

**Holy Communion  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025**



**St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church**  
Diocese of New Westminster

Located on the unceded land of the Musqueam,  
Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations

## Welcome!

If you are new here or visiting, please sign our guest book and stay after worship for refreshments and conversation.

If you would like to request prayers, please write the names of those to be remembered in the book on the small table in the prayer corner.

Communion is in both kinds (bread and wine). All are welcome at the table, and no one is required to take communion. Participants are welcome to consume only bread.

Thank you for joining us today.

## Walk with Us

Financial support from members and guests is essential for us to continue to be a place of welcome for all.

Here's how you can give:

**Good:** Cash or a cheque in the plate.  
Regular donors get envelopes to ensure tax receipts.

**Better:** Transfer funds using interac to [office@stmarymags.ca](mailto:office@stmarymags.ca) Indicate "donation" in the memo line.

**Best!** Sign up for pre-authorized debit to have a monthly donation transferred directly from your bank account.

We issue tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.

## Why Christmas Matters

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus to Mary, a young woman living in first century Palestine.

The story of Jesus' birth underscores a central Christian claim: that God becomes fully present in human life in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. It is not simply that God appears *like* a human or temporarily inhabits a body, but that the eternal Word of God takes on real human flesh, history, vulnerability, and limitation. The word we use for this is *incarnation*.

At its heart, the incarnation says that God chooses nearness rather than distance. God meets humanity not by lifting us out of the world, but by entering it—into ordinary time, a particular place, a human body, and a life shaped by joy, suffering, relationship, and death. As the Gospel of John puts it, "the Word became flesh and lived among us."

Theologically, this means that matter matters. Human bodies, relationships, work, pain, and hope are not obstacles to God but the very place where God is revealed. The incarnation grounds Christian faith in the conviction that divine love is not abstract or theoretical, but embodied, relational, and committed to the real conditions of human life.

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# The Gathering of the Community

*We sing as the light is welcomed into our gathering.*

## Song #123 Once in Royal David's City

- Solo* 1. 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* 2. 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 mean and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. 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 round.

*Text: Cecil Frances Alexander  
Music: Henry John Gauntlett*

## Greeting

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

*All:* **And also with you**

*Presider:* Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

*All:* **Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

*Presider:* From eternity to eternity you are God,

*All:* **and now we see you as a newborn child.**

## Prayer of the Day

*Presider:* Almighty God,  
*All:* as we prepare with joy  
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,  
embrace the earth with your glory  
and be for us a living hope,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004)*

## Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading

*Reader:* A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
(Isaiah 9:2-7)

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

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

*Silence is kept.*

## Psalm 96

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
**sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord and bless the divine name; \*  
**proclaim the good news of our salvation from day to day.**
- <sup>3</sup> Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations \*  
**and the wonders of God among all peoples.**
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, \*  
**more to be feared than all gods.**
- <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
**but it is you, O Lord, who made the heavens.**
- <sup>6</sup> Oh, the majesty and magnificence of your presence! \*  
**Oh, the power and the splendour of your sanctuary!**
- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
**ascribe to the Lord honour and power.**
- <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the honour due the divine name; \*  
**bring offerings and come into the courts of the Lord.**
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
**let the whole earth tremble before God.**
- <sup>10</sup> Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord reigns! \*  
**The Lord who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved  
will judge the peoples with equity.”**
- <sup>11</sup> 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.**
- <sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
**before the Lord who is coming, \*  
who is coming to judge the earth.**
- <sup>13</sup> The Lord will judge the world with righteousness \*  
**and the peoples with truth.**

## Second Reading

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Titus  
(Titus 2.11-14)

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

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

*Silence is kept.*

## Song

### #118 O Come All Ye Faithful

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:

*Refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:

*Refrain*

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

*Refrain*

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

*Refrain*

*Text and Music: John Francis Wade (1711-1786),  
Alt. harm. The English Hymnal 1906*

## Gospel Reading

*Reader:* May God be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of Jesus according to Luke.  
(Luke 2.1-14)

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

*Reader:* The Gospel of Christ.

*All:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## Reflection

*Silence is kept.*

The Rev. Tasha Carrothers

## **Anthem**

### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

*Traditional French carol Les Anges dans nos campagnes, c. 1840s.*

*English paraphrase, James Chadwick, 1862.*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

*All*

**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.**

## Prayers of the People

*Please stand or sit as you prefer for prayer.*

*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:* By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, 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.**

## The Peace

*Presider:* The peace of God be with you all.

*All:* **And also with you**

*We share the peace of God with one another with a gesture of greeting.*



# The Celebration of the Eucharist

*To make a financial offering, please place it in the offering plate by the door.*

## Song

### #126 Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the heavens looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Text: American Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*

## Prayer over the Gifts

*Presider:*

Good and loving God,

*All:*

**we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,**

**who came among the poor**

**to bring the riches of your grace.**

**As you have blessed us with your gifts,**

**let them be a blessing for others.**

**With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,**

**we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Presider:* May God be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

*All:* **We lift them up to God.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

*All:* **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 fully human of the flesh of 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.

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One: Ho - ly God of Hosts!". The second staff is for the Congregation, with the lyrics "Hea - ven and earth are full of your". The third staff is for the Congregation, with the lyrics "glo - ry! Ho - san - na in the high - est.". The fourth staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics "Blessed are those who come bear - ing God.". The fifth staff is for the Congregation, with the lyrics "Ho - san - na in the high - est!". The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature.

*Cantor:* Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One: Ho - ly God of Hosts!

*Congregation:* Hea - ven and earth are full of your

glo - ry! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Cantor:* Blessed are those who come bear - ing God.

*Congregation:* Ho - san - na in the high - est!

*Presider:* Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are 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.

*All:* Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Presider:* 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.

*All:* **Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Presider:* 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.

*All:* **Come, Holy Spirit.**

*Presider:* All praise and glory are yours,  
Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

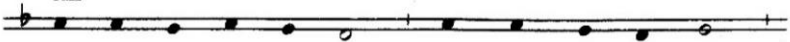
## The Lord's Prayer

*Cantor*

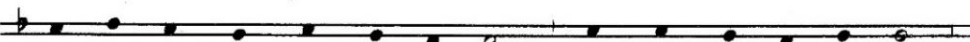


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

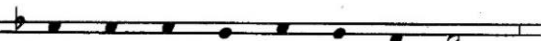
*All*



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



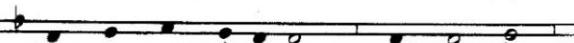
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,



now and for ev - er. A - men.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Presider:* 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.**

## Communion

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

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

*Please remain at your places. The consecrated bread and wine will be brought around to all who wish. Everyone is welcome at the table.*

## Anthem While By My Sheep

*Traditional German carol. Translated by Theodore Baker (1851-1934)*

## Sending Out of the Disciples

### Prayer after Communion

*Presider:* Radiant God,

*All:* **with our eyes we have seen your salvation,  
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace.  
May your Word take flesh in us,  
so that we may be your holy people,  
revealing your glory made known to us  
in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.*

### Doxology

*Presider:* 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.**

### Blessing

## Song

### #154 Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. 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.

4. 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.

*Text: Isaac Watts alt. Music: George Frideric Handel  
adapt. William Holford*

## Dismissal

*Presider:* Go in peace, the beloved of God.

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

*Everyone is invited to stay for festive drinks and goodies!*

## Donations

Donations from tonight will go to the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City and our community garden fund.

Donations to the **Al Ahli Anglican Hospital in Gaza City** will be sent through Alongside Hope, the Anglican Church's organization for sustainable development and relief. We received this update from them a couple of weeks ago: "Al Ahli hospital continues to operate under very challenging conditions. The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which runs the hospital, is currently doing all in their power to advocate for the protection of the hospital, other institutions, and civilians. They are also exploring the possibility of deploying mobile clinics where and when conditions allow given their team's longstanding experience in operating them effectively. This will depend on the security situation on the ground and protecting the safety of staff and patients."

St. Mary Magdalene's has two modest **community gardens**. Anyone passing by the front garden is welcome to help themselves to a bit of fresh produce. The secret garden (off 14<sup>th</sup> Ave) contains small raised beds. Members of the wider community are welcome to sign up for their own bed. Contact the church office to express interest.

## This Week at St. Mary Mags

Thurs, Dec 25	10:30 am 4:00 pm	Christmas Holy Communion Christmas Dinner
Sunday, Dec 28	10:30 am	Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

**Centering prayer and mid-week Communion** are cancelled on Wednesday, December 31. Back on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

**Next Sunday—Lessons and Carols.** The tradition at St. Mary Mags is to pull out all the stops on the first Sunday after Christmas. Stand by for your favorite Christmas carols (now that it's formally Christmas season). Bonus: The Vicar gets a break from preaching to make room for even more singing!

### Next Sunday's Readings

December 28, 2025 | Lessons and Carols

Isaiah 63:7-9; Isaiah 43:5-7; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Luke 2:22, 25-35; Matthew 2:13-23

### St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

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The Rev. Tasha Carrothers, Vicar  
Dave Dagta, Musician

