



Diocese of
New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

Doing God's Love Since 1899

December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Service

8:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Georgina Harris

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

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Christmas Letters 2025

Christmas Greeting 2025!

We read in the Prophet Isaiah, a shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:1-3)

In the Liturgical Church we make our way from the celebration of Christ the King, into the Advent Season, and finally the magnificent celebration of Christmas. Sadly, in this 21 st century world fewer of those who identify as 'Christians' take the journey through Advent as it was meant to be – a time of reflection, penitence, and preparation.

We are caught in a never-ending commercial barrage that "encourages" us to start preparing for Christmas in August!

It is a challenge to intentionally take time to do Spiritual Prep. work. That is what Advent is for – preparing us Spiritually for what is to come!

One of the ways we can prepare ourselves spiritually is to use the **O Antiphons** as a foundation for reflection. As we make our way through each of them take the time to reflect and answer the question "How does this apply to my life?"

O Antiphons:

**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. Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**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. Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**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. Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**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. Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**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. Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**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.
Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour:
come and save us, Lord our God.
Lord Jesus, come soon!**

As the days shorten and the nights grow longer where do we find ourselves in the busyness that is the Advent / Christmas Season? Taking time to reflect on what we are moving toward prepares us to fully engage with who and what we are as Christians in this troubling time in our world.

The days shorten, the nights lengthen, and yet in all this there is the promise of new light, new promise, new hope, and renewed faith.

Holy One, as we enter this Christmas Season, help us hold onto the Hope you bring. In a world that feels heavy with need, remind us of Your promise to come again and make all things new. Let our hearts be filled with the light of Your presence, leading us closer to You each day. Amen.

May this time be a time of richness and renewal.

Reverend Georgina



Dear Friends,

I would like to begin my Christmas Letter to you by thanking you all for the very warm welcome that I have received. I have already been incredibly touched to learn about all the ways in which God is at work in, and through, this parish, and I look forward to learning more as I walk with you. We have only had a few services and "coffee hours" together at the time of this writing, but I have enjoyed speaking with those I

have been able to speak with and getting to know a bit about the parish. If we have not had a chance to speak yet, please do feel free to reach out either during a coffee hour or via my contact information.

At this time of year, many of us often feel a variety of emotions depending both on our own histories and where we find ourselves at a particular moment of time. One of the great gifts of the Christian liturgical calendar, in my view, is that it repeatedly prompts us to remind ourselves of God's promise to us, particularly at this time of year. One of the collects sometimes used for Advent 3 (Gaudete Sunday) reads as follows:

**God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes,
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

I find that this collect helps me to remember many things during this time of year. I remember that Advent invites us into a posture of waiting and anticipation. God is a saving God, and at Christmas we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

This collect, though, also encourages us to wait in awe and wonder for Jesus Christ. It reminds us that Jesus' coming is moment by moment, and that God keeps coming in different ways in our lives, and at different times. I think that is part of both the complexity and the joy of Christmas. We are, in part, asked to reflect on what our response might be to the Good News of the incarnation. We might ask ourselves: How might we work together to nourish the Kingdom of God?

My friends, I want to wish you and your loved ones the best at this time of year. I hope you find time for some rest, and I hope that you experience some of the awe and wonder of Christmas. God is with you, now and forever.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Shawn

The Reverend Dr. Shawn Bullock

Welcome

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

Ministering this evening at our 8:00 p.m. service:

Celebrant and Preacher:	The Reverend Georgina Harris
Deacon-in-Charge, Curate:	The Reverend Dr. Shawn Bullock
Crucifer and Server:	Hazel Breakey
Musician:	Galina Martynioug, piano and organ
Choir Director:	Christie Smith
Guest Singer:	Martha Kendall
Guest Musician:	Genevieve MacKay
Readers:	Howard Dallimore, Christine Williams
Intercessor:	Maria Morellato
Eucharistic Administrators:	Maria Morellato, Hazel Breakey

Flowers in the Sanctuary today have been donated by members of the Parish of St. John. Please see back pages for dedications.

Our Service Today

This liturgy (the words we say) comes from the Book of Alternative Services, and is the common, contemporary Anglican liturgy. Our special Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy was written especially for St. John's, and we encourage individuals and families to participate when invited.

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. We invite you to read aloud with us anytime the bulletin says **All**.

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.



Processional Hymn

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

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Words: French trad., trans. James Chadwick 1860
Music: French carol melody, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes 1937*

- 1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains

Refrain Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King

Refrain Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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.

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

The Gathering of the Community

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

All And also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God,

**All to you all hearts are open,
all desires are 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.**

The Collect

Celebrant Eternal God,

**All 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.**

Advent Song - Hope is a Star

We sing all verses of the Advent Song as the candles are lit.

Liturgy for the Christ Candle at Christmas - Fulfillment

First Voice The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over!
We have lit four candles that remind us about
longing and peace and joy and love.

(The four Advent candles are lit)

Second Voice 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 celebrate that God has come to be with
us in the baby called Jesus.

Today we light one more candle, and we call it
the Christ candle.

(The white Christ candle is lit)

First Voice 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,
travel with us through our lives.
Give us courage to spread
your light in the world.
Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading: read by Howard Dallimore.
A reading from the Book of Isaiah

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.
 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.
 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.
 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
 For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 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 onwards and for evermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Please remain seated as we read the Psalm together.

Deacon O sing to the Lord a new song;

All **sing to the Lord, all the earth.**
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.'
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Deacon We worship you, God of glory,

All **in the beauty of holiness,**
and we joyfully proclaim your just and righteous rule,
established for all,
through your Son Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Second Reading: read by Christine Williams.

A reading from the letter to Titus.

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

Titus 2:11-14

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *All stand for the Gospel. We sing the first two verses of this hymn before the reading of the Gospel.*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Music & Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
Frederick Oakley (1802-1880), William T Brooke (1848-1917)*

- 1 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,

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

- 2 God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God,
Begotten not created.

(The Gospel is read)

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exaltation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
glory to God
in the highest:

Refrain O come, let us adore him....

The Gospel

Deacon The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among all people!'

Luke 2:1-14

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We sing the last verse of the Gradual Hymn now.

Sermon The Reverend Georgina Harris

Time for Reflection

Choir Anthem **Go Ye To Bethlehem**
English version by Ruth Heller
Arr. by Mildred Thiel

An Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant : Let us confess the faith of the Church, as we say,

All **We believe in Jesus Christ,
God manifest in the flesh,
our teacher, example and Redeemer,
the Savior of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
God present with us for guidance,
for comfort, and for strength.**

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins,
in the life of love and prayer,
and in grace equal to every need.
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.

The Leader of the intercessions may offer prayers for the parish, the community, and people of faith around the world, before leading this Litany of Incarnation.

Litany of Incarnation

Leader In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "Lord, grant us peace."

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord

All Lord, grant us peace

Leader By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

All Lord, grant us peace

Leader By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord

All Lord, grant us peace

Leader By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.

All Lord, grant us peace

Leader By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

All Lord, grant us peace

Leader Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

All Lord, grant us peace. Amen

Sharing of The Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant May the peace of Christ always be with you.

All And also with you.

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 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 Prayer Over the Gifts

Celebrant Source of light and gladness,
All 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.

The Great Thanksgiving/Eucharistic Prayer 3 (DoNW)

- Celebrant The Lord be with you.
All And also with you.
- Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.
- Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- Celebrant 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 sing our joyful hymn of praise
 to proclaim the glory of your name.
- All 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.**
- Celebrant 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.

Celebrant

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 isolation into community,
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."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All

**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant

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,

Celebrant 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.

All Amen.

Celebrant As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All (spoken) 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 forever. 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.**

The Communion

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

All Thanks be to God.

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**
- **In the Bleak Midwinter**
- **O Holy Night**

The Eucharistic administrators will first serve Communion to the choir. Then they will stand at the front of the church and the congregation will come forward in two lines down the centre aisle to take Communion. If you want to come forward for a blessing, please line up for the priest and cross your arms over your chest.

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.

All Amen.

The communion hymns continue as the Deacon clears the altar.

Candlelight Hymn - Silent Night

Candles will be lit and the sanctuary lights will be dimmed before we sing Silent Night.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Father of all,
**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.**

The Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,
**All Whose power, 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.**

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn - Joy To The World

Dismissal

Deacon
All

Words of dismissal.
Thanks be to God.



We wish you all a wonderful Christmas!

*A Christmas Day service will be held
on December 25th, 10:15 am,
at St. Agnes Anglican Church, located at 530 East 12th St.
(near Grand Boulevard)*

Christmas Flower Donations

Donated by

Dedication

Madeline Cooper

In memory of Harry Cooper

Sandra Miller

In memory of Barbara Dunlop,
George and Freda Batt, Tom and
Rosemary Ryley

The Brookfield & Friday families

In memory of our parents and
grandparents

Michele and Ron Payne

In memory of Pat Keuchler

Galina Martyniuk