

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
ADVENT FOUR
December 21, 2025



Rector: The Rev. Vernon Foster
Deacon: The Rev. Helen L.
Hon. Assistant: The Rev. Pat H.
Director of Music: Charles H.
Musicians: Freeman D./Kyle M.
Church Warden: Joy Adams Bauer email: jadamsbauer@stpaulsnanaimo.ca
Church Warden: Greg Brown email: gbrown@stpaulsnanaimo.ca

Church Services:

Sunday	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist
Weekdays (except stats)	8:30 am	Morning Prayer (Zoom)
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Contemplative Prayer
Wednesday	11:00 am	Holy Communion

Office Hours: 9:30 – 12:00 pm Monday to Friday 250-753-2523
Office Address: 100 Chapel Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5H2
E-mail/Website: admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca
www.stpaulsnanaimo.ca



*Please be aware the 10:30 service may be recorded or livestreamed,
and your presence in the service is considered your consent to appear on camera.*

PLEASE MUTE YOUR CELL PHONES DURING THE SERVICE

(CCLI LICENSE: 2006094)

HOLY EUCHARIST – 10:30 AM

*This Eucharistic liturgy is based on the
Anglican Church of Canada **Book of Alternative Services***

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

*We commit ourselves to working together in a spirit of reconciliation as we worship
and serve on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.*

Preacher:	The Rev. Vernon Foster
Celebrant:	The Rev. Will H.
Deacon:	The Rev. Helen L.
Liturgical Assistant:	Gwen I.
Greeters:	Sue M., Syd G.
Duty Warden:	Greg Brown
Musician:	Kyle M.

The flowers on the main altar are given by Shirley S. to the glory of God
and in loving memory of parents Stirling and Lilian S.

Altar Guild Team: Carol S., Joy A. B.

Refreshment Hour is hosted today by: Lynn A., Shirley S.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: *(you may remain seated during the welcome)*

OPENING HYMN: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

GATHERING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May grace and peace be with you all.

May Christ fill our hearts with joy.

CANDLE-LIGHTING: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE GUARDIAN

In this fourth week of Advent, we stand with the guardian—
with Mary and Joseph, who listened in the silence,
who trusted what they could not fully understand,
and who chose love when fear would have been easier.

The fourth candle is lit.

We light this candle for the quiet courage that protects what is tender,
for the steadfast love that shelters what is fragile,
and for the faith that grows in the ordinary places
where God's mystery takes root.

**God of silent strength,
teach us to listen for your guiding voice.
Give us courage to stay when love asks much of us,
to protect what you are bringing to birth,
and to welcome your presence in the unexpected places of our lives.
Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON CP 678

Lord, have mercy upon us, 3x
Christ, have mercy upon us, 3x
Lord, have mercy upon us, 3x

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Let us, after a moment of silent reflection, call to mind and confess the times we have
fallen short of God's purposes for us, resolving to keep God's commandments and to
live in love and peace with our neighbour.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. *(A moment of silence)*

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

Tony B.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19

Cantor



SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-8

Yvonne O.

Hear what the spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 93 Ye Servants of the Lord (Vs 1, 2, 3) **NARENZA**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

(It is our custom to remain standing for the reading of the gospel. Please stand as you are able)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 93 Ye Servants of the Lord (Vs 4, 5) **NARENZA**

SERMON:

Rev. Vernon Foster

ANTHEM: Every Star Shall Sing

Old UC Hymn 428 by Sydney C.

ADVENT CREED: *(Please stand as you are able)*

L.A. Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in God:

The Source of all things. The God of Abraham and Sarah. The Holy One who freed the slaves from Egypt. The God who is steadfast love and mercy. The God who made a straight path in the wilderness and who promises to make all things new.

We believe in Jesus:

The Messiah, who is Emmanuel: God-with-us. He is King-of-Kings, yet born of Mary. Jesus showed God's love through healing and teaching, Jesus chose the way of servant-suffering by dying on a cross. After three days he rose from the dead. He is the Lord, the first born of the new creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit:

The One who inspires faith. Who has spoken through prophets and preachers and common people, The One who breathes new life into the church and the world, The Lord and giver of life. Who is making all things new. We believe that God is still creating. We believe that Jesus is present with us. We believe that the Holy Spirit is calling us forth in love and mercy. This is our hope, this is our faith. Amen.

Lutheran Church

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Julia R.

THE PEACE:

Christ dwells among us through the courage of love. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

OFFERTORY HYMN: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 91 People, Look East! The Time Is Near

BESANCON

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

God of steadfast and sheltering love,
as Joseph and Mary protected what was fragile,
so we offer these gifts to nurture what you are bringing to birth.
Make our giving a sign of our willingness
to guard, to support, and to love with courage.

All things come from you and of your own have we given you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: (Eucharistic Prayer 2)

(You are invited to stand during the Eucharistic Prayer as you desire)

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.

Blessed are you.....as we sing:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

CP 735 Schubert

Holy and gracious God..... now and forever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

David H.

Awaiting his coming glory, as our Saviour has taught us, so we sing:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD:

The Bread which we break is the sharing of the Body of Christ.
We, who are many, are one body for we all partake of the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION:

All are welcome to join us for communion. Our practice is to share the wine from a common cup.

For health reasons you are asked not to dip the bread wafer into the wine.

If you prefer, you may receive bread only. If you are gluten free, please ask for a gluten free wafer.

If you do not wish to receive communion, cross your arms in front of you to indicate to the clergy that you would like a blessing instead. We are happy to come to your seat to serve communion if you are unable to come forward – do let the greeter know.

COMMUNION HYMN: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 94 Wait for the Lord, Whose Day Is Near

WAIT FOR THE LORD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious. **Our Lord's mercy endures forever.**

God of steadfast and sheltering love, you have nourished us with this sacrament and strengthened our hearts. Send us forth like Joseph and Mary, to guard what is fragile, to protect what is holy, and to welcome your presence in the ordinary and uncertain places of our lives; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

BLESSING

May the God who strengthened Joseph and Mary fill you with tender courage, make you a shelter of hope for others, and bless every act of love you offer in faith. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sacred Spirit, be with you and those whom you love and pray for, this day and for ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth with courage and tenderness, guarding what is holy and nurturing what is good. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

SENDING FORTH HYMN: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 95 o Come, Divine Messiah

VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE