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The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop

Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen, Priest

***"Together in Christ
we seek to love God and
to love and serve all others"***

**Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m. Service
December 24, 2025**

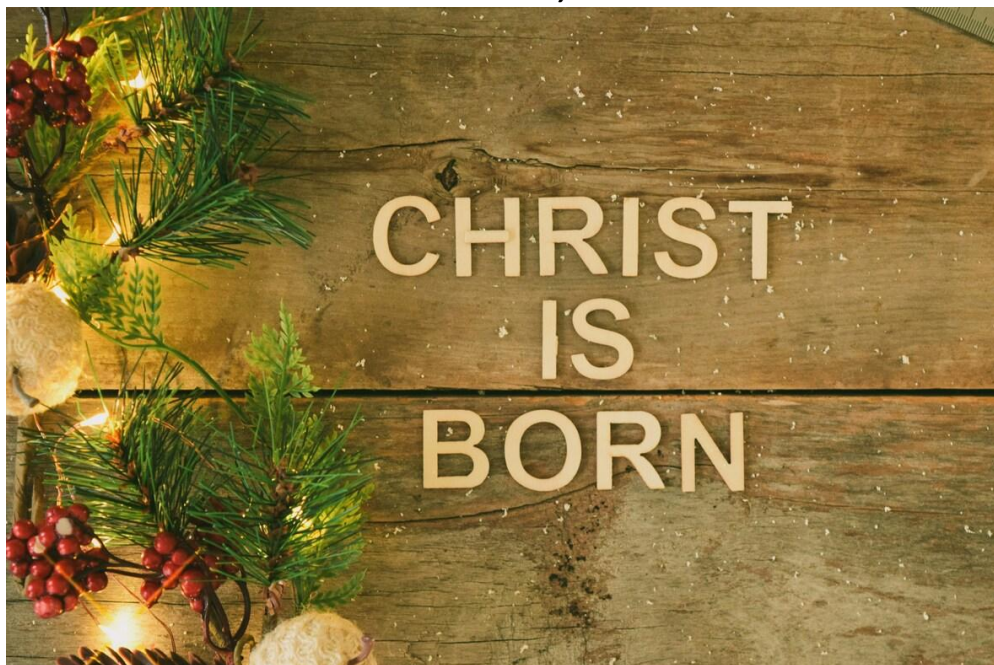


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Sunday Services are at 8:30 a.m. (Traditional Rite)

10:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

Office Hours Mon to Thurs 9:00-Noon

Online Bible Study Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

If you are new to our parish, please identify yourself to the sidespersons or priest so we can welcome you and tell you about our church.

We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth, and reconciliation.

The Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen preaches & presides.

This service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending this morning, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.

Please have your electronic devices on silent mode during the service.

<p>7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist A Service from “Evangelical Lutheran Worship”</p>

Lay Eucharistic Minister is Rob Taylor
Sidespeople are Sharon & Sandra Crews
Ministry of the Chalice Carol Denton & Mike Armstrong
Director of Music is Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and x^wsepsəm nations, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants, and animals, through the many generations. As we meet today, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years — the community of faith known as Church of the Advent. Let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Opening Sentence: I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Opening Hymn: CP 118 O Come All Ye Faithful

Welcome:

LIGHT OF LIGHT – A CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY FOR ADVENT

Words & setting by Joel Raney. © 2019 Hope Publishing.

Responsive Litany:

Kathy Middleton

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Candle Lighting

Tonight, we light all five candles-the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and finally, the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. The candle of hope reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. The candle of peace reminds us that peace will one day reign. The candle of joy is a reminder that we have been given eternal life and have no reason to be fearful. And the candle of love represents God's redeeming love for us, brought to earth in the form of a tiny child.

- Words & setting by Joel Raney. © 2019 Hope Publishing.

Closing Prayer: Living God, as we rejoice in the coming of your Son this Christmas night, we give thanks for the lifechanging gift of Jesus Christ. As we encounter yet again the living story of the Nativity and the precious gift of yourself, born in all humility, help us to encounter your love in a real and transforming way. Guide us as we move through the Christmas season, and into the world with the Advent gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. May we be your light and love in the world.
Amen.

-Adapted from: Levine, Amy-Jill. Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent, Abingdon Press.

Call to Worship:

On this holiest of nights,

we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

On this most silent night,

we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

On this nights of carols and candlelight,

we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

Collect 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.

(Please be seated)

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Sharon Taylor

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.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 96 (Pg. 834)

Rob Taylor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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."**

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.**

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

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

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Terry Mikkonen

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.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able for the Gradual Hymn.)

Gradual Hymn: CP 120 O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Please remain standing for the Gospel reading)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

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 those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Children's Sermon: Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

(Children are invited to come forward and sit with Sr. Ingrid.)

Solo: El Rorro *Kathy Middleton, Soprano*

Mexican lullaby carol. Trans & arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram.

The Nicene Creed: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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: 188 Holy Eucharist**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.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People:

Janet Denford

(Please be seated for the prayers)

Each petition will end with – Lord, in your mercy.

Please respond with – **Hear our prayer.**

(Please stand as you are able for the Peace)

The Peace:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. Peace be always with you.

And also with you.

All are warmly welcome to join us at the Lord's Table. If you prefer not to receive communion but to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. Please leave your communion glasses in the bowls on the left and right as you return to your seat.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

Offertory Hymn: CP 137 What Child is This

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 forever. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer:

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to 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 Saviour 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:

Sanctus:

From Mass of Comfort & Joy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest Hosanna in the highest Hosanna in the highest.

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' hope and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. On 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 this 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.**

Lord's Prayer:

Music by Gordon Light © Common Cup Company

Our Father in heaven, hallow'd be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heav'n. 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 for ever. 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.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion:

Communion Anthem: The Virgin Slumber Song *Kathy Middleton, Soprano*

© Max Reger Op 76 No 52. Martin Boelitz. Eng by Ed Teschemocher

(Please stand as you are able for the Prayer after Communion)

Prayer after Communion: 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.

Doxology: Glory to God, 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.

SENDING FORTH

Candle Hymn: CP 119 Silent Night

Blessing: *(Please stand if you are able)*

Commissioning Hymn: CP 138 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Commissioning:

Go now with joy in your hearts and peace in your mind.

Go now, looking into each other's eyes as you would the eyes of the baby Jesus.

Go now with gifts received from God, and gifts of love for one another.

We go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

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Announcements

Office Closure – Please note that the parish office is closed from Dec 25th and reopens Jan 5th. For pastoral emergencies, please call Kathy at 250-889-2039.

Sr. Ingrid away – Sr. Ingrid is on vacation between December 26th and January 12th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec 25 Christmas Day Home Alone Luncheon

Dec 26-Jan 12 Sr. Ingrid away on holidays

Dec 28 Lessons & Carols Service, 10 am (no 8:30)

Dec 25-Jan 2 Parish Office is closed

Jan 4 8:30 & 10 am services celebrated by Rev. John Steele

Jan 7 Community Coffee Social, 9:30 am

Jan 10 Celebration of life for Dietrich Rodwoski, Hall, 2 pm

Jan 11 Morning Prayer led by Terry Mikkonen, 10 am (no 8:30)

Jan 14 Ladies Guild Mtg, 1:30 pm

Jan 15 Bible Study (online) resumes, 6 pm

Jan 18 Jazz Vespers, 7 pm

Jan 20 Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm

Jan 24 Spanish Service & Potluck, 6 pm

Jan 25 8:30 Breakfast

Jan 28 Ladies Guild Lunch, Noon

Jan 29 Prayer Shawl Mtg, 10 am, St. John's Rm



Have a Blessed Christmas