

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Love



December 21, 2025
10:30 am

"What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself?
And what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace?"

– Meister Eckhart, Christmas Sermon (c. 1300), from Sermons and Treatises

Note: We are a Scent Free Facility for the health and comfort of those with allergies. Thank you for helping us care for one another.

All are warmly welcomed to our worship.

We ask visitors to introduce themselves and to join us
for social hour after the service.

Kids Church is offered during the 10:30 am service.

The children will leave for age appropriate activities part way through.
Children are also welcome to stay at the activity table.

Welcome, Introduction & Invitation to Stillness

Presider We acknowledge with gratitude that we live and worship on
the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the
k^wik^wəłəm (Kwikwetlem) First Nation, shared historically
with the q̓ic̓əy̓ (Katzie) and other Coast Salish Peoples.

We give thanks for their care of the land,
waters and creatures through the generations,
and we commit ourselves to walk gently upon this earth
and to live as good neighbours.

As we begin, let us settle into stillness. Breathe deeply.
Let go of what you carry.
In this season of waiting,
we make space for God to meet us in the quiet.
We arrive, just as we are,
open to whatever God has for us today.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God who lights our path.

All And blessed be God's kingdom, now and always.

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

Gathering Hymn - *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (OCP 148)



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free!
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and yet a king;
4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



1. From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in thee.
2. Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
3. Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
4. By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: 87-87; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788. Music: Christian F. Witt's Psalmodia Sacra, 1715; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876.

Presider God is with us,

All here in our midst and always,

Presider the love at our beginning and without end.

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Holy One, you know our hearts: our hopes and fears,
our joys and sorrows, all our daily challenges.

In your mercy, help us. By your Spirit,
inspire and deepen your love in us.

We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath - *The Candle of Love* Hymn - *On Christmas Morn* - Jason Wood

4. Come, friend and stranger gather near
For love is born on Christmas morn
Embrace the Child who soothes our fear
For love is born on Christmas morn
A wayward world could not arrest
the surety of his coming
Be blessed, beleaguered hearts, be blessed
For love is born on Christmas morn

Lighters Today, we light the fourth candle of Advent,
the candle of Love.

The candles are lit.

We light this candle remembering that love
is the source and the destination. Love took on flesh
and dwelt among us. Love draws near. Love is almost here.
Trusting love in this season of anticipation,
watching and waiting for the Holy Light,
we come in faith and say:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Collect of the Day *(the special prayer which 'collects' the
theme of the day)*

Presider Love-bearer,
you who have loved us before we were formed:
when we are afraid, give us courage like Joseph.
When we cannot see the way forward,
send us dreams that guide.
As you once took on flesh and dwelt among us,
be born again in our hearts this day,
that we may know ourselves to be your dwelling place
and carry your presence into a world
that aches for Emmanuel; through Jesus Christ,
God with us, now and always. **Amen.**

Gathering of Children

Children and their leaders are invited to come forward for a prayer before heading to Kids Church. They will rejoin us in time for Communion. If your child prefers to stay in the service, they are welcome here, and activities are available at the table, at the rear of the sanctuary.

Presider Loving God,

**All as we gather together,
we pray for open hearts and minds.
Help us all to grow in faith, love, and understanding.
May your Spirit guide us as we watch and wait
for your light, and may your love unite us,
now and always. Amen.**

(Children leave for Kids Church)

Kyrie - Lord Have Mercy - Mass of Communion

Ky - ri - e, e -

VERSE 2

le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy. Chri - ste, e -

VERSE 3

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Proclamation of the Word

The Readings

Presider Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us through the reading of the Holy Scriptures.

All **Our hearts and minds are open.**

First Reading - *Isaiah 7:10-16*

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm - *Psalm 80*



R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hearken
From your throne the cherubim, shine forth
Rouse your power, and come to save us **Refrain**
2. Once again, O Lord of hosts,
Look down from heaven, and see
Take care of this vine
And protect what your right hand has planted
The son of man whom you yourself made strong **Refrain**
3. May your help be with the man of your right hand
With the son of man whom you yourself made strong
Then we will no more withdraw from you
Give us new life, and we will call upon your name **Refrain**

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Second Reading - *Romans 1:1-7*

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying

All **Thanks be to God**

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel Reading

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu, al - le -

1, 3 2 **VERSE**

7 Dm C Dm C Dm

lu - ia. lu, al - le - lu - ia. *(Cantor intones appropriate verse with*

13 Gm7 C7 Fmaj7 Dm

Gm7 C7 F Fsus *D.C. al Coda*

20

27 **Coda** Gm Dm C Fsus F

lu, al - le - lu, al - le - lu - - ia.

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

All **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel – *Matthew 1:18-25*

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily - *Rev. Philip Cochrane*

Special Christmas Song - *O Wisdom*

1. O Wisdom, come fill us
In darkness, light our way
With courage bless,
Give peace and rest
And for us poor sinners, grace
Fill our hearts, fill our hearts

Refrain:

*Wisdom has made her tent in Jacob
This holy child is her domain
She will take root and grow among us
Israel's affections to reclaim*

2. O Wisdom, come heal us
We're fractured and alone
Shepherd us to live as one
And lead your children home
Mend the earth, mend the earth ***Refrain***

Bridge 1:

*From on high, O
Come, come, Wisdom
Far and nigh cry:
Come, come, Wisdom
Knowledge show us,
come, come, Wisdom
Your ways to hold us*

Bridge 2 (at same time as bridge 1):

*I need wisdom like a hopeful seed
Wisdom like a growing tree
Wisdom I can hold like a little baby*

Wisdom like the rising sun
Wisdom like the day begun
Wisdom like the road marked before me

Wisdom like a wild star
Wisdom like a country far
Wisdom like the moment
we glimpse who we are
Like a flame in the dark

3. O wisdom, forgive us
Invade this den of fools
Who rob and kill, then claim your will
Be born in us anew
Emmanuel, Emmanuel (3x) *Refrain*

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Affirming Our Faith

Presider In this season of waiting, we declare the faith
that holds us and the hope that draws us forward.

**All We believe in God, the Source of Life,
by whom every being in heaven and earth
is created, named, and sustained.**

**We believe in God, the Living Word,
who restores us to relationship
and speaks to us through faith.**

**We believe in God, the Holy Spirit,
who comforts, guides, and strengthens us
to share the good news of grace.**

**We believe in God,
one, holy, undivided Trinity:
Source of Life, Living Word,
Comforter: Mystery. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Confession & Absolution

Presider We come before God, not in fear, but in trust.
God knows us completely and loves us still.
In the light that is coming, let us acknowledge
the shadows we carry: the times we have lost hope,
the moments we have turned from love,
the places where we need healing.

We keep a moment of quiet for reflection

Presider God of all mercy,
**All we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have
done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our
Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in
eternal life. **Amen.**₁

The Peace

Presider In the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Offertory

*In gratitude for all we've received, we offer of ourselves back to God.
Bread, wine, and money symbolize the fruits of our labour.
If you give through Pre-Authorized Donations or e-transfer
(office@saintlaurence.ca), you're welcome to use a blue card to
represent your offering to the glory of God.*



Offertory Hymn - Come, Emmanuel (OCP 139)

Verses




1. Come, O God, with - in our hearts, with - in our souls.
2. Come, O Love, re - new our lives and guide our minds.
3. Come, O Light, and lead us on the road with you.



1. Come, O God, with heal - ing pow'r re - new us.
2. Come, O Love, in pow'r re - vive your peo - ple.
3. Come, O Light, dis - pel our deep - est dark - ness.

Refrain



Come, O come, Em - man - u - el. O - pen our hearts, re -



new us. Come, O come, Em - man - u - el.



Come in love and make us whole once more.

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Eternal One,
risking hope in this season of anticipation,
watching and waiting for your Holy Light,
we bring our offerings to you and say in faith:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider We thank you for this bread and wine, gifts of your creation,
and for the gift of Emmanuel: God with us. **Amen.**

Celebration of our Sacred Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider God is with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up to God.

Presider Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

All We give our thanks and praise.

Presider Creator, you made our world - beautiful and good.
You made us to live in right relationship with you
and all creation. You sent Jesus to live among us
and show us what you are like.

We give all thanks and praise to you, our true
and loving God. You laid the foundations of the earth
and enclosed the seas. You brought forth all creatures
and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One.

All you create is a sign of hope for our journey.
And so, we join with the heavenly beings
and all of creation as we sing:

Sanctus - Holy - Mass of Communion

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -

est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Presider Glory and honour are yours, Creator of all,
your Word has never been silent.

Of your grace, you sent Jesus to be human,
to share our life,
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign,
and to give himself for us.

Through Jesus Christ you have reconciled us to you
and restored the glory you intended for us.

Presider On the night before he died, Jesus ate supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

*“Take and eat. This is my very self given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

Then he took the cup of wine, again he gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying:

*“Drink it all of you. This cup is a new covenant
poured out for you and all people.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

And so, we remember: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, and, longing for Christ’s coming again in glory, we present these gifts to you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, so that we who share this bread and wine may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Draw us together in Christ, and, in the fullness of time, gather us with all your people into the joy of your eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator and give you our unending praise. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, hal-low-ed be
thy name; thy king-dom come; thy will be done on
earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread; and for - give us as we for - give
oth - ers; and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,
but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom and the pow - er and the
glo - ry are yours for - ev - er. A - men.

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The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

Presider We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
watching together for the coming light.**

Lamb of God - *Mass of Communion*

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, mi - se - re - re
no - - bis. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sins of the world, mi - se - re - re no - - bis.
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, do - na no - bis pa -
cem, do - na no - bis pa - - - - cem.

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The Invitation

Presider This is the table of the Lord,
spread for all who hunger for hope and long for the light.
You do not need to be certain, only seeking.
You do not need to be whole, only willing.
Come, receive what God offers.
Come, be fed for the journey.

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

All Thanks be to God.

The Distribution

At St. Laurence, everyone is invited to the table. You may receive only the bread or both bread and wine. Non-fermented grape juice is available in the ceramic chalice, and gluten-free wafers are offered, just ask at the distribution. If you prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest.

Communion Hymn - *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (CP 117)

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.

Contributors: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Words: St. 1-2: German (15th cent.) (Translator: Theodore Baker (1851-1934)

St. 3): Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859) (Translator: Harriet Reynolds Krauth

Spaeth (1845-1925) Reprinted under OneLicense A-710159

Communion Hymn - *Love Has Come* (OCP 347)

Verses



1. With one voice the an - gels sing songs that make cre -
2. God the Fa - ther, El - o - him, voice of thun - der,
3. God of Cov - e - nant, di - vine, lead us to the
4. Keep - er of the sac - ri - fice man - i - fest in
5. Now sal - va - tion has come in the New Je -

1. a - tion ring. Proph - ets hear and call us to
2. spir - it, wind: breathe on me your ver - y life;
3. end of time, be - yond sor - row, be - yond fear,
4. Je - sus Christ, born to die and wake the dead,
5. ru - sa - lem. Danc - ers dance and sing - ers roar; pro -

1. live in spir - it and in truth.
2. grace will make the dark - ness bright.
3. be - yond pride and earth - en tears.
4. as we hun - ger keep us fed.
5. claim - ing Je - sus Christ is Lord!

Refrain

Word of God, en - throned, dwell in us for - ev - er - more.

Love has come to show the way. Hal - le - lu -

jah, peace be with us. Love has come to show the way.

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Moment of Silence

Take a moment to be still and know God. Let the world's noise fade as you listen for the deep stillness beneath it all. The silence begins and ends with the ringing of a bell.

Prayer after Communion

Presider Gracious God,

**All you have fed us at this table
 with bread for the journey
 and wine for rejoicing.**

**As we wait for the fullness of your coming,
keep us watchful and hopeful,
ready to welcome the light.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
the one who is and who was and who is to come. Amen.**

Presider Glory to God,

**All 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.**

Announcements

Blessing

Presider Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider May the God of hope fill you with patience for the waiting.
May Christ, the coming light,
scatter the darkness before your path.
And may the Holy Spirit keep you watchful and ready.
And the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer,
and Giver of Life, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - *O Come, Divine Messiah* (OCP 378)

Verses



1. O come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; The world in
 2. O Christ, whom na - tions sigh for, Whom priest and
 3. You come in peace and meek - ness And low - ly

1. si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
 2. proph - et long fore - told, Come, break the cap - tive's
 3. will your cra - dle be; All clothed in hu - man

1. tri - umph And sad - ness flee a - way.
 2. fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.
 3. weak - ness Shall we your God - head see.

Refrain



Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the
 night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O
 come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; the world in si - lence waits the day when
 hope shall sing its tri - umph and sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: 78 76 with refrain; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663–1745; tr. by S. Mary of St. Philip, 1877. Music: Trad. French Carol, 16th cent.

Minister Go in peace, watching for the light.
 All **Thanks be to God.**

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given
in loving memory of
Louis Henry Tyakoff
by his mother (Sharn) and sister (Imani).*



Acknowledgements

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Deacon: The Reverend Patricia Ratcliffe
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Anne Dennis, Susanne Stockdill
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Office Hours:

10:00am-3:00pm (drop-in)
Monday - Friday

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NEWS & NOTES

Wednesday Morning Gathering - 9:00 am

*From silence to laughter, scripture to table - wrestling
with faith, in good company.*

Join us midweek for Communion, scripture, and honest conversation. A safe space to share questions, explore diverse perspectives, and deepen fellowship. Start your day nourished in spirit and community.

Church Decorating

After the 10.30 service TODAY, we would like to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

Donations of Poinsettia or flowers would be much appreciated.

Also, if you would like to help, please feel free to stay.
Thank you

TONIGHT

Blue Christmas - Light in the Darkness
7:00 pm

A quiet service for those facing the season
sad, alone or struggling

Lighting the Way: An Advent Vigil with Rev Philip

Join our Rector, Philip, this Advent for a season of intentional prayer and reflection as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Morning Prayer (December 1 – December 24,
8:00 am - Monday - Friday)

Each weekday morning, Philip will be leading Morning Prayer on our YouTube channel. It will be gently liturgical in shape to guide our prayer together. Each session includes biblical reflection and a time for open prayer.

You can join live or watch the recording whenever it fits your schedule. Submit prayer requests in the comments section.

The Advent Candles (Tuesday this week at 7:30pm)

Tuesday evening this week, we'll gather online for themed reflections exploring each of the Advent candles (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love) using each week's theme as the basis for Evening Prayer. We'll conclude each evening with a time of Examen, an ancient practice of prayerful reflection (*don't worry, he will explain how it works!*).

Whether you join daily or occasionally, these evergreen offerings are designed to help us keep the ancient discipline of Advent.

Let's light the way together toward Christmas.

Find us: <https://www.youtube.com/@StLaurenceCoq>

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - 4:00 pm

- A Joyful Family Christmas

-family crafts at 3:30 pm

Christmas Eve - 9:30 pm

-Traditional Candlelight Eucharist

-Carol sing at 9:00 pm

Christmas Day - 10:00 am

-a quiet, spoken service, to help us rest
in the Joy & Peace of the Season.

Next Sunday

December 28, 2025 - 10:00 am service