

Holy Communion
December 28, 2025
A Service of Lessons and Carols



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 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

#368 He Came Down

1. He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah for evermore.

He came down that we may have joy...
He came down that we may have peace...

Melody: African; arr. John L. Bell

Text: African trad.

The 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: O God,

All: **you have known us from our mother's womb.**

**You call us to follow you through all our days
and seek us even when we wander.**

**Clothe us with your love, so that we may grow in grace
and find favour in your sight; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah
(Isaiah 63:7-9)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept.

Song

#122 In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man I would do my part,
yet what I can, I give him - give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti

Music: Gustav T Holst

Psalm 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise God in the heights.

2 Praise the Lord all you angels; *
sing praises, all you heavenly host.

3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon; *
sing praises, all you shining stars.

4 Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, *
sing praises, you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord; *
who gave the command and they were created,
6 who made them stand fast for ever and ever, *
who gave them a law which shall not pass away.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

9 mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;

10 wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and wingèd birds;
 11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
 12 young men and young women, *
old and young together.
 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, *
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendour is over earth and heaven.
 14 The Lord has raised up strength for this people *
and praise for all loyal servants,
 the children of Israel, *
a people who are near to the Lord. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah
 (Isaiah 43:5-7)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept.

Song #129 No Crowded Eastern Street

1. No crowded eastern street, no sound of passing feet;
 far to the left and far to right, the prairie snows spread far and white;
 yet still to us is born tonight the child, the King of glory.
2. No rock-hewn place of peace shared with the gentle beasts,
 but sturdy farm house, stout and warm,
 with stable, shed, and great red barn;
 and still to us is born tonight the child, the King of glory.
3. No blaze of heavenly fire no bright celestial choir,
 only the starlight as of old, crossed by the plane's flash, red and gold;
 yet still to us is born tonight the child, the King of glory.
4. No kings with gold and grain, no stately camel train:
 Yet in his presence all may stand with loving heart and willing hand;
 for still to us is born tonight the child, the King of glory.

Text: Frieda Major (1891-1976)

Music: Robert J.B. Fleming (1921-1976)

Third Reading

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews
(Hebrews 2:10-18)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept.

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 bright sky 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 you, Lord Jesus – look down from on high
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

Text: American (19th cent)

Music: William James Kirkpatrick

Fourth Reading

Reader: A reading from the gospel according to Luke
(Luke 2:22, 25-35)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept.

Song

#121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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!

*Text: Phillips Brooks
Music: Lewis Henry Redner*

Gospel Reading

- Reader:* May God be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
- Reader:* The Holy Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew
(Matthew 2:13-23)
All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**
- Reader:* The Gospel of Christ.
All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**
Silence is kept.

Song

#132 Of Eternal Love Begotten

1. Of eternal Love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.
2. At his Word the worlds were framèd. He commanded, it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun,
evermore and evermore.
3. O that birth forever blessèd, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.
4. This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.
5. O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
all dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and king;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.
6. Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; tr John Mason Neale, alt.

Melody: Plainsong, Mode 8, adapt. Piae Cantiones

Prayers of the People

Please stand or sit as you prefer for prayer.

In the prayers of the people, the people who have gathered join their prayers to bring to God the needs of the Church, the world, and all who are in need. If you would like to add a person to the prayers, please speak to the Vicar. There is also a book on the front hall table where you can add names of people for whom you would like prayer.

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

#139 The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Refrain*

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood salvation bought. *Refrain*

Text: English trad

Music: Melody English trad. Arr. John Stainer

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.

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

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.
 Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All:

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.**

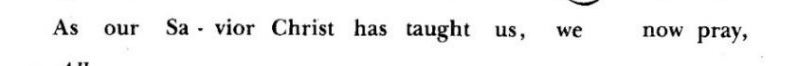
The Lord's Prayer

Cantor




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

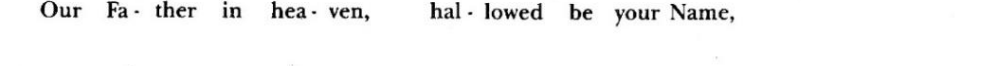
All



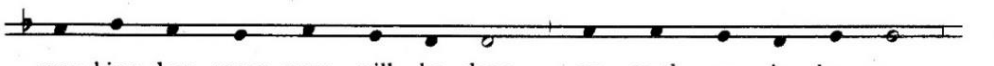
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



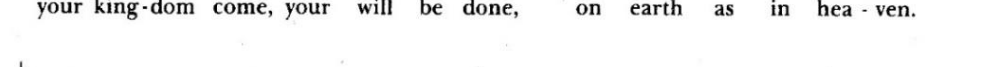
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



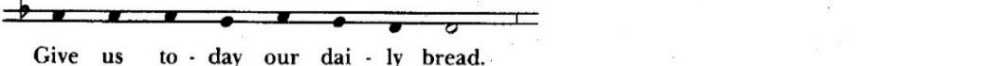
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.




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.

Song

#145 Good King Wenceslas

1. Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen
when the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.
2. 'Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou knowest it, telling:
yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?'
'Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain.'
3. 'Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither;
thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.'
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
through the rude wind's wild lament, and the bitter weather.
4. 'Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger;
fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.'
'Mark my footsteps, my good page; tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shall find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly.'
5. In his master's step he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

Text: John Mason Neale

Music: Melody Piae Cantiones

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 Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry- where;

4 E \flat A \flat E \flat Cm Fm E \flat /B \flat B \flat ⁷ E \flat
 Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born. While
 The
 Down

8 E \flat A \flat B \flat E \flat
 shep-herds kept their watch-ing Over si - lent flocks by night, Be -
 shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! A - bove the earth, Rang-
 in a low - ly man-ger Our hum-ble Christ was born, And

12 E \flat Cm⁷ F⁷ B \flat B \flat ⁷
 hold, through-out the heav ens Thereshone a ho - ly light.____
 out the an - gel chor-us That hailed our Sav - ior's birth:____
 God sent us sal - va - tion, That bles - sed Christ-mas morn:____

16 E \flat A \flat E \flat B \flat E \flat
 Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry- where;

20 E \flat A \flat E \flat Cm Fm E \flat /B \flat B \flat ⁷ E \flat
 Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace, the beloved of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

This Week at St. Mary Mags

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

Next Sunday's Readings

January 4, 2026 | The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12;

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The Rev. Tasha Carrothers, Vicar
Dave Dagta, Musician

