



Diocese of
New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

Doing God's Love Since 1899

December 21, 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Book of Common Prayer Service

10:00 a.m. Family Eucharist

Celebrant: The Reverend Georgina Harris

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Shawn Bullock

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

220 West 8th Street, North Vancouver BC V7M 1N1

Phone: 604-986-1151 Email: stjohnnv@telus.net

website: www.stjohnnv.ca

Rector

The Reverend Patrick Blaney
stjohnnv@telus.net

Deacon-in-charge and Curate

The Reverend Dr. Shawn Bullock
778-919-1082
shawn@therevdrshawn.ca

Associate Priest

The Reverend Georgina Harris
778-237-1350
thehzs@gmail.com

Music Director

Galina Martyniuk
604-983-7026(h)
martyniukgalina@gmail.com

Church Warden

Kathryn Atkinson
604-985-1310
kathrynjatkinson@gmail.com

Church Warden

Alison Brookfield
604-988-1805
brookfield@telus.net

Parish Office

Donna Lawrence
604-986-1151
stjohnnv@telus.net

WELCOME

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We ask that you please turn all cell phones and other electronic devices to silent or "off". Thank you.

After the service, we invite everyone (especially newcomers!) to join us for coffee or tea, and visit our Welcome Table downstairs in the Lounge. This is a place where you can learn more about the various activities and groups here at St. John's, find contact information, ways to get involved and have fun! We look forward to getting to know you better!

The Anglican Church

As Anglicans we believe that God is eternal, the earth maker, the pain bearer, the life giver; source of all that is and shall be; father and mother of us all. We learn that God is one, yet revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer - a Holy Trinity.

We believe that Christians learn about God in the Bible, in the teaching of the Church summed up in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, and through sharing in the living community of faith. We believe Jesus Christ was incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. We are an Apostolic Church, meaning that Bishops are a part of our leadership and we can trace our line of Bishops back to the 12 Apostles.

As Anglicans we get to know God by God's initiative in our thinking and understanding: by experiencing and reflecting on the wonder and mystery of creation, birth and death, love, forgiveness and the need to find meaning and worth beyond ourselves.

Everyone is welcome at St. John's, whether you were raised Anglican, or followed another faith, or you have no faith background at all. We hope you find what you are looking for in our service today.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

The official Flower Calendar is in the Narthex. Please sign up for the Sunday that you would like to donate Altar Flowers, even if you signed up somewhere else previously. If you have any questions, please contact Donna in the office.

Our Service Today

This liturgy (the words we say in the service) comes from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and is the traditional Anglican liturgy. We have one BCP service each month at St. John's. Our special Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy was written especially for St. John's, and we encourage individuals and families to volunteer to read.

As we proceed through the service, this bulletin will help you recognize when to stand and when to sit, when to speak and when to sing, when to pray silently and when to pray aloud. We invite you to read aloud with us anytime the bulletin says **People**.

Ministering today at our 10:00 a.m. service:

Celebrant:	The Reverend Georgina Harris
Deacon-in-charge, Curate, Preacher:	The Reverend Dr. Shawn Bullock
Chaplain:	Jill Parsons
Crucifer and Altar Server:	Hazel Breakey
Choir Director:	Christie Smith
Music Director:	Galina Martyniuk, piano and organ
Readers:	Doug MacLeod, Bob Hardy
Intercessor:	Ann Hasle
Eucharistic Administrators:	Linda Harrison, Christine Williams
Welcome Table:	Diane Johnson
Greeter:	Farid Madisa

The Offertory Plate sits at the back of the church:

We do not "pass the plate" at St. John's. We invite you to place your donation on the Offertory Plate at the back of the church anytime. During the Offertory Hymn the plate is brought forward to the altar.

Your thoughtful and generous gifts to St. John's enable our worship and ministries to our community. One-time or recurring donations can be made by visiting our website www.stjohnnv.ca, or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone.



Chapel Candles

At any time during the service, you are welcome to prayerfully light a candle in the chapel in honour of a loved one, or in a prayer of concern.

Prelude & Announcements

Advent Call To Worship - Prepare the Way

Three bells are rung.

Processional Hymn - People, Look East! The Time is Near

We stand for the Processional Hymn, as the ministry team enters the sanctuary.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Celebrant We acknowledge with respect that we worship on the traditional territories of the Squamish - Mother of the Wind, the Tsleil-Waututh - People of the Inlet, and the Musqueam - People of the River Grass. Let us pray that we may live more deeply into the calls to action from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

People **May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace. Amen**

The Gathering of the Community

Priest The Lord be with you;

People **And with thy spirit.**

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Priest Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel,
The Lord our God is one Lord;
and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,
and with all thy strength.
This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like unto it:
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

People (sung) **Lord, have mercy upon us,
and write both these thy laws in our hearts,
we beseech thee.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The Collect

Priest Heavenly Father,

**People 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. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We sing all verses of the Advent song while the liturgical assistant prepares to light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Advent Song - Hope is a Star

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Waiting in Love

Families are invited to gather around the Advent Wreath.

First Voice Last Sunday we lit the candle of Joy. We light it and the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

The candles of Hope, Peace and Joy are lit.

Second Voice The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love. God's love is a perfect love. It holds nothing back. God, in love, gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace.

First Voice The bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Jesus shows us God's perfect love.

Second Voice This is what love is like: Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance.

First Voice Love never ends. We light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus brings us God's love and shows us how to love others. Love is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.

The candle of Love is lit.

Second Voice Let us pray: Thank you God for the love you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your love with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

**People O God, come, travel with us through Advent.
Give us the courage to spread love in the world.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading: Read by Doug MacLeod.

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Isaiah 7:10-16

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80 - Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

Please remain seated as we sing the Psalm together.

The Second Reading: Read by Bob Hardy.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:1-7

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn - O Little Town of Bethlehem

Before the reading of the Gospel, we sing the first two verses of the Gradual Hymn. Please stand for the Gradual Hymn and the Gospel if you are able.

The Gospel

Three bells are rung.

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, we sing the last 2 verses of the Gradual hymn.

Sermon The Reverend Dr. Shawn Bullock

Time for Reflection

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

Priest I believe in one God,

People **The Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And of all things visible and invisible:
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God, of God; Light, of Light;
Very God, of very God;
Begotten, not made;
Being of one substance with the Father;
Through whom all things were made:
Who for us humans and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made human,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
And the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead:
Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord, The Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
Who spake by the Prophets.**

**And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,
and the Life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People - O Lord, Hear My Prayer

You are invited to sit, kneel, or stand, whichever is most comfortable for you for the prayers of the people.

Intercessions - O Antiphons

Intercessor In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!"

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

People Lord Jesus, Come Soon!

Intercessor O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

People Lord Jesus, Come Soon!

Intercessor O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

People Lord Jesus, Come Soon!

Intercessor O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open:
come and free the captives from prison.

People Lord Jesus, Come Soon!

Intercessor O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

People Lord Jesus, Come Soon!

Intercessor O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one:
come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

People Lord Jesus, Come Soon!

Intercessor O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour:
 come and save us, Lord our God.

People Lord Jesus, Come Soon! Amen!

The Confession

Priest Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins,
 and are in love and charity with your neighbours,
 and intend to lead the new life,
 following the commandments of God,
 and walking from henceforth in holy ways:
 Draw near with faith,
 and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort;
 and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

**People Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 Maker of all things, Judge of all people:
 We acknowledge and confess
 our manifold sins and wickedness,
 Which we from time to time
 most grievously have committed,
 By thought, word, and deed,
 Against thy Divine Majesty.
 We do earnestly repent,
 And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings.
 Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
 For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
 Forgive us all that is past;
 And grant that we may ever hereafter serve
 and please thee in newness of life,
 To the honour and glory of thy Name;
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Priest Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
 who of his great mercy
 hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty

Priest repentance and true faith turn unto him:
 have mercy upon you;
 pardon and deliver you from all your sins;
 confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;
 and bring you to everlasting life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sharing of The Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

*The members of the community may greet each other in the name of the Lord.
 Many of us will simply smile and say "Peace be with you".*

The Offertory

*The Offertory Plate can be found at the back of the church by the double doors,
 and you may place your donation there anytime before or during the service.
 Your thoughtful and generous gifts enable our worship and ministry to our
 community and the world. We sincerely thank you.*

*We stand for the Offertory Hymn. After the Offertory Hymn, the Offertory Plate
 will be presented to the altar.*

Offertory Hymn - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

The Deacon sets the Altar and prepares the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist. The Offertory Plate, that holds our donations for the needs and responsibilities of the Church, is then brought forward to be blessed before the Altar.

The Doxology

**People (sung) Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Prayer Over the Gifts

Priest	Gracious God,
People	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. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer (BCP)

Priest The Lord be with you;
People And with thy spirit.
 Priest Lift up your hearts;
People We lift them up unto the Lord.
 Priest Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;
People It is meet and right so to do.

Priest It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty,
 that we should at all times, and in all places,
 give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father,
 Almighty, Everlasting God,
 Creator and Preserver of all things.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 according to whose most true promise
 thou dost pour forth thy Spirit upon us,
 filling us with gifts and leading us into all truth:
 who dost give us power to proclaim
 the gospel to all nations
 and to serve thee as a royal priesthood.

 Therefore with Angels and Archangels,
 and with all the company of heaven,
 we laud and magnify thy glorious name;
 evermore praising thee and saying:

**People (sung) Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
 Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
 Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
 Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord:
 Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest Blessing and glory and thanksgiving
 be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
 who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son
 Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him,
 and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption;
 who made there,
 by his one oblation of himself once offered,

Priest a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation,
 and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world;
 and did institute,
 and in his holy Gospel command us to continue,
 a perpetual memorial of that his precious death,
 until his coming again.

(sanctus bells are rung)

Hear us, O merciful Father,
 we most humbly beseech thee;
 and grant that we receiving these thy creatures
 of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour
 Jesus Christ's holy institution,
 in remembrance of his death and passion,
 may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood;
 who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
 took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he broke it;
 and gave it to his disciples, saying,
 "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you:
 Do this in remembrance of me."

(sanctus bells are rung)

Likewise after supper he took the Cup;
 and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them,
 saying, "Drink ye all, of this;
 for this is my Blood of the new Covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many
 for the remission of sins:
 Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it,
 in remembrance of me."

(sanctus bells are rung)

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
 we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church,
 remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son,

Priest

his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again in glory,
do make before thee,
in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life
and the Cup of everlasting salvation,
the memorial which he hath commanded.

And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness
mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving,
most humbly beseeching thee to grant,
that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ,
and through faith in his blood,
we and all thy whole Church
may obtain remission of our sins,
and all other benefits of his passion;

And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit,
all we who are partakers of this holy Communion
may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly
benediction;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

by whom and with whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be unto thee,
O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

People (sung)

**O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**People Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

The Communion

Priest The Gifts of God, for the people of God.

People Thanks be to God.

Please be seated as the Communion is prepared.

*All who love God and desire Christ are welcome to receive communion.
Gluten- free wafers are available. Please let the Eucharistic Administrator
know if you wish to receive one. Please note intinction, (dipping the bread into
the wine), is not permitted.*

Communion Hymns

- This is the Body of Christ**
- Of the Father's Love Begotten**
- Love Came Down at Christmas**

Celebrant Takes Communion

After the congregation has been served, the celebrant takes Communion at the altar, saying the following.

Celebrant: The body of Christ, food for our journey.

The blood of Christ, the cup of love.

And now I invite you here, and you at home, to put your hand over your heart and accept the communion of God.

People Amen.

The communion hymns continue as the Deacon clears the altar.

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

Priest And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

**People Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Three bells are rung.

Recessional Hymn - When the King Shall Come Again

Dismissal

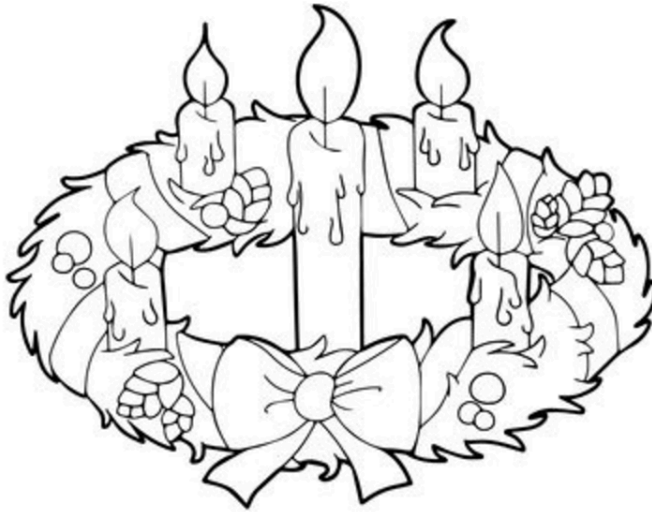
Deacon

Words of dismissal

People

Thanks be to God.

There is a postlude, for those who wish to remain



Thank you for blessing us with your presence today.
Please do join us downstairs in the Lounge
for our tea and coffee fellowship.

Faithful Friends

Activity Page for Any Age

Advent - Week 4

Joseph and Mary continue their long journey to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. In our church, the figures of Mary and Joseph journey from the back of the church to the altar during the season of Advent. Can you find them this week? How close are they to Bethlehem?

Word Play

Unscramble the letters to find some Advent words:

P H E O

E E A C P

Y O J

O E V L

Draw a Picture

Joseph and Mary are nearing the city of Bethlehem. Maybe they see it in the distance. Draw what you think they might see.



Christmas Services

Please Join Us!

Christmas Eve Family Service

Wednesday, December 24 5:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24 8:00pm

Christmas Day Service at St. Agnes Anglican Church

530 East 12th St.

Thursday, December 25 10:15am