over your chest will signal the priest to give you a blessing instead.

NOTE: *Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

Please remain seated as we sing the hymns during communion.

Hymns during Communion:

CP 113 Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free

(tune: Maranatha)

CP 107 Prepare the Way

(tune: Prepare the Way)

Prayer after Communion *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Priest: Merciful God,
may this eucharist free us from our sins,
fill us with unending joy,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Glory to God

**All: whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God,
from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

Announcements *(Please be seated.)*

Blessing *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Priest: Go from here with confidence and hope.
Strengthen those who are tired and exhausted;
comfort those who are anxious and fearful.
Say to them all:
"Be strong, and do not fear!
For God is coming—
Indeed, God is already here!
And almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: CP 108 Hark, a Herald Voice Is Sounding
(tune: Merton)

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Thank you to all who assisted with today's service.

In the Anglican-Lutheran-Moravian Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Dr. Andrea Mann, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary's Office (Anglican); **for** Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration (Lutheran); **and for** Mr. David Jones, District President, and the members of Board of Elders of the Canadian District of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS
December 14th – December 21st
(New Items, *Revised Items)**

Please stay for coffee time after today's service – Today's coffee time and a celebration of Laura Stoyles' 100th birthday will be held in the chapel area of the church.

***The church office will be closed on Friday, December 19th** when Neil takes another of his remaining vacation days. Heather Simpson has generously offered to cover the office hours on **Monday, December 15th**.

***Longest Night Service – Next Sunday, December 21st, 7 pm** – This time of year can be **difficult** for many people because of loss or changes in our lives. **This service of light in the midst of darkness is an opportunity to come and enter gently into a quiet holy time, and is open to everyone.** You are welcome to invite a friend to come and share with you in this service of remembrance and hope.

Planning Christmas activities with visiting family and friends? Keep in mind our **special Christmas services at St. Luke's. Christmas Eve Services will be at 4 pm (Christingle service, a child-friendly service with Christingle oranges for the children) and 8 pm (Choral Eucharist)** with a pre-service Carol Sing starting at 7:45 pm. **Come and sing some of your Christmas favourites before the service starts at 8 pm.** The 8 pm service will also include music by St. Luke's Handbell Choir. **The Christmas Day Service will be a Family Communion Service at 10 am.**

****Invitation Cards in the Bulletins** – Please use the invitation card in today's bulletin to **invite a friend or neighbour to the special services through Advent and over Christmas.** Or post the card on your fridge as a reminder of the services over Christmas. Extra invitation cards are available on the table at the back of the church.

****2026 Contributor Boxes** are available at the back of the church. If you donate only via the PAR or by e-transfer, or just a couple of times a year, we didn't order a box for you this year. **If you would a box of weekly envelopes, would like monthly envelopes, or find out how to donate via the PAR (Pre-Authorized Givings from your bank account) please talk to the Treasurer, Barb Prescott, or send an e-mail to** givings@stlukecedarhill.ca.

***Donations Towards St. Luke's Grand Piano** – We now have purchased a Baldwin Model R Artist Grand Piano, as approved by Parish Council at our November Council meeting. While this is a wonderful addition to St. Luke's music program and will help make the space very suitable for concerts and recitals, this expenditure was not included when we approved this year's budget at our AGM in February. **So we would greatly appreciate donations towards the \$6,500 which was spent for the piano, its cost (\$6,000) plus the moving costs to bring it to St. Luke's (\$500).** To make a donation, please make a donation in one of your special donation envelopes or via an e-transfer and note that the donation is towards the grand piano. We are hoping to recover the cost of the piano through donations and fundraising. **Thank you for your donations to date. So far we have received \$2,095 in donations with more pledged.**

Donations for Flowers for Christmas – The Altar Guild invites your **donations for flowers for the Christmas services.** Donations can be made in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special event, or simply as a thanks offering. **Donations can be handed in to the office, or added to the collection plate.** If you would like a tax donation receipt for your donation, please use one of your donation envelopes, and mark "flowers " or Altar Guild on it. Please make cheques payable to St. Luke's. For more information, please contact Ann Séguin.

****Advent Messages from the Bishop** – Bishop Anna is sharing Advent messages each Sunday. Interestingly, she has recorded the messages at St. Luke's. **On the First Sunday of**

Advent, Bishop Anna reminds us that we live in the household of God and that until every member of this household has somewhere warm and dry to live, we have work to do. **In the Second Sunday of Advent message, she invites us to consider the teachings of John the Baptist.** The videos can be found at the **News page of St. Luke's website.**

The Shelbourne Community Kitchen's Donate and Double Your Impact campaign is back. Between now and December 31st, **the first \$20,000 donated will be matched by an incredible group of supporters**, doubling the impact of every gift. With the strength of bulk purchasing, fresh produce from our gardens, and a powerhouse volunteer team, your contribution stretches even further to support community members. This is one of the most important campaigns of the year for The Kitchen, and they're so grateful for your support **Let's make this holiday season unforgettable by doubling The Kitchen's impact together!** See more information and a link to make a donation are at the **News page of St. Luke's website.**

The December Faith Tides is now available online at the **News page of St. Luke's website.** Print copies are available in the church or from the parish office. Or please call the office (250-477-6741) to ask to have a copy delivered. ***Articles about St. Luke's 165th Anniversary Celebration and the Service of Remembrance are included in the Ripples section of this month's Faith Tides.*** See more information on the **News page of St. Luke's website.**

***Christmas Stocking Project** – As we have done in previous years, we have chosen a World of Gifts Project through Alongside Hope (previously called the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) as our Christmas Stocking Project. **We started our Christmas Stocking Project last Sunday, the first Sunday in Advent, and it will continue to Christmas Day.** Our project will be buying donkeys for families in Kenya - sorry, no goats on the list this year! You are invited **to drop your gold coins (Loonies or Toonies) into the Christmas**

stocking at the back of the church or to put a special donation into the collection plate labelled “Donkeys Project”. Money designated in the collection or collected in the stocking from now to Christmas Day will be sent to Alongside Hope to buy donkeys for families in Africa. Each donkey costs \$160. Thanks for your donations to date. **So far we have received \$200, which will pay for 1¼ donkeys.**

St. Luke’s Players Panto Tickets – Tickets for St. Luke’s Panto, Jack and the Beanstalk, are available now through EventBrite. It will be a traditional panto suitable for ages 3 -103 with singing, dancing, opportunities to join in the fun and lots of laughter. This year some actors are playing instruments. Dates are: Evenings at 7 pm on December 17, 18, and 19; Matinees at 2 pm on December 14, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and January 1. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. See more information at the **Events page of St. Luke’s website.**

***Sunday Coffee Times** – We are pleased that Rebecca Ford is able to do our set up and cleanup for Sunday coffee times. We are paying Rebecca \$50/Sunday to look after coffee times for us, an expense we didn’t put into this year’s budget. **If you are able to make an extra donation in your envelopes and note that it is for coffee time that would be helpful.** Thank you for your donations to date. **As of December 9th, we have received \$745 in donations towards coffee time.**

***An Updated Christmas Bazaar Summary Sheet** is available at the **News page of the website.** **The total from the Bazaar is now \$9,695.20,** with one Silent Auction payment still to come.

***The next Silver and Sage 55+ Gathering will be Thursday, January 8th from 1:30 – 3:30 pm in the church.** The topic will be Sitting is the New Smoking. Susanne Reul-Zastre will lead this session.

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visit St. Luke's website:
<https://www.stlukesvictoria.ca>,
send an e-mail: admin@stlukecedarhill.ca,
or phone: 250-477-6741.
We hope you will visit again!

Rector: **The Reverend Daniel Fournier**

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For Pastoral Care Needs, please contact the office

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Rector's Warden:

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Claire White

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY December 21st, 2025

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25

FLOWERS

Flowers at St. Luke's are coordinated by Ann Séguin.

*Please contact Ann if you would like to make
a donation towards flowers at the Christmas services.*

There are no flowers during Advent.