



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, VICTORIA, BC

Holy Eucharist

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Sunday, December 21, 2025 9.15 a.m.



CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
A CATHEDRAL FOR THE CITY



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF ISLANDS AND INLETS
RENEWED HEARTS, RENEWED SPIRITS, RENEWED PEOPLE

Welcome to the **Cathedral Church** of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia. Here we respectfully acknowledge that we gather to worship on the ancestral lands of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, with whom we are in relationship to seek reconciliation.

As an Anglican centre for spirituality, learning, culture, heritage and community, this cathedral upholds a daily rhythm of worship in the heart of Victoria. From daily spoken and sung services to the weekly celebration of the Eucharist and Choral Evensong, we mark the important events of the Christian calendar and in the life of our diocese and the wider community.

Christ Church Cathedral is a fully inclusive community where all are invited to hear God's Word and partake of God's bread, regardless of upbringing or creed. Please join as fully as you wish in every action of our worship, including communion. This is God's house and all are welcome.

A note about the service

Advent is the start of the Christian year. Our liturgical life begins in waiting and active preparation. In the darkness of the natural world, we light candles, sing songs of expectation, read the prophecies of the coming of God into our world, and look toward Christmas and the incarnation of the Christ.

Advent is considered a penitential season, though different in nature from Lent. The penitence of this season is waiting in a world that wants everything available and realized right now. It is in making space in our hearts for the Christ Child to be born anew amidst a culture that tries to fill every moment with activity and every silence with noise. It is in holding fast to faith, hope, joy, and love when those seem sometimes naïve in our society. These are counter-cultural actions and so we practice them together in our liturgy – the work of the people.

Liturgically you will notice the change to purple vestments – the colour the church associates with penance, but also the colour of royalty as we await the coming of the King of kings. We increase moments of silence to help us remember to wait expectantly for what is coming. We always use a confession and absolution in advent. We confess because we are bad at waiting and often fail to prepare, and in the absolution we are reminded that none of this depends on us because God is faithful and loving and will come anyway. We begin the service with the lighting of the advent wreath, an active symbol of pushing back the darkness and embodying the light of God in the world. You are invited to join fully in all of these liturgical aspects as we prepare together for the mystery of Christmas.

Presider: The Very Reverend Jonathan Thomas

Musical Setting: Mass for Immanuel

Daniel Schwandt (b. 1977)

The words to the hymns can be found in the blue hymnal "Common Praise". Copies of the hymnals can be found in the book racks in the pews. If you are unable to locate a copy, please ask the sides-people for assistance.

The Gathering of the Community

Land Acknowledgment & Welcome

The Very Reverend Jonathan Thomas

Hymn of Praise #123—Once in Royal David's City

Tune: Irby

Please remain standing for the lighting of the advent wreath

Reader Hear these words from the Gospel of John.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Presider Come Lord Jesus,
People **Bring Light, Give Love.**

Seasonal Collect

Presider Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Dominical Greeting

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

People **And also with you.**

Kyrie eleison

Leader: Ky-ri - e, Ky-ri - e e - le - i son. *All:* Ky-ri - e, Ky-ri - e e - le - i son.

Leader: Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i son. *All:* Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i son.

Leader: Ky-ri - e, Ky-ri - e e - le - i son. *All:* Ky-ri - e, Ky-ri - e e - le - i son.

Collect of the Day

Presider Let us hold this moment open to God's grace.

Heavenly Father,
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.

People **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 7.10-16 / *all seated*

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Response to the Reading: Psalm 80.1-7

Tune: Maryton (Common Praise #70)

O Shepherd, like a flock you lead
your people Isra'el; hear our prayer;
enthroned upon the cherubim
in glory, shine on our despair.

Before Manasseh, Benjamin,
and Ephr'im, Lord, grant us your grace;
restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show us the glory of your face.

How long will you be angered, Lord,
although we kneel before your feet?
You give us bowls of tears to drink,
provide us bread of tears to eat.

Our enemies laugh us to scorn,
our neighbours witness our disgrace;
restore us, O Lord, God of hosts;
show us the glory of your face.

Second Reading

Romans 1.1-7 /all seated

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

All stand and join in singing the Gospel Acclamation.



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

The Holy Gospel

Deacon The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Deacon Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 1.18-25

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

Affirmation of Faith

all standing as able

Presider Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

All I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

please stand, sit or kneel as preferred

Leader Come, O Holy One,
People and save us.

Confession and Absolution

The presider invites the community to make its confession.

Presider 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.

All 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.

Presider 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 Exchange of the Peace

all standing as able

Presider 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.

People The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Please exchange the peace with your neighbours using a suitable gesture.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn #269—Heavenly Message

Tune: Pied-De-Port

A basket is passed to receive monetary gifts which will be offered along with bread and wine at the altar. Please use the QR code at the end of the leaflet if you would like to make an online donation. Our easy to use Tap machines are available at the Quadra Street and Burdett Avenue doors. Thank you!

Prayer over the Gifts

Deacon 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.
People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

many prefer to stand

Presider The Lord 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 praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

All

Leader: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly - Lord, All: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly - Lord,

Leader: God of pow-er and might, Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
All: God of pow-er and might,

All: Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Leader: 7 Ho - san - na in the high est.
All: 7 Ho

Leader: san - na in the high-est. Bles-sed is he who comes in the name,---

All: Bles-sed is he who comes in the name, Leader: comes in the name of the

Lord. Leader: Ho - san - na in the high - est.
All: comes in the name of the Lord. All: 7 Ho-

Leader: 7 Ho - san - na in the
san - na in the high - est.

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

Presider Glory and honour and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favour upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
"Take, eat: This is my Body,
which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with the blessed virgin Mary and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honour, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our___ Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins

as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Save_ us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,

now and for ev - er. A - men.

The 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.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All are invited to receive communion, which will be offered at standing stations in the front. A reminder that intinction (or dipping the bread into the cup) is considered unsafe, and is thus not permitted. If you have mobility issues, you may remain seated and communion will be brought to you.

Prayers for healing with the laying-on-of-hands and anointing may be sought in the Lady Chapel (to the left of the high altar) during today's Communion. You may ask for prayers for yourself, or for the needs of another. Information shared during these prayers is kept in the strictest confidence.

Prayer after Communion

please stand

Presider 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.
All **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.**

The Blessing

Presider May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you
and scatter the darkness before your path;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn #117—Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Tune: Es Ist Ein' Ros

The Sending Forth of the Community

The Dismissal

Deacon As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Thank you for being part of this morning's service.



The Flowers in the cathedral are placed to the glory of God and at the High Altar in loving memory of Bill Wolferstan, a gentle, loving husband, father and grandfather.

Sources

Book of Alternative Services and Common Worship, Enriching Our Worship

Readings for Next Sunday (December 28, The First Sunday after Christmas)

Isaiah 63.7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2.10-18

Matthew 2.13-23

Assisting with Today's Liturgy

<i>Sidespersons</i>	Susan McKelvie, Clementine Wolferstan
<i>Sacristan</i>	Bob Fearnley
<i>Servers</i>	Members of the Servers Guild
<i>Musicians</i>	The Parish Choir Donald Hunt, <i>Director of Music</i>
<i>Readers</i>	Barbara Barton, Ted McLeod
<i>Deacon</i>	The Reverend Canon Nancy Ford
<i>Prayers of the People</i>	Elizabeth Pulker
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Brenda Mowbray, Susan McKelvie
<i>Healing Ministry</i>	Lois Rumsey, Bronwynn Jones
<i>Chancel Guild</i>	Maureen Lundquist, <i>president</i>

If you would like to sign up for our E-news, or would like more information about the Cathedral, please visit our website www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca.

You can also use the QR code to make a donation, use our Welcome Card or to download the service leaflets and more.



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Sunday, December 21 / 4.00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons and Carols*

Freewill offering

Monday, December 22 & Tuesday, December 23 / 7.30 p.m.

CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble: Illuminare (Night Before Light)

Tickets at capriccio.ca

Wednesday, December 24 / 4.30 p.m.

Peopling the Creche: A family Eucharist for Christmas Eve

Freewill offering

Wednesday, December 24 / 10.00 p.m.

Procession & Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity (*incense will be used*)*

Freewill offering

Thursday, December 25 / 10.30 a.m.

Christmas Day: Cathedral Eucharist*

Freewill offering

The cathedral will be closed on Fri, Dec 26 to Thurs, Jan 1, apart from advertised services and concerts. There will be no Morning or Evening Prayer or midweek Eucharist during this period. The office will be closed Dec 24 to Jan 1.

Sunday, December 28

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion

10.30 a.m.—Cathedral Eucharist*

4.00 p.m.—Olivier Messiaen's 'La Nativité du Seigneur': An Organ Meditation played by Donald Hunt*

Thursday, January 1 / 2.30 p.m.

Old Music for the New Year*

Admission by donation

Tuesday, January 6 / 7.00 p.m.

*(*livestreamed)*

Solemn Eucharist for the Feast of Epiphany

Freewill offering

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

*The Cathedral is open Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.,
Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and Sundays from 7.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

Monday

8.45 a.m.	Morning Prayer, said	Lady Chapel
5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer, said	Lady Chapel
7.30 p.m.	CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble: Illuminare (Ticketed Event)	Nave

Tuesday

8.45 a.m.	Morning Prayer, said	Lady Chapel
5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer, said	Lady Chapel
7.30 p.m.	CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble: Illuminare (Ticketed Event)	Nave

Wednesday

10.00 a.m.	Walking Group	See Website for Location
4.30 p.m.	Peopling the Creche: A Family Eucharist	Nave
10.00 p.m.	Procession & Solemn Eucharist for Christmas Eve	Nave

Thursday

10.30 a.m.	Cathedral Eucharist	Nave
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The cathedral will be closed on Fri, Dec 26 to Thurs, Jan 1, apart from advertised services and concerts. There will be no Morning or Evening Prayer or midweek Eucharist during this period. The office will be closed Dec 24 to Jan 1.

Sunday

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion, said	Lady Chapel
10.30 a.m.	Cathedral Eucharist	Nave / Livestreamed
4.00 p.m.	Olivier Messiaen's 'La Nativité du Seigneur': An Organ Meditation played by Donald Hunt* (No Choral Evensong today)	Nave

**For information on joining or attending, contact the Cathedral Office
This schedule is subject to change, visit www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/events for the
most up-to-date information.*

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