



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
Vancouver, BC • Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds



# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

10:30 A.M.

*Choral Eucharist | In-Person & Livestream*

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The Very Reverend Christopher A. Pappas, *President*

The Reverend Areeta Bridgemohan, *Preacher*

The Reverend Juanita Clark, *Deacon*

Dr. Neil Cockburn, *Organist & Director of Music*

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# *Welcome to the Cathedral*

Whether today is your first time with us, or if this is your spiritual home, we welcome you to the Cathedral. We're glad that you're here today.

We envision a radically inclusive, restlessly inquisitive, intentional, and inspired Cathedral. This is a place that is called to lead and to serve, in communion and community, with healing, reconciliation, and love, living out the Christian mission. Together, we look to the power of Christ for the transformation of each person, this city of Vancouver, and the world.

We recognize our history and traditions while seeking renewal and growth in spiritual depth and size. Curious and adaptable, this chorus has room for every voice — especially yours.

To learn more about the many ministries and opportunities for service in this community, please visit our website: [www.thecathedral.ca](http://www.thecathedral.ca). Following our worship service, please join us for coffee hour in the parish hall.

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence enriches our life together.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



The Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas, Ph.D., D.Min.  
Dean & Rector



## *Connect with us!*

We invite you to tell us more about yourself by completing our short connection form. You may find this form at [tinyurl.com/CathedralConnection](http://tinyurl.com/CathedralConnection) or by scanning the QR code on the left.

## *A message to children and their grown-ups*

We're glad you're here! Here are a few things we would like you to know about our 10:30 a.m. worship service:

- Playmats and an activity cart with books, puzzles and colouring are available at the front of the church;
- The nursery is available downstairs as a quiet space for you and your children. The service is live streamed so you can follow the worship;

Sunday school will resume on Sunday Jan 11th for children aged 2.5 years and older. We look forward to seeing you then!

## *Need to reach us?*

Visit us at [www.thecathedral.ca/pages/our-team](http://www.thecathedral.ca/pages/our-team) or scan the QR code on the right to access our clergy and staff contact information.

We're here to support you — feel free to reach out anytime!



*Cathedral parish announcements will commence shortly before 10:30 a.m.*  
**The Gathering of the Community**

**Processional Hymn**

***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***

**(CP 117)**

Text: St. 1-2, German (15th cent.); tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3,  
Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925).

Music: ES IST EIN' ROS, melody *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Saviour,  
when half spent was the night.

3 O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere;  
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,  
and share our every load.

*Presider* In this time and place, we gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the Coast Salish Peoples: the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sk<sup>w</sup>xwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

*All* From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.

*Presider* In this time and place, we await the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

*All* Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus Come.

*Presider* In this time and place, we await God's transformation of the world.

*All* Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus Come.

*Presider* In this time and place, we await the coming of the peaceable realm.

*All* Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus Come.

*Presider* In this time and place, we commit ourselves to work with Christ that all these things may be accomplished.

*All* In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**The Blessing & Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Cantor** In this sea - son of long - ing and an - ti - ci - pa - tion, God is at  
work in the heart of cre - a - tion, of - fer - ing all new  
life and sal - va - tion: A wo - man ans - wers God's call!



## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* Let us pray. (*Silence is kept.*) Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, **now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

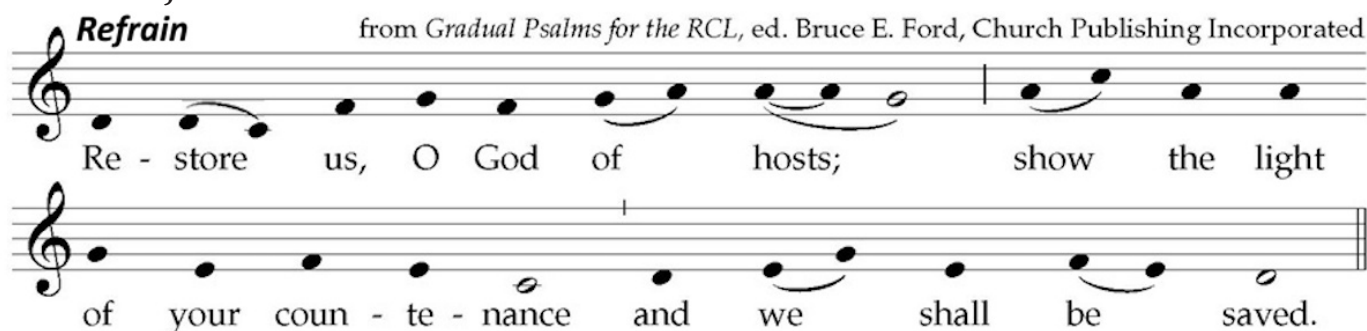
## The First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

*Reader* Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. **Refrain**

4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**Refrain**

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. **Refrain**

## The Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

*At the conclusion of the epistle:*

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



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,  
 Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.  
 seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dour, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;  
 Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

## The Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

*Deacon* The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*All* Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*After the Gospel, the Deacon says:*

The Gospel of Christ. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## The Sermon

The Reverend Areeta Bridgemohan

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## The Nicene Creed

*Deacon* Let us confess our faith, as we say,

*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. 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 worshipped 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.

## Litany of the Saints

### *Call to Prayer (All sit or kneel, as is your custom.)*

Text: Litany of the Saints. Music: John D. Becker (1953-) Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

**Cantor** Lord have mer - cy, Christ have

**All** Lord have mer - cy, mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

### *Primary Saints*

*Cantor*

Holy Mary, Mother of God; St Michael; Holy Angels of God; St John the Baptist; St Joseph; St Peter and St Paul; St Andrew; St John

**All:** Pray for us.

**All:** All you ho - ly men and wom-en, pray for us.

### *New Testament Saints*

*Cantor*

St Elizabeth; St Mary Magdalene; St Philip and St James; St Mary and St Martha; St Photini; Sts Joanna and Susanna; Sts Timothy and Titus; St Lydia

*All*

Pray for us. All you holy men and women, pray for us.

### *Benedictine Saints*

*Cantor*

Holy Father St Benedict; St Scolastica; St Maurus and St Placid; St Gregory the Great; St Augustine of Canterbury; St Walburga; St Hildegard; St Bernard of Clairvaux

*All*

Pray for us. All you holy men and women, pray for us.

### *Other Monastic Saints*

*Cantor*

St Anthony of the Desert; St John Cassian; St Macrina; St Basil the Great; St Brigid of Kildare; St Columba; St Francis and St Dominic; St Julian of Norwich

*All*

Pray for us. All you holy men and women, pray for us.

### *Prophets of Nonviolence*

*Cantor*

St Paul Jones; St William Temple; St Hiram Hisanori Kano; St Martin Luther King; St Dorothy Day; St Thomas Merton; St Oscar Romero; St Desmond Tutu

*All*

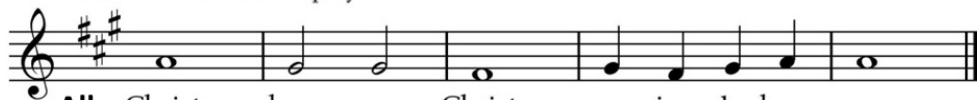
Pray for us. All you holy men and women, pray for us.

### ***Petitions***

*Cantor* From destruction of the climate; that we make work to heal the planet; from thirst and hunger; that we may feed our neighbours; from violence and destruction; that we may work for peace and justice; from fear and isolation; that we may love as a community



**All:** Hear our prayer.



**All:** Christ, hear us, Christ, gra-cious-ly hear us.

### ***Final Invocations***

*Cantor* Jesus Christ our Saviour; by your glorious Resurrection; by your victory over death; by your freeing of the captives; by your Ascension into Glory; through the coming of your Spirit; Alleluia Risen Lord; Alleluia, Amen.

*All* Hear our prayer. Christ, hear us, Christ, graciously hear us

## **The Confession and Absolution**

*Deacon* When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*All* Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have acted willfully, vented our anger, and sought revenge. Curb our passions, we pray, restrain our violence and hostility. Give us the courage to speak out in the face of injury and wrong. And in your mercy, restore and remake us, that we may act justly, keep faith, and walk in the way of your commandments, in justice and in peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Kyrie** *Missa Super Frère Thibault* Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)

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

## **The Peace**

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

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

# *The Celebration of the Eucharist*

## **The Offertory**

Thank you for your prayerful stewardship of the ministries of the Cathedral. Your generous gift of any amount matters, because your stewardship empowers our mission to advance the Good News of God's infinite love and mercy through our worship, ministries, formation, and service. You may make a gift using the offering plate being passed around at this time or refer to the back page of this bulletin to see other methods. Together with the gifts of bread and wine, we present our gifts at the altar as a sign of thanksgiving to God, from whom all good things come.

## **Offertory Hymn**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

(CP 89)

Text: Latin (9th cent. ?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale* (15th cent.); arr. Healey Willan (1880-1968), alt. Desc. Neil Cockburn.

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

4 (All) O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

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

5 (High) O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

(High voices)  
2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

6 (Low) O come, O Dayspring from on high  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

3 (Low) O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

7 (All) O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us our Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

## **The Prayer over the Gifts**

*Presider* Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son,  
*All* make holy all we offer you this day.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer 3*

BAS p.198

*Presider* The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider* Blessed are you, gracious God [...] 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.



## Sanctus

### *Holy, Holy, Holy*

(SNC 212)

Music: St. Aidan Setting, John L. Bell (1949-).

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow - er and might,  
Bless - ed, bless - ed, bless - ed, bless - ed is the one  
heaven and earth are full, are full of your glo - y.  
com - ing in the name, the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

*Presider* We give thanks to you, Lord our God [...]

*Presider* There - fore, Father, according to his com - mand, we re - mem - ber his death,  
*All* we pro - claim his re - sur - rec - tion, we a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry;

*Presider* and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you [...] in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**Amen**

(CP 737)

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010).

*Ringing of the bell. (x3)*

## The Lord's Prayer

Setting: McNeil Robinson (1943-2015)

*Found in BAS p.918.*

*Presider* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ, though we await his coming in glory.

*All* Come, Lord Jesus, come.

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

## Fraction Anthem

### *Lamb of God*

(SNC 231)

Music: St. Bride Setting, John Bell (b. 1949) Iona Community

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: grant us Peace.

3 Times

## The Communion

To receive the consecrated Bread, approach the altar and extend your hands to the minister with palms open. To receive the consecrated Wine, carefully guide the chalice to your lips. For public health, please do not dip the Bread into the Wine. If you do not wish to partake of the common cup, know that you receive the full efficacy of communion with only the Bread. If you do not wish to receive communion, you are invited to receive a blessing by approaching the altar and crossing your arms over your chest. You may also remain in your seat as you feel comfortable. If you are interested in learning about baptism, please contact a member of our clergy. During communion, Healing Prayer is offered for all people in the west alcove. Please respect the confidentiality of the people praying by not entering the alcove during prayer time.

## During Communion

### *Ave Maria*

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### *Hope Is a Star*

(SNC 35)

Text: Brian Wren (1936-).

Music: MOON BEAMS, Joan Collier Fogg (1949-).



1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.  
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.  
tell - ing the world that the Sav - iour is born.  
Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

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 a - fraid.

## The Prayer after Communion

*Presider* Let us pray. Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.

*All* May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

## The Doxology

*Presider* Glory to God, 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.

[Commissioning for lay ministers who will be taking communion to those not able to participate in the Eucharist at the church:

*Presider* In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing Holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the body and blood of Christ.

*All* We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup.]

## The Blessing

May the Word made flesh find a dwelling in your hearts, and may you live in love as the signs of his coming, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

## Closing Hymn

*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* (CP 114)

Text: John Cennick (1718-1755), Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Martin Madan (1726-1790), alt.

Music: HELMSLEY, melody attrib. Thomas Olivers (1725-1799) and Martin Madan (1726-1790).

1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
God appears on earth to reign.

3 Now redemption, long expected,  
see in solemn pomp appear;  
all his saints, on earth rejected,  
thrill the triumph sound to hear:  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
See the day of God appear!

2 Every eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
all who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply grieving, (x3)  
shall the true Messiah see.

4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory;  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly! (x3)  
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

## Dismissal

*Deacon* Go forth in peace; the Lord is near. Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Helmsley*  
("Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending")

Robert M. Thompson (1940-)

# The Chronicle Newsletter

Scan the QR code for the latest Chronicle newsletter.



## The Prayers of the People

Scan the QR code for the prayer cycles.



## The Ministers of the Liturgy

**Presider**

The Very Reverend Christopher A. Pappas *Regimental Alcove*

The Reverend Claude St-Denis

**Preacher**

The Reverend Areeta Bridgemohan *Regimental Alcove*

Peter Roulston

**Deacon**

The Reverend Juanita Clark *ASL Interpreter*

Vanessa Coley Donohue

**Subdeacon**

Terry Love *Music*

The Cathedral Choir

**MC**

Megan Otton

Dr. Neil Cockburn

**Servers**

Matthew Nichiporuk,

(Organist & Director of Music)

Dana Osborne, Carol Cook

*Sound/Livestream*

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*Duty Trustee*

Holly McMillan

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**Breadmaker**

Keith Seyer and Cami Iacovone

Lorna Grant, Dot Roulson &

**Gospel Station**

The Reverend Margaret Marquardt

Miles Lubinich

**Gospel Station**

James Conklin

*Altar Guild*

Peter Roulston, Marilyn Campbell

**Preacher Station**

Esther Aneke

*Healing Prayer Team*

Susan Alexander, Colin Miles

**Presider Station**

Liz McCausland

## Today

**Unpacking our faith** | December 21 | 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Sundays @ 4 (Nine Lessons & Carols)** | December 21 | 4:00 p.m.

**Compline** | December 21 | 8:00 p.m.



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This worship takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x̱məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam),  
Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations, in the heart of Vancouver.

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