



*Serving All for the Glory of God*

## **“God with Us”**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent: the Blessed Virgin Mary**

December 21, 2025, 10:00 AM

*A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall  
be called Emmanuel: God with us. Matthew 1.23*



Service of Holy Eucharist

Liturgy: *The Book of Alternative Services*

Hymns and Sung Responses: *Common Praise*

As the parish of St. Peter's, we acknowledge that we gather  
on the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 peoples.

Welcome, friend! We are glad you chose to worship with us today. To learn more about our faith community, please fill out the Welcome card in the pew and join us for refreshments after service.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 PM**

**Thursday, December 25, 10:00 AM**

**Sunday, December 28, 10:00 AM**

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## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

CALL TO HOLY SILENCE..... Peter L.

Prelude: Dance on "Gabriel's Message" arr. Michael Bedford; Winter Carol (English tune DANBY)  
arr. Brenda Portman

**Processional: 88 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Tune: Hyfrydol)**

## WELCOME

The time is surely coming when our love for one another and all of God's children will increase.

**We would live into that time with hope and joy.**

The day is surely coming when God will strengthen our hearts with humility and holiness.

**We would anticipate that day as we reach out to serve all of those in need.**

The days are surely coming when we will walk the path of faithfulness and steadfast love.

**We begin this journey, knowing that all of God's promises will be fulfilled. Amen.**

*The children come forward to light the candle.*

**Lighting the Fourth Candle of ADVENT: "Hope Is A Star" (vs.4 & refrain)**

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart.**

**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.**

Opening Prayers ..... 185

Trisagion (3X) ..... 187

The Collect of the Day ..... 272

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16 ..... Linita M.

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.** The word of the Lord.

**People.** Thanks be to God.

**Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18** ..... 812-813

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.**

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

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

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.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

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

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.**

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd; you have led us to the kingdom of your Father's love. Forgive our careless indifference to your loving care for all your creatures, and remake us in the likeness of your new and risen life. We ask this in your name. Amen.**

**Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7 ..... Linita M.**

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.** The word of the Lord.      **People.** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual: "Emmanuel (His Name is Called Emmanuel)"**

**Emmanuel**

**Emmanuel**

**His name is called Emmanuel**

**God with us, Revealed in us**

**His name is called Emmanuel**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25 ..... The Reverend Bonnie Luft**

**Gospeller.** The Lord be with you.      **People.** And also with you.

**Gospeller.** The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

**People.**      **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.

**Gospeller.** The Gospel of Christ.      **People.** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON ..... The Reverend Rob Petkau

**The Nicene Creed ..... page 188**

The Prayers of the People ..... Liam G.

Confession and Absolution ..... page 191

ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... Peter L.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

**Offertory: 95 “O Come, Divine Messiah”**

Prayer over the Gifts ..... 272

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer 6 ..... 207

**“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Sanctus)” ..... sung response 735**

**The Lord’s Prayer (top) ..... sung 211**

The Breaking of the Bread 5 ..... 212

**“Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)” ..... sung response 690**

### RECEIVING COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. If you require intinction please let the priest know. If you are gluten intolerant, please request a gluten-free wafer from the priest. Those not receiving communion today are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing.*

Communion Music: Prelude on "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Craig Phillips

Cantilena on “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” arr. James Biery

Prayer after Communion ..... page 272

### CHILDREN’S TEACHING

Doxology (led by the children) ..... page 214

### THE BLESSING

**Recessional: 91 “People, Look East!”**

### DISMISSAL

**Deacon.** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Carillon on “Joy to the World” arr. Mary Beth Bennett

*The flowers today are dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of Mike and Mary Anne's parents: Hugh & Elisabeth Armstrong and Mac & Geraldine Mackenzie*

***Please join us for refreshments following the service in our Cormack Hall.***

**Serving Today:** The Reverend Bonnie Luft, Incumbent Priest; The Reverend Rob Petkau, Associate Priest; Music Director: Patricia Yuen Sparrow; Guest Organist/Pianist: Chellan Hoffman; Administrants: Myrna Lucas, Maureen Lucas; Reader: Karen Petkau; Intercessor: Liam Getty; Sound Tech: Cheryl Herle; Chancel Guild: Lilian Ah Wee, Marie Woolsey; Sidesperson: Grahame Entwistle, Neville Wells; Warden on Duty: Peter Leigh.

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