



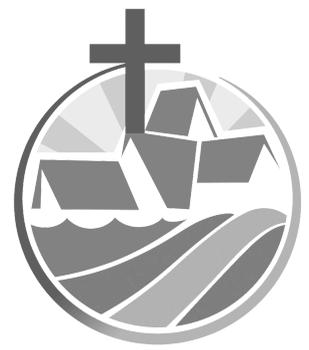
On the traditional land of the Semiahmoo

the Parish of St. Mark

O C E A N  P A R K

December 24, 2025, 5pm
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.**



The Christmas Story

Our service this evening is a relaxed pageant. We have costumes for all ages so that everyone can be part of the story. Tonight dress up as an angel, or as Mary, or as a donkey! God's story of love for this world includes everyone.

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

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.**

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:

The year is dying in the night;

Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,

Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

The year is going, let him go;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind

For those that here we see no more;

Ring out the feud of rich and poor,

Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,

And ancient forms of party strife;

Ring in the nobler modes of life,

With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,

The faithless coldness of the times;

Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes

But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,

The civic slander and the spite;

Ring in the love of truth and right,

Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;

Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;

Ring out the thousand wars of old,

Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,

The larger heart, the kindlier hand;

Ring out the darkness of the land,

Ring in the Christ that is to be.

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 2:1-20

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

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

While we have chiefly come to give thanks to God, our second purpose for gathering is to intercede for the world. We know that "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

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 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. You can give using an envelope, by signing up to our Pre-Authorized Debit program, or by using the terminal in the foyer. **Today we use Eucharistic Prayer 5 from the BAS.***

Common Praise 128

**The Virgin Mary had a baby boy...
and they say that his name was Jesus.**

*He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.*

**The angels sang
when the baby was born...
and proclaim him the Saviour Jesus.**

**The shepherds came
where the baby born...
and they say that his name was Jesus.**

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 122

**In the bleak mid-winter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

Little Drummer Boy
Katherine Kennicott Davis

**Come, they told me
a new born king to see.
Our finest gifts we bring
to lay before the king
so to honor him,
when we come.**

**Baby Jesus,
I am a poor boy too;
I have no gift to bring
that's fit to give the king.
Shall I play for you
on my drum?**

**Mary nodded,
the ox and lamb kept time;
I played my drum for him;
I played my best for him;
then he smiled at me,
me and my drum.**

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 120

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Common Praise 137

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste, to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Common Praise 125

**Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**

**Flocks were sleeping,
shepherds keeping,
vigil till the morning new,
Saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true,
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet tomorrow;
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.**

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,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
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.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Christmas 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,

O come, let us adore him,

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;**



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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