



On the traditional land of the Semiahmoo

the Parish of St. Mark

O C E A N  P A R K

December 24, 2025, 7pm
Christmas Eve

Welcome!



This evening in worship...

Merry Christmas! This is such an important season to celebrate. In Christmas, in the birth of Jesus, we see so clearly the love that God, our Creator, has for us. Our spiritual ancestors knew this deep in their hearts which is why they decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus around the winter solstice. Just as the days become longer and the light becomes stronger, so in the birth of Jesus we begin to see that goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness and life is stronger than death.

Please come and have communion (bread and wine). This is the food God has given us so that we can have courage and hope in life. **All are welcome.**



Next Sunday: December 28

Christmas Lessons & Carols

Come sing the songs of Christmas and listen to the stories of Jesus' Birth!



Christmas 2025

Our Christmas Day Service is at 10am.

the Gathering of the Community & the Proclamation of the Word

Common Praise 154

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found.**

**He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.**

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

And also with you.

Almighty God,
**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.**

Almighty God,

**as we prepare with joy to celebrate the
gift of the Christ-child, embrace the
earth with your glory and be for us a
living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah (62:6-12).

Listen for God's Word.

Our hearts are open.

Common Praise 123

**Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.**

Paul's Letter to Titus (3:4-7).

Listen for God's Word.

Our hearts are open.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:8-20

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Arranged by Shawn Kirchner

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the 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 whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation came down from heaven: who by the power of the Holy Spirit became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made human. Who for our sake was crucified under Pontius Pilate; who suffered death and was buried. Who, on the third day, rose again in accordance with the scriptures; who ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Who will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and whose kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified. Who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one 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

The Confession & Absolution

Almighty 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

the Celebration of the Eucharist

We collect our tithes and offerings and present them to the Lord. We give thanks to God for your generosity to the ministry of this community.

Common Praise 138

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."*

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The priest continues in prayer.

Sanctus

**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.**

The priest continues in prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

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

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

The gifts of God for the Children of God.

Thanks be to God.

*All are invited to receive Communion.
If you would like to learn more about baptism, please connect with the minister.*

Common Praise 126

**Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus -
look down from on high
And stay by my side
until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask you to stay
close by me for ever
and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with you there.**

Common Praise 140

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will
from heaven's most gracious king!"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we amid our wars hear not
the words of peace they bring;
O listen now, and still your strife
to hear the angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold:
when the new heaven
and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Common Praise 146

**'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:**

*Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.*

**Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:**

**The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.**

**The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.**

**O children of the forest free,
beloved of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heav'n
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.**

We light our candles as we sing,

Common Praise 119

**Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
holy Infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Blessing

Common Praise 118

**O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;**

*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

**God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest:**

**See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks,
draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;**

Go forth into the world
in the joy of the new-born king.
Thanks be to God!



Financial Support

We are grateful for your stewardship of this place through your tithes and offerings. They ensure that St. Mark - Ocean Park will be a centre and a light to the community for generations to come.

If you would like to become a regular steward of the ministry of this place, please fill out a welcome card and give it to the greeter, or the priest.

Donations can be made

by **cash** or **cheque**

(made out to the Parish of St. Mark - Ocean Park),

by **Pre-Authorized Debit** (PAD),

at the **Electronic Donation Station** (EDS) in the foyer (please ask the usher for assistance),

by **e-Transfer** at stmark.op.treasurer@gmail.com, or

through **CanadaHelps** on our website.

If you would like donation **envelopes**, please connect with the office.

All donations will receive a tax-receipt in February of the following year.



the Parish of St. Mark - *Ocean Park*
STMARKBC.ORG

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