

St. Helen's Anglican Church of Canada  
Diocese of New Westminster

**First Sunday in Christmas**  
**Dec 28, 2025**



Presider & Preacher: The Very Reverend Peter Elliott  
Deacon: The Reverend Jeffrey Preiss

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*All stand*

OPENING HYMN Good Christians All Rejoice

CP 153

## GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

In this time and place

We gather on the ancestral lands of the Musqueam nation.

**From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.**

In this time and place

We give thanks for the light of God that shines in the darkness

**A light no darkness can quench**

In this time and place

We give thanks for the light and peace of Jesus Christ the Word made flesh.

**The light of all people.**

In this time and place

We pray that the Spirit of God will be renewed in our hearts and minds

**That we might be the light of God in the world.**

In this time and place

Together, one people of God.

**In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

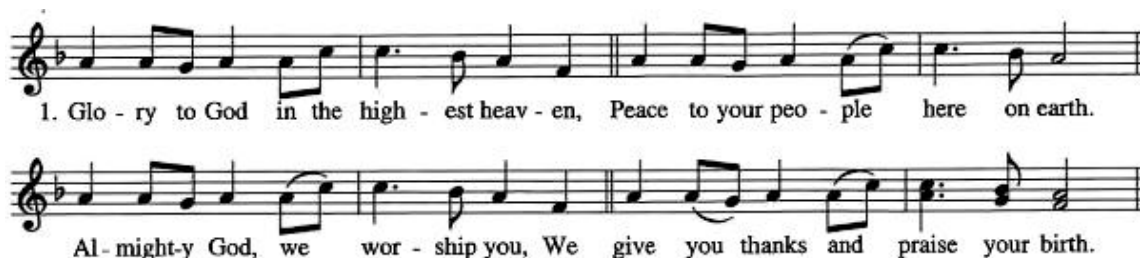
The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

### *Silent Reflection*

Holy One,  
**we long for you.**  
**You know our wounding and our broken-heartedness.**  
**You know how others have hurt us,**  
**and how we have hurt others.**  
**You alone have the healing we need.**  
**Yours is the love that changes everything. Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## GLORIA



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est heav - en, Peace to your peo - ple here on earth.

Al - mighty God, we wor - ship you, We give you thanks and praise your birth.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! De - o!

2. Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;

Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God, Have mer - cy on us and re - ceive our prayer.  
*repeat Refrain*

3. For You a - lone are the One most Ho - ly, You a - lone are the Lord most high

Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit In the glo - ry of God. A - men.  
*repeat Refrain*

## COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
 you have shed upon us the new light  
 of your incarnate Word.  
 May this light, enkindled in our hearts,  
 shine forth in our lives;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING     ISAIAH 63:7-9

Gillian Moore

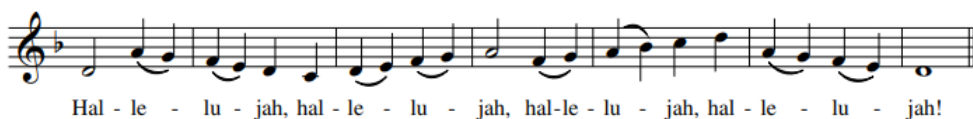
A reading from the book of Isaiah

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. .

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 148



Hal-le-lujah!

Praise God from the heavens;

sing praise in the heights.

Sing praise, all angels,

sing praise, all you heavenly host. **R.**

Sing praise, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.  
Sing praise, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens. **R.**

Let them praise your name, O God;  
for you commanded, and they were created.  
You made them stand fast for ever and ever;  
you gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R.**

O praise God from the earth,  
you sea-monsters and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will; **R.**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars:  
Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;  
Rulers of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all sovereigns of the world;  
Young men and women,  
old and young together. **R.**

Let them praise your name, O God,  
for your name only is exalted,  
your splendour is over earth and heaven.  
You have raised up strength for your people  
and praise for all your loyal servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near you.  
Hallelujah! **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand for the Gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.**

**Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 2:13-23

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."



The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.**

**Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

The Very Reverend Peter Elliott

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*All stand*)

With Christians across time and throughout the world,  
together we affirm our faith saying:

**We believe in God, the Source of Life,  
by whom every being in heaven and earth  
is created, named, and sustained.**

**We believe in God, the Living Word,  
who restores us to relationship  
and speaks to us through faith.**

**We believe in God, the Holy Spirit,  
who comforts, guides, and strengthens us  
to share the good news of grace.**

**We believe in God,  
one, holy, undivided Trinity:  
Source of Life, Living Word, Comforter: Mystery. Amen.**

*Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom for prayer.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hepsi Chand

### THE PEACE

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace  
to all in whom he delights.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

### THE OFFERTORY

*As the altar is prepared for Holy Communion, the congregation is invited to  
make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN    IN BETHLEHEM A NEWBORN BOY

CP 580

*Please remain standing until communion.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of light,  
in the birth of your Son we see your glory.  
May we who share in this mystery  
grow daily in your love.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Life up your hearts.  
**We life them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our Creator.

**We give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. It begins with an 'Introduction' marked with a 'f' (forte) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry to You, O Lord most high. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and 'ff' (fortissimo). The tempo/mood markings 'Broadly', 'rit.' (ritardando), and 'molto rit.' are also present.

*Introduction* **f** Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry to You, O Lord most high.  
**mf** Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **f** Ho -  
**Broadly**  
*rit.* **ff** *molto rit.*  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the spirit of Jesus' teaching, let us pray.

**Source of Life,  
holy is your name.  
May your community of shalom be realized,  
here on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us each what we need for today.  
Forgive us our wrongdoings,  
and help us release those who wrong us.  
Save us from times of duress,  
and deliver us from the effects of evil.  
For you hold truth and justice and love,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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.**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

*All who seek Christ and are drawn to this holy table are invited to come forth to receive Holy Communion. Dipping the bread (intinction) into the wine is not permitted. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please indicate such by placing your right hand over your heart.*

## LAMB OF GOD

The musical score for the Lamb of God hymn is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and a repeat sign. The lyrics are: "O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin \_ of the world;". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Have mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.". The third staff begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and the word "All". The lyrics are: "O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin \_ of the world;". The fourth staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Lul - lay, lul - la, thou lit - tle tin - y child; Grant \_ us your peace.". The fourth staff includes dynamic markings: mezzo-forte (mf) for the first part, piano (p) for the second part, and piano-piano (pp) for the final part. There is also a "rall." (rallentando) marking over the final part.

COMMUNION HYMN	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	CP 125
	Let Folly Praise That Fancy Loves	CP 152

*All stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Source of truth and joy,  
may we who have received the gift of divine life  
always follow the way of your Son.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
share in the life of his eternal kingdom.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
**Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

HYMN See Amid the Winter's Snow

CP 148

*Please be seated for the postlude. The community disperses in silence.  
In respect of those who may linger in contemplation,  
conversation is reserved for the narthex.*

#### A Prayer for the New Year

You call us from our settled ways, O God,  
out of old habits and rutted traditions.  
You call us into the land of promise,  
to new life and new possibilities.

Make us strong to travel the road ahead.  
Deliver us from false security and comfort,  
desire for ease and uninvolved days.  
Let your Word and Spirit dwell in us  
that your will may be fulfilled in us  
for the well-being of all.  
Amen.

*Prayer composed by Vienna Cobb Anderson*

## How to Contribute to St. Helen's Financially

We deeply appreciate financial contributions to our shared congregational life and mission. The best ways to donate are:

- Set up a Pre-Authorized Donation - simply send an email to [sthelenswpg@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenswpg@gmail.com) to get started or change your amount
- Donate via interact e-transfer to [sthelenswpg@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenswpg@gmail.com)
- Scan the QR code to the right or visit [sthelensvancouver.com/give](https://sthelensvancouver.com/give) to donate via credit card
- Use one of the envelopes available at the back of the church by the offering plate to donate via cheques or cash



### **Volunteers today:**

Intercessor: Hepsi Chand

Readers: Gillian Moore, Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe

Zoom: Irene Vavasour

Counter: Dale O'Brien

Lay Administrators: Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, Paula Pryce

### **Connect with us:**

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