



*Please practice Health protocols that make you feel comfortable.  
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

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**SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS  
WITH HOLY EUCHARIST**

*The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding & Preaching*

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A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors.  
With thanks, please mute your cell phones during the service.  
The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

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Prelude – *Joanne Lambert*

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

**Lighting the Candle of Love on the Advent Wreath:**

*The four advent candles (Hope, Peace, Joy & Love) lit as we sing*

*A Candle Is Burning - Sandra Dean & James R. Murray (t. CP#126)*

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
A candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth**

**Opening Sentences:**

Lon: Sing to the Lord a new song;

**All: Sing to the Lord, all the earth!**

Melanie: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

**All: Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

Lon: Declare God's glory among the nations,  
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

**All: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.**

Melanie: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

**All: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
The world, and those who live in it.**

Lon: Let the whole creation sing for joy  
at the presence of God, who is coming.

**All: God is coming, indeed,  
to judge the earth with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity and truth.  
Praise the Lord!**

**Opening Hymn: *Once in Royal David's City* (CP #123)**

**Once in royal David's city  
Stood A lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby**

**in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all  
And His shelter was a stable  
And His cradle was a stall  
With the poor and meek and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high,  
when, like stars, his children crowned  
all in white shall gather round.**

**First Lesson:**        **Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19** – Lynda Clifford  
Adam and Eve disobey God's command &  
Disrupt the order and goodness of creation

**Carol:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (CP #118)

**O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels;**

*Refrain*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

**God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created: (*refrain*)**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest: (*Refrain*)**

**Second Lesson:**    **Genesis 22:15-18** – Marian Towstego  
God promises that, through Abraham,  
All the peoples of the world will be blessed.

**Carol: *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 the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain***

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

**Third Lesson:      Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 – Ron Sewell  
                            The people who walk in darkness  
                            Receive the promise of the Messiah.**

**Carol: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (CP #140)**

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth, to all good will,  
From Heav’n’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hast’ning on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold  
When the new heaven and earth shall own**

**The Prince of Peace, their King,  
And the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

**Fourth Lesson:     Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 – Norma Sealey**  
The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse  
To restore the peace of creation

**Carol: *What Child is This* (CP #137)**

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

***Refrain:***

**This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary**

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading. *Refrain***

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain***

**Fifth Lesson:        Luke 1:26-35, 38 – Deb Butler**  
An angel appears to Mary and announces  
That she will bear a holy child

**Carol: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (CP #138)**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ by highest heaven adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;**

late in time, behold Him come  
off-spring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see  
hail, the-incarnate Deity  
pleased as one of us to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail! the heav'n born Prince of peace!  
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die:  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

**Sixth Lesson:**        **Luke 2:1-7** – Sean Lyon  
                                  Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem,  
                                  Where Mary gives birth to her child

**Carol:** *Away in a Manger* (CP #126)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love You, Lord Jesus - look down from on high  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask You to stay  
close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care  
and fit us for heaven to live with You there.

**Seventh Lesson:**    **Luke 2:8-16** – Greg Robinson  
                                  Angels appear to shepherds in the fields  
                                  And announce the birth of the Messiah

**Carol:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains

**And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo**

**Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly, sweetly through the night  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their brief delight  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo**

**Eighth Lesson:     Matthew 2:1-11 – Brett Cane**  
Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah  
And offer gifts to the baby Jesus

*Christmas Hallelujah*

**I've heard about this baby boy  
Who's come to earth to bring us joy  
And I just want to sing this song to you  
Born for us on Christmas Day  
He changed our lives in every way  
With every breath we're singing Hallelujah**

*Chorus:*  
**Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**A couple came to Bethlehem  
Expecting child, they searched the inn  
To find a place, for You were coming soon  
There was no room for them to stay  
So in a manger filled with hay  
God's only Son was born, oh, Hallelujah**

*Chorus*

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**The shepherds left their flocks by night  
To see this baby wrapped in light  
A host of angels led them all to You  
It was just as the angels said  
"You'll find Him in a manger bed"  
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah**

*Chorus*

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**A star shone bright, up in the east  
To Bethlehem, the wise-men three  
Came many miles and journeyed long for You  
And to the place at which You were  
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh  
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah**

*Chorus*

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**Ninth Lesson:     John 1:1-14 – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego**  
The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us,  
full of grace and truth

**Carol: *Silent Night, Holy Night* (CP #119)**

**Silent night, Holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child  
Holy infant, so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, Holy night  
Shepherds quake, at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born**

Silent night, Holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Reflection – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

Prayers of the People – Melanie Ihmels

**The Peace** *All stand*

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

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

*The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another in a manner that feels safe for you.*

*Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

**Offertory:** *The First Nowell* (CP #139, Vss 1-4)

**The First Nowell, the Angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:**

***Refrain:***

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell  
Born is the King of Israel!***

**They lookèd up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. (*refrain*)**

**And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. (*refrain*)**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest:  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. (*refrain*)**

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

## THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

*(Eucharist Prayer 2)*

Presider: God 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: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name. *(singing)*

**Sanctus & Benedictus** – *music, Land of Rest, American traditional tune*

**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; Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**The Lord's Prayer** (*said*)

**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 pow'r and the glory are yours,  
Now and for ever. Amen.**

**Breaking of 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.**

Administration of Holy Communion

*All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.*

*If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing,  
please cross your arms over your chest.*

*Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

**During Communion:**

***Born in the Night*** (CP #130)

**Born in the night, Mary's child,  
a long way from your home:  
coming in need, Mary's child,  
born in a borrowed room.**

**Clear shining light, Mary's child,  
your face lights up our way:  
Light of the world, Mary's child,  
dawn on our darkened day.**

Truth of our life, Mary's child,  
you tell us God is good:  
prove it is true, Mary's child.  
Go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's child,  
you're coming soon to reign:  
King of the earth, Mary's child,  
walk in our streets again.

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (CP #125)*

Infant holy, infant lowly  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ, the babe is Lord of all  
Swift are winging, angels singing  
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing  
Christ, the babe is Lord of all  
Christ, the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story  
Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow  
Praises voicing greet tomorrow  
Christ, the babe was born for you  
Christ, the babe was born for you!

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

**Prayer after Communion:** Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

### Doxology

Presider: Glory to God

All: whose love, 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 Song:** *Joy to the World (CP #154)*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive the King;

Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;  
Let us glad songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Dismissal

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

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*Please join us for coffee and conversation in the parish hall*

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**READINGS FOR DECEMBER 24, 2025**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

**READINGS FOR DECEMBER 25, 2025**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

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**MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICES & BIBLE STUDY-** We will stand down for December 17<sup>th</sup>, December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> and will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

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**CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION**

• Wednesday, **December 24**, at 4:00 p.m. (St Stephen) A traditional time of worship with carols and candlelight.

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**CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION**

• Wednesday, **December 24**, at 8:00 p.m. (St Mary) A traditional time of worship, with carols and candlelight.

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**CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION**

• Thursday, **December 25**, 10:00 a.m. (St Mary) A simple time of worship with a smaller group and singing.

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28**

**9:00 a.m. (St Mary)** Service of Holy Communion

**11:15 a.m. (St. Stephen)** Service of Holy Communion with Baptism

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**POTLUCK LUNCHEON – DECEMBER 28 AT ST. STEPHEN -**

There will be a potluck lunch in the hall after the 11:15 service. All are welcome. Please bring items to share. Oven warming is possible.

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING  
2025 DONATIONS**

A reminder from the CRA that donations must be **received** by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, (not just dated!) in order to qualify for a 2025 Tax Receipt. Cheques should be made payable to either St. Mary's Church or St. Stephen's Church.

**PRESENTING YOUR OFFERING:**

If you would like to contribute to the operation of our Parish there are several ways to do so.

- There are secure mail slots in the office doors at St. Mary and St. Stephen for drop off.
- You may place your offering in the collection plate at the church when you attend services. You may use your weekly offering envelope at either church. We will ensure that it gets to the church that is identified on the outside of the envelope.
- There are special "Visitor" envelopes at the back of the church or in the pews. Please follow the instructions on the front.
- You may enroll in our Pre-Authorized Donation program if you would like to give through automatic debit or credit card. Speak with Lynda Clifford at St. Stephen or Leslie Pedlow at St. Mary.
- You may donate to either congregation on-line by going to the parish website (ParishCS.ca) and clicking the "DONATE" tab on the top line. From there follow the instructions.
- If you would like a set of 2026 offering envelopes, please speak with Leslie at St. Mary or Lynda at St. Stephen.
- Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

The Wardens

## INTERCESSIONS

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi. We pray for Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada; John Stephens, Metropolitan of The Province of B.C and Yukon We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for Anna, our bishop and Christ Church Cathedral School, Victoria

**Regional Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for the Parish of St. Margaret of Scotland and the people of the Parish and surrounding community neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of the Central Saanich United Church.

**Our Parish Clergy:** Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul and Gil

**Postulants:** Gary & Richard

**Seminarian:** Melanie

**For our Parish Families:** John McAllister & Cathy Novak and Garry & Tracy Stubbs and their families.

**For those being Baptized soon:** Bennett

**For those ill or in need of prayer:** Neville & Patricia, Roche, Diana A., Fern & Mark, Dennis, Logan, Tom, Glenda

**For Those with Long-Term Needs:** Cheryl, Ted, Jillian S., Paul J., Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery, Courtney, Nancy J., Kristen

**For friends beyond the parish:** Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Bryan, Karen & family, Drew, Sheila P., Amy, Anna, Betty O., Betty E., Alysha, Sue P., Michelle, Cassidy, Carl G., Keith & Lillian, Michael A., Jasmine, Kai, Garth W., Chris P.

**In the greater community:** We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. We are all called to create communities where all children of God are safe and respected. We pray for those impacted or endangered by the toxic drug supply crisis and also for their loved ones who are, or have been, impacted.

## CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949

His email: [ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca](mailto:ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca)



***Note:** Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.*

### **St. Mary's Anglican Church**

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### **St. Stephen's Anglican Church**

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