

# *Christmas Eve Midnight Service*



**St. John the Divine Anglican Church  
Courtenay, BC**

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## The Holy Eucharist

### The Gathering of the Community

#### Opening Hymn

*All stand. The presiding celebrant greets the community.*

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

People: **And with you also.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

**All: 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.**

Celebrant: Glory to God in the Highest,

**All: and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Collect

Let us pray.

Eternal God,  
This holy night is radiant  
With the brilliance of your one true light.  
As we have known  
the revelation of that light on earth,  
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

*People:* **Amen**

## The Proclamation of the Word

### The Readings

#### ***The first reading: A reading from Isaiah 9: 2-7***

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*At the conclusion of the passage, the reader says, The word of the Lord.*

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 96**

**Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his name; proclaim the news of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, and his wonders among all peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

**Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols, but it is the Lord who made the heavens. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! O the power and the splendour of his sanctuary! Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honour and power. Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

**Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Tell it out among the nations, "The Lord is king! he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder, and all that is in it; let the field be joyful, and all that is therein

**Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy; before the Lord when he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

**Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

## **The second reading: A reading from Titus 2: 11-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*At the conclusion of the passage, the reader says, The word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### ***Gradual Hymn***

*All stand for the Gospel.*

*Reader:* The Lord be with you.

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

## ***Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2:(1-14), 15-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be

afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says, The Gospel of Christ.*

*People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## **Sermon**

### **The Nicene Creed**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our faith, as we say,

*All:* **We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge on baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant:* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant:* Most merciful God,

**All: 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 upon us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* 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.

*People:* **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The members of the community, ministers and people, may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

### **Offertory Hymn**

#### **The Preparation of the Gifts (The Offertory)**

*It is appropriate that a hymn be sung during the offertory.*

*Representatives of the people may present the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist (with money and other gifts for the needs and responsibilities of the Church) to the deacon or celebrant before the Altar.*

#### **The Prayer over the Gifts**

Let us pray.

Source of light and gladness,

accept all we offer on this joyful feast.

May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours;  
for he is Lord now and for ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
we give you thanks and praise



through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who in the mystery of his incarnation  
was made perfect man  
of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother;  
in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven,  
we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: 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.**

*Celebrant:* We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love  
you have made known to us in creation;  
in calling Israel to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets;  
and above all in the Word made flesh,  
Jesus your Son.  
For in these last days you sent him  
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.  
In him, you have delivered us from evil,  
and made us worthy to stand before you.  
In him, you have brought us  
out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness,  
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over  
to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
and said, "Take, 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."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
*All:* **we remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant:* and we offer our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving  
to you, Lord of all;  
presenting to you, from your creation,  
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,  
that they may be the sacrament  
of the body of Christ  
and his blood of the new covenant.  
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,  
that we, made acceptable in him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,  
reconcile all things in Christ,  
and make them new,  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
now and for ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Celebrant:* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

*All:* **Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned 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 Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant:* We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

*All:* **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and may say,*

The gifts of God for the People of God.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*The celebrant and people receive communion. The sacrament is given with the following words.*

The body of Christ (given for you).

The blood of Christ (shed for you).

*The communicant responds each time, **Amen.***

## **Communion Hymn**

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Father of all,  
tonight you have united earth and heaven  
in sending your Son to take our human nature.  
May we who have tasted heavenly things  
Share in the life of his eternal kingdom.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People:* **Amen.**

*Then the following doxology may be said.*

*Celebrant:* Glory to God,  
*All:* **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than  
we ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to  
generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever  
and ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

### **Dismissal**

*The celebrant may bless the people and dismisses the people,  
saying in these or similar words,*

Go forth in the name of Christ.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Recessional Hymn**