

Open To The Light  
**ST Catherines**  
ANGELICAN CHURCH



December 21, 2025  
Advent 4

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## **St. Catherine's Mission, Vision and Values**

St. Catherine's Anglican Church, at the heart of Edgemont Village in North Vancouver on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, is a contemporary community of Christian seekers.

We welcome you to join us in the journey. We provide a place of spiritual growth through Christ and we respond with gratitude for God's abundance in our lives through service to our brothers and sisters in the world.

Our **Vision** is to:

- Be an inclusive and thriving community of faith for all generations
- Continually invite others to join us in our journey of faith and Christian discipleship
- Honour the strengthening of relationships and development of community, both within our walls and outside them
- Minister to those in need in Christ's name

### **Our Values:**

St Catherine's is a community that aspires to be:

Welcoming, Inclusive, Curious, Creative,  
Sustainable, Caring and Humble

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Walters Art Museum, W53917R

*As you enter the church, we invite you to light a votive candle to remember a person or situation that you carry on your heart. Candles are also available during communion.*

*Liturgical Note*

*In the context of Christian liturgy, Israel and Zion do not refer to the modern political state, but either to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.*

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**GATHERING**

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**Welcome**

The. Rev. Sarah Lehman

*Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

*Presider* We acknowledge that we live, work, and worship on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are grateful for and will advocate for Indigenous communities, we mourn those who were forcibly removed, and we grieve the legacies of colonialism. We seek to hold ourselves accountable to taking up the work of truth and reconciliation ever more meaningfully, day by day.

***All* May we be ministers of the reconciling love of the Risen Christ.**

*Presider* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

***All* And also with you.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING: LOVE

*Presider* Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Presider* The candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy continue to burn in the Advent Wreath. On this last Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of Love as we continue to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*The fourth candle is lit.*

*Presider* Let us pray:

*All* **Gracious God, this candle symbolizes your infinite love. Help us, as Christmas nears, to truly feel that love transforming us. May we show it to everyone we meet, offering practical love, patience, and kindness, so that others may know Christ through our lives. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **God of grace,  
give us the faith of Joseph  
to see the Spirit's work  
where the world sees only shame;  
to listen to the promise  
and to awaken to the cry  
of life renewed and love reborn;  
through Jesus Christ,  
the one who is to come. Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN:** **HARK THE GLAD SOUND** (VU 29)

**H**ark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

**H**e comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

**H**e comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace,  
to bless the human poor.

**O**ur glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

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### **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

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*Please be seated.*

#### **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16**

*Reader      A reading from the book of Isaiah*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the

time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.  
For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18**

*Led By Gordon Lee*

*Leader* Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

**People Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

*Leader* O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**People Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

*Leader* You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**People Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

*Leader* Let your hand be upon the one at your side in honour, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.  
And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light  
of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**People**

**Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7**

*Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Reader Holy word, holy wisdom.*

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL HYMN: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL (CP 89)**

**O** come, O come Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O** come, O key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe that way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

## **GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 1:18-25**

*Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.

***People***      **And also with you.**

*Presider*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew

***People***      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.

***People***      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



## **GOSPEL HYMN (continued) (CP 89)**

**O** come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the heart of humankind;  
O bid our bitter conflict cease,  
and be for us our Prince of Peace.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## **HOMILY**

The Rev. Sarah Lehman

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED**

*Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

*Presider*      Let us affirm our faith, saying,

**All**            **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**All**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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## **PRAYER**

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### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please stand, sit, or kneel, as is your custom for prayer.*

### **CONFESSION**

*Presider*      Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love  
and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners  
and inviting us to this table. Let us confess our  
sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider*      Most merciful God,  
**All**              **we confess that we have sinned against  
you in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole  
heart; we have not loved our neighbours  
as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we  
humbly repent. For the sake of your Son  
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive  
us, that we may delight in your will, and  
walk in your ways, to the glory of your  
name.**

*Presider* Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**People And also with you.**

*The community, standing at our seats, greet one another saying or gesturing: "Peace be with you".*

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## **COMMUNION**

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### **PREPARING THE TABLE:**

#### **PEOPLE, LOOK EAST! THE TIME IS NEAR (CP 91)**

**People,** look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
**People,** look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

**Furrows,** be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

**B**irds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.

**S**tars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

**A**ngels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

*Presider*

Let us pray.

**All**

**God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 3**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider* Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
we give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who in the fullness of time came among us  
in our flesh, and opened to us the way of  
salvation. Now we watch for the day  
when he will come again  
in power and great triumph to judge this world,  
that we, without shame or fear,  
may rejoice to behold his appearing.  
Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven,  
who for ever sing this hymn  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

***All* Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full,  
full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Presider*

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love  
you have made known to us in creation;  
in calling Israel to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets;  
and above all in the Word made flesh,  
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him  
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.  
In him, you have delivered us from evil,  
and made us worthy to stand before you.  
In him, you have brought us  
out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness,  
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over  
to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
and said, "Take, eat:  
this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;  
and when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them,  
and said, "Drink this, all of you:  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me."

*Presider*  
**All**

Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
**we remember his death,**  
**we proclaim his resurrection,**  
**we await his coming in glory;**

*Presider*

and we offer our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;  
presenting to you, from your creation,  
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,  
that they may be the sacrament  
of the body of Christ  
and his blood of the new covenant.  
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,  
that we, made acceptable in him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,  
reconcile all things in Christ,  
and make them new,  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People*

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *(Sung):*

**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 forever.**

## **BREAKING THE BREAD**

*Presider*      God of promise,  
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**All**            **Happy are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb.**

*Presider*      The gifts of God for the people of God  
**People**        **Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to receive Communion of one kind (Bread or Wafers), or in both kinds (Bread and Wine).*

*Please sanitize your hands before receiving.*

*Please do not instinct (dip) the Bread or Wafer in the cup.*

*While Communion is being received, we ask that you keep the silence. Communion is not filmed or live-streamed for the privacy of worshippers.*

*Candle lighting during this time is welcomed.*



## **COMMUNION MUSIC:**

### **COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE (CP 100)**

Comfort, comfort ye my people,  
speak ye peace: thus says your God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
bowed beneath oppression's load;  
speak ye to Jerusalem  
of the peace that waits for them:  
tell her that her sins I cover,  
and her warfare now is over.

**H**ark the herald's voice is calling  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to new repentance  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, the warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for Christ a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him  
and the hills bow down to greet him.

**M**ake ye straight what long was crooked;  
make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits Messiah's reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand, sit, or kneel, as is your custom for prayer.*

*Presider* Let us pray.

**All** God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

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## SENDING

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** A Churchwarden

*Presider* 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.

## BLESSING

### SENDING HYMN:

**MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GLORY; LORD** (CP 363)

My soul proclaims your glory, Lord.  
my spirit sings with thankful voice,  
for you my lowly prayer have heard;  
in you, my Saviour, I rejoice.

Nations, unborn will bless your name,  
giver of boundless grace to me,  
in every age you are the same.  
you make the humble whole and free.

**You** have made bare your mighty arm  
to break the yoke of selfish power,  
and lift your broken ones from harm,  
bursting the gates of greed's proud tower.

**You** fill the hungry mouths with food,  
and show the poverty of wealth.  
Your ancient vow you will have made good,  
and raised your children to new health.

**Glory** to God, all being's Spring,  
to God the Word, salvation's voice,  
to God, the Spirit, praise we sing;  
with all the ages we rejoice.

## **DISMISSAL**

*Presider*      Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**



***Please join us after the service for coffee  
at the back of the church.***

## **Thank you for ministering this morning:**

Priest-in-Charge & Preacher: The Rev. Sarah Lehman  
[rev.sarah@saint-catherines.org](mailto:rev.sarah@saint-catherines.org)

Musician & Choir Director: Hyejung Jun

**Altar Guild:** Bonnie Grundy and  
Susana Wensley  
**Greeters:** Tony Dodd & Gillian Holland

**Eucharistic  
Administrator:** Janet Benjamin and  
Elizabeth Barratt  
**Intercessor:** Pauline Barrett  
**Readers:** Vivian McGie and Gordon Lee  
**Coffee Group:** Penny Zuk, Susana Wensley and  
Ivy Howes

**Sunday School:** Shaunti Bains  
**Livestream:** Ashkon Vahedi

Wardens: Vivian McGie & Rhonda Garton  
Building/

Office Administrator: Natasha Stegemann  
[office@saint-catherines.org](mailto:office@saint-catherines.org)

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