



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary Church

St. Stephen Church

Faith - Family - Friendship



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Welcome To PARISH OF CENTRAL SAANICH St. Mary Church



DECEMBER 24, 2024 – CHRISTMAS EVE

*We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional lands
of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish peoples*

St. Mary's Service:

Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Communion: 10:00 a.m.

St. Stephen's Service:

Sunday Service: 11:15 a.m.

Continue to monitor our website - ParishCS.ca

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Incumbent
Bishop Logan McMenamie, Honorary Assistant

Associated Clergy: The Ven. Bob Baillie,
The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane,
The Rev. Paul Schumacher,
The Rev. Gil Shoesmith, deacon

Welcome to St. Mary's Christmas Eve Service. Whether you are a long-time member, a family member home for Christmas, or a guest from down the road or across the world, you are welcome. We are glad you are here to worship the Christ Child this Holy Night.

The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

8:00 p.m. HOLY EUCHARIST

Book of Alternative Services

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding

Prelude – *Carolyn Solberg, Harpist*

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Gathering Song: *Once in Royal David's City* (CP #123)

Solo: 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.

All: **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 meek 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 around.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath:

*(Richard lights the four Advent candles &
the Christ Candle as we sing.)*

***A Candle Is Burning* - Sandra Dean & James R. Murray (t. CP#126)**

**We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim
O come, all you faithful rejoice in this night
As God comes among us the Christian's true light**

Presider: The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over! We have lit four candles that remind us about hope and peace and joy and love. These candles remind us that God promises to be with us, to comfort us, to help us rejoice, and to teach us to love. Today we light one more candle, and we call it the Christ candle. (*LA lights white candle.*) This candle reminds us of all God has done for us. God fills us with good things, like hope and peace and joy and love. God is faithful to us. God is with us, now and always.

All: O God, come, lead us through our lives. Give us courage to spread your light in the world. Amen.

The Gathering of the Community

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

All: And also with you.

Presider: 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.

Christmas Gloria *Arr. Fr. Richard Laurenson*

**Glory be to God high
Peace on Earth good will to all
On the earth your praises sing
For the tiny new born King.**

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo (repeat)

**Lord God you're our heavenly king
Mighty God our father
We bow down and worship you
We give you our joyous praise. *Refrain***

**You alone are holy
You alone are most high
With the Holy Spirit
In the Father's Glory. *Refrain***

The Prayer of the Day: 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 for ever. Amen.

The Readings

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 – Irene Feir

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.

³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 96 BAS - with Irene Feir

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; * **sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**

² Sing to the Lord and bless his name; * **proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations * **and his wonders among all peoples.**

⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; * **he is more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * **but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**

⁶ Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! * **Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; * **ascribe to the Lord honour and power.**

⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name; * **bring offerings and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; * **let the whole earth tremble before him.**

¹⁰ 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.**”

¹¹ 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.**

¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, * **when he comes to judge the earth.**

¹³ He will judge the world with righteousness * **and the peoples with his truth.**

Reader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14 NRSV – Ken Pedlow

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ 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.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God**

Gradual: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (CP #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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together**

**proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.**

Richard: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Richard: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Richard: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Con't)

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
as love imparts to human hearts
the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still,
the dear Christ enters in.**

**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!**

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

Anthem: ***Christmas Hallelujah***- congregation to join in

**I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
Born for us on Christmas Day
He changed our lives in every way
With every breath we're singing Hallelujah**

Chorus:

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place, for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh, Hallelujah**

Chorus

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light**

**A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
"You'll find Him in a manger bed"
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah**

Chorus

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**A star shone bright, up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wise-men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah**

Chorus

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

The Nicene Creed:

**Presider Let us confess our faith, as we say,
All 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 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 one baptism for
the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of
the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers for the Community – Richard Routledge

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. We pray for the Diocese of Sao Paulo – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; the Churches of Jerusalem; for the Churches of Canada, Sarah Mullally, the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. For our Bishop Anna. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world.

Lord of all faith,

All: Hear our prayer and strengthen our love.

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honouring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night. Shine the knowledge of your peaceful ways on every country impacted by war. We pray for King Charles; for Mark our Prime Minister, David our Premier, Indigenous councils, chiefs, elders, and the leaders of the nations, that justice may come for all people.

Lord of all wisdom,

All: Hear our prayer and strengthen our love.

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night. We pray for refugees; we pray that the hearts of the powerful will be moved to help the powerless.

Lord of all mercy,

All: Hear our prayer and strengthen our love.

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the hope of this holy night.

Lord of all hope,

All: Hear our prayer and strengthen our love.

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts or name out loud... that they may feel the comfort of this holy night.

Lord of all healing,

All: Hear our prayer and strengthen our love.

Let us pray for grandparents, parents, children, and especially tonight newborn infants. Strengthen families in their particular situations in the

bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night.

Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night.

Lord of all life,

All: Hear our prayer and strengthen our love.

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed (*name any who have died*) who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns within the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Confession & Absolution:

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

Presider: 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 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

*The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another in a manner that feels safe for you.
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

Offertory: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (CP #138)

The sidespersons will pass the collection plates

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 host 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
off-spring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see
hail, the-incarnate Deity
pleased as one of us to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail! the heav'n born Prince of peace!
Hail! the Sun 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.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Prayer over the Gifts: 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. Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer #3

Presider: God 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: 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 proclaim our words of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus & Benedictus – *music, Land of Rest, American traditional tune*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: 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.”

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

Presider: 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(said)*

Presider: 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 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 pow'r 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.

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Administration of Holy Communion

All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.

If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Harp Music During Communion – *Carolyn Solberg*

Prayer after Communion: 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. Amen.

Candle Lighting: *Silent Night, Holy Night* (CP #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 Hallelujah.
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.

Doxology

Presider: Glory to God

All: whose love, 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.

Blessing

Sending Carol: *Joy to the World* (CP #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,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, 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,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

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

Dismissal

L.A.: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord

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

CCLI# 245534

THANK YOU to Carolyn Solberg for her gift of harp music this evening.
It is a joy to have you with us.

Readings for December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day
Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION

- Thursday, **December 25**, 10:00 a.m. (St Mary) A simple time of worship with a smaller group and singing.
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00 a.m. (St Mary) Service of Holy Communion

11:15 a.m. (St. Stephen) Service of Holy Communion with Baptism

MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICES & BIBLE STUDY- will resume on January 7th, 2026.

THE 2026 FLOWER CHART FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS NOW POSTED – Please use one of the envelopes provided near the calendar for your donation, completing the requested information regarding your dedication, perhaps in memory of a loved one, a special occasion or thanksgiving. A minimum donation of \$50 is suggested. You could consider sharing a Sunday with a friend. Monies donated for Altar Flowers will be eligible for tax receipts. Please ensure that you put your Envelope number, Electronic Collection Plate number or your address on the envelope. The envelope may be placed on the offering plate or given to Leslie Pedlow in the office. Many thanks!

Our sincere thanks this evening to our Musicians, Singers, Altar Guild, Liturgical Assistants, Readers, Flower Guild, Sidespeople, and our Parish Administrator, all who have helped make Christmas at St. Mary. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949

His email: ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

The Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's.



***Note:** Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.*

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