

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE HOLY EUCHARIST



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00AM

DECEMBER 21, 2025



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THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude: *Sleepers, Wake!* ~J.G. Walther

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Dear friends, we gather on traditional Anishinaabe Algonquin territory.

May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

May we always seek to respect the histories, spiritualities and cultures of First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

May we walk together the path of reconciliation and right relations.

Opening Hymn: 89 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 1-4, 7)

Text Latin, tr. John Mason Neale, Music Plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale (15th cent.) © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

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

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

3 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to you, O Israel.

4 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Advent Wreath Lighting

We light a candle each of the four Sundays in Advent. The light of the candles grows brighter each week as we wait in joyful expectation for the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

Each candle reminds us of the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brings to the world. We receive these gifts, and we are called to share them with each other, and in our world. We light the candle of love this week.

Advent Song

Text and Music by John L. Bell © 2001 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland CCLI License #1826689

He came down that we may have hope/peace/joy/love, (sung 3x)
Hallelujah for evermore.

Apostolic Greeting

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

Collect for Purity

Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trisagion

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.
(x3)

The Collect of the Day

God of all hope and joy,
open our hearts in welcome,
so that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming
may find in us a dwelling prepared for him;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. Amen.

A New Zealand Prayer Book (1989)

Children go to Sunday School

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16 (Liz Scobie)

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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18

Setting: Gordon Johnston



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

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.
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. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
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. **R**

Epistle: Romans 1:1-7 (Babs Dunstan)

A reading from the Letter of Paul 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 100 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Text Is. 40:1-5, para. Johannes G. Olearius, tr. Catherine Winkworth, Music Geneva 1551 © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our 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.

2 Hark! the herald's voice is calling

In the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance,
Since the reign of God is here.
O that warning call obey!
Now prepare for Christ a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet Him,
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

3 Make 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.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,
as we say,

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (Josiah Davies)

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Confession and Absolution

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.

Most merciful God,
**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. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn: 95 O Come, Divine Messiah

Text Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, tr. Sister Mary of St. Philip, Music French © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 O come, Divine Messiah,
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.
Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, Divine Messiah,
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.

2 O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
whom priest and prophet long foretold,
come, break the captives' fetters,
redeem the long-lost fold.
Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, Divine Messiah,
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.

3 You come in peace and meekness
and lowly will your cradle be;
all clothed in human weakness
shall we your Godhead see.
Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.

Dispel the night and show your face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, Divine Messiah,
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.

The Prayer over the Gifts

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.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

The Great Thanksgiving (Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 2)

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, Source of all being,
we give you thanks and praise
for your faithful love. You call us into friendship
with you and one another
to be your holy people,
a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us,
unfailingly you remain with us.
When we injure others,
you confront us in your love

and call us to the paths of righteousness.

You stand with the weak,
and those, broken and alone,
whom you have always welcomed home,
making the first last, and the last first.
Therefore we raise our voices
with angels and archangels,
forever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O Holy One:
when Hagar was driven into the wilderness
you followed her and gave her hope.
When Joseph was sold into bondage,
you turned malice to your people's good.

When you called Israel out of slavery,
you brought them through the wilderness
into the promised land.
When your people were taken into exile,
you wept with them by the river of Babylon
and carried them home.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

At the right time you sent your Anointed One
to stand with the poor,
the outcast, and the oppressed.

Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.

He accepted water from a woman of Samaria
and offered her the water of new life.
Christ knew the desolation of the cross
and opened the way for all humanity
into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to them, and said, "Take and 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."

Loving and Holy One,
recalling Christ's death and resurrection,
we offer you these gifts,
longing for the bread of tomorrow
and the wine of the age to come.
Therefore, we proclaim our hope.

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
that through them you may sustain us
in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you
all whose lives are marked by suffering,
our sisters and brothers.

When we are broken and cast aside,
embrace us in your love.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O Source of all life,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting Christ's coming in glory
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread #5

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

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

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Fraction Anthem: Come, Come Emmanuel

Text and music: James J. Chepponis © 1995 GIA Publications Inc.
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Come, come Emmanuel. Come Emmanuel.

Holy Communion

Gluten Free wafers are available

Communion Hymn: 110 Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us

Text Philipp Nicolai, tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr., Music Hans Sachs, adapt. Philipp Nicolai
© 1982 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License #1826689

1 "Sleepers, wake!" a voice astounds us;
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:

"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"

Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:

"The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up, and give us light;

the Bridegroom is in sight.

Alleluia!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share."

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing.
Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
she wakes and hurries through the night.

Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Son, Incarnate Word,
alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call
to come into the banquet hall.

3 Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join the immortals
as we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight,
no ear heard such delight:
alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King;
forever let our praises ring.

Anthem: Something Which Is Known (Gregory Norbet)

Prayer after Communion

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.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

THE SENDING OF THE COMMUNITY

Children's Talk

Announcements

Doxology

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.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn: 114 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

Text John Cennick, Charles Wesley, Martin Madan, Music attrib. Thomas Olivers, Martin Madan © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

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.

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, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

3 Now redemption, long expected,

see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah! hallelujah! hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

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! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Dismissal

Go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Swiss Noël ~ L-C Daquin

~~ Everyone is invited to stay for Fellowship Hour after Service ~~

8:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

Presider/Preacher: Rev Maria Nightingale

Greeter: Marilyn Tough

Reader/Intercessor: Andrea Teekasingh

10:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST (BOOK OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICES)

Presider: Rev Tim Kehoe

Preacher: Rev Maria Nightingale

Duty Warden: Jim Doherty

Server: Ryan Benjamin

Sidespersons: Howard Foster, Patricia Simon

Reader: Liz Scobie, Babs Dunstan

Intercessor: Josiah Davies

Lay Administrators: Babs Dunstan, Karen Scott

Altar Guild: Renee Premakanthan, Marlyne Zawadi

Fellowship Hour: Eileen Cherry, Liz Scobie

CONTACT LIST

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Assistant Organist: Richard Frith

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Donation Options: <https://www.stthomasaltavista.ca/pages/donate-online>

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In the event of a **pastoral emergency** please contact Fr Tim or Rev Maria. For other enquiries, please call Wendy at the office.