



*This service is Livestreamed via Facebook and the Parish website.*

*We welcome everyone worshipping with us today whether in person or online. [www.sthelensurrey.ca](http://www.sthelensurrey.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/sainthelensurrey](https://www.facebook.com/sainthelensurrey)*

## **The Gathering of the Community**

### **Words of Welcome and Acknowledgment**

We give thanks that we live, work, play, and worship on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples including the Katzee, Tsawwassen, Semiahmoo and Kwantlen Nations. May our words and our actions reflect our awareness and appreciation of this.

### **Processional Hymn: CP 89 O Come O Come Emmanuel**

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. Amen**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Advent Collect**

God of abundance, our hearts overflow with the gift of your Holy Spirit.  
As your light breaks through the darkest corners of this world, may we be  
renewed in your compassion for a world that yearns for the deep joy that  
your son brings into the world everyday. **Amen**

### **Kyrie Confessions**

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Collect**

Gracious God,  
**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 Proclamation of the Word**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16**

A Reading from the Prophet 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." Listen to what the spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: 80. 1-7, 16-18**

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.**

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.**

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.**

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **Second Reading: Roman 1: 1- 7**

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.

Listen to what the spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gradual: CP 96 Creator of the Stars at Night**

## **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**

**Homily:**

**Rev. Dr. Robin Ruder Celiz**

**Affirmation of Faith**

*The Congregation stands for the Affirmation of Faith*

We say together in faith:

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Is the Lord God almighty**

**Who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,

who created all things

**for by his will they were created**

**and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,

Who was slain

**For with his blood,**

**He purchased us for God**

**From every tribe and language**

**From every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
**The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come”**  
**Even so come, Lord Jesus!**  
**Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Confession & Absolution**

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.

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**

*Please stand as you are able*

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us.  
To give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

## **Offertory Hymn: CP 132 Of Eternal Love Begotten**

### **Prayers over the Gifts**

*Congregation remains standing*

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 Celebration of the Eucharist**

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.  
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.  
In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises heavenly Father  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

In the same way, after supper

he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,

we remember his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross;

we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;

we look for the coming of your kingdom,

and with this bread and this cup

we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,**

**we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,**

**until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,

this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,

and as we eat and drink these holy gifts

in the presence of your divine majesty,

renew us by your Spirit,

inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As we wait for the coming of the Lord, as our Savior taught us, so we pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

### **The Communion**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God**

*Please proceed to the altar for communion as directed. Communion is offered in both bread and wine. If you only wish to receive the bread, you may touch the base of the chalice or give a slight bow in reverence to the Sacrament after receiving the bread.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Please stand as you are able*

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**

### **The 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.**

### **Community Announcements**

### **The Blessing**

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn: CP 101 Hail to the Lord Anointed**

### **Dismissal**

With love and compassion  
**Come, Lord Jesus**

With judgment and mercy  
**Come, Lord Jesus**

In power and glory  
**Come Lord Jesus**

In wisdom and truth  
**Come Lord Jesus**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Notices and Prayer List for the week beginning December 21, 2025**

To assist the office, please ensure that any items for the Notices are received  
**before Noon on Thursday.**

**The flowers** at the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Steve Thompson in loving memory of Bob Thompson, father.

**We pray for the whole Anglican Church of Canada** – we pray especially for our primate, Archbishop Shane Parker.

**Anglican Communion** – we pray for the Anglican Church of Canada.

**In our Diocesan Cycle:** We pray for Rt. Rev'd. John Stephens, Bishop, Robin our Rector, and Stephen our Deacon. We pray for Archdeacon Stephen Muir (Capilano) ; St. Michael, Vancouver - The Rev. Wilmer Toyoken; St. Augustine, Marpole - The Rev. Katherine Hough

We pray for our companion diocese of Northern Philippines. We pray for our own twinned parish of Holy Apostles, Abatan, and their priest, Father Joey Napat-a.

In all these prayers for the church near and far, we pray for the people and clergy and for the ministries flowing from these places into the communities.

**In our Parish Cycle** we pray for Anish & Aparna Chatterjea and Sunny Chatterjea. We pray for their work, ministry, and families here and away.

## **Notices**

### **DECEMBER SERVICES:**

- 4th Sunday in Advent, December 21 10:00 a.m. Service
- Christmas Eve Services 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day, December 25: Online; The Rector's Christmas Message

**The Church Office is closed December 25, 2025 – January 2, 2026.** The Rev. Paula Porter Leggett will cover Sunday worship on December 28. The Rev. Joe Derbis will cover pastoral emergencies. He can be reached at: 604-698-5436.

### **This Week's Ministry Team**

Officiant/Preacher..... The Rev. Dr. Robin Ruder Celiz  
Deacon ..... The Rev. Stephen Thompson  
Music.....Joel Adimatha  
Crucifer/Servers/Psalmist... .... Kelly Foulds  
Prayers of the Community.....Lynn Turner  
Readers..... Alejandro Sotres & JoAnn Sotres  
Lay Administration ..... Vee Villar and Edward Villar  
Greeters ..... Glenda Colquhoun & M.Thompson  
Livestream Tech. Z. Barabas, T. Beneteau, S.Lee, Ronit V. I.Nwaogu, A.Sillah  
Altar Guild ..... Sarah Vinu & Carol Young  
Fellowship Service ..J Bulkan L. Moo, D.& C. Stewart, L. Richards

### **Next Week's Ministry Team**

Officiant/Preacher ..... The Rev Paula Porter Leggett  
Deacon ..... The Rev'd. Stephen Thompson  
Music.....Joel Adimatha  
Crucifer/Server and Psalmist.... Wendy Russell  
Prayers of the Community ...Jennifer Semenoff  
Readers..... Jayden Shaw & Jane Denton  
Lay Administration ..... Ian Mulcaster & Cathy Anderson  
Greeters ..... Abdul Sillah & John Palmer  
Livestream Tech Z. Barabas, T. Beneteau, S. Lee, Ronit V. I.Nwaogu,A.Sillah  
Altar Guild ..... Lynn Turner & Jennifer Semenoff  
Fellowship Service... the Chatterjea family

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There are several ways to may a financial contribution to St. Helen's. Here are two popular ways:

E-Transfer: [giving2sthelen@gmail.com](mailto:giving2sthelen@gmail.com)

Pre-Authorised Debit (PAD): Contact the Parish Office for details.

Thank you for your generosity.

### Parish Ministry

Parish Staff:

P) 604-581-4800

E) [churchoffice@shawbiz.ca](mailto:churchoffice@shawbiz.ca)

Parish Clergy:

P) 604-379-8966

E) [sainthelensrector@gmail.com](mailto:sainthelensrector@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am – 1pm

### Diocesan Ministry

Front Desk:

P) 604-684-6306

E) [info@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:info@vancouver.anglican.ca)

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm