



The Holy Eucharist
(The Book of Alternative Service - BAS)
December 24th, 2025, 4.00pm

Christmas Eve Family Service



Epiphany in the Snow

“Journeying together in God’s love”

Welcome and Announcements

Notes for the Service

(Please stand, as you are able)

Opening Sentence

I bring you good tidings of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. *(Luke 2:10-11)*

The Gathering Hymn

CP # 146 Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

(Please sit)

Lighting the Christmas Candle

Celebrant: For the last four Sundays we have been lighting candles at the beginning of every Service. The first candle reminds us of HOPE.

The first candle is lit

All: THERE IS NO REAL HOPE WITHOUT JESUS.

The second candle is lit

The second candle reminds us of PEACE.

All: THERE IS NO REAL PEACE WITHOUT JESUS.

The third candle is lit

The third candle reminds us of JOY.

**All: THERE IS NO REAL JOY WITHOUT
 JESUS.**

The fourth and final Advent candle is lit.

This fourth candle reminds us of LOVE - God's love for the whole world.

**All: THERE IS NO REAL LOVE WITHOUT
 JESUS.**

We wait no longer. Now is the moment to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, and place him in the manger's bed.

The white Christmas candle is now lit

We pray together, saying:

**God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to shine
bright like the sun, lighting the way for all who
walk in darkness. May the light of Christ's hope,
peace, joy and love shine bright in us as we
approach his coming, that we may be ready to
welcome him this Christmas, and every day which
follows. Amen.**

(Please stand, as you are able)

The Introit Hymn

CP # 126 Away in a Manger

Gloria in Excelsis (Glory to God in the Highest)

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace
 to his people on earth. Lord God,
 heavenly King, almighty God and**

**Father, we worship you; we give you
thanks, we praise you for our glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father, Lord God, lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father; receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Christmas Collect

**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 sit)

The Readings *(Diane Elliott)*

The First Reading

Reader: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (Ch. 9:2-7)

**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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 96 (vv 1-2, 9-12)

REFRAIN: All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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. **R.**

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

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." **R.**

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

The Second Reading

Reader: A Reading from Paul's Letter to Titus (Ch 2:11-14)

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

CP # 120 O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Gospel Reading

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (Ch:2:1-20)

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 Savior, 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 favors!"

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.

(At the conclusion of the Reading)

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Please sit)

The Sermon

Hymn

CP # 154 Joy to the World (vv. 1-2 & 4)

*(At the conclusion of the Hymn, please remain standing
for the Creed)*

The Creed

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

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth. I believe
in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified,
died, and was buried; He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again; he ascended into
heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come again to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic
Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness
of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People *(David Wilson)*

(Please sit)

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, He welcomes sinners and invites them to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

All: 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 neighbour 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.

Celebrant: 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.**

(Please stand, as you are able)

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

The Offertory Hymn

CP # 48 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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 for ever. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus

Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit He took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will, He stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so He won for you a holy people.

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, Lord God almighty
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
 Highest praises, honour, and glory.
 Be unto your name,
 Be unto your name. *(sung twice)***

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night He was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way He took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which was shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me." Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your servant Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Saviour has taught us, let us pray,

**All: 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

Celebrant: “I am the bread which has come down from
 heaven,” says the Lord.

All: **Give us this bread for ever.**

Celebrant: “I am the vine, you are the branches.”

All: **May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.**

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***(All are welcome to come and receive Holy Communion,
at the front of the church, either standing or kneeling.
Please note that due to health concerns the dipping of
bread into the wine (intinction) is not advised).***

Hymns during Communion

CP # 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

CP # 158 Earth Has Many a Noble City

(Please stand, as you are able)

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

The Doxology (Glory)

**All: 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.**

The Blessing

May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

CP # 145 Good King Wenceslas

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

2026 Flowers for the Altar – calendar available for sign up

Jan 4th: An invitation from Rev. Rosemary - Killian is turning one and he wants to celebrate with you all. We would love you to join us for celebrating and blessing our Killian on his first birthday on January 4th at St Philip's by-the-Sea Church. We will gather following the church service in the hall for brunch / appetizers. All are heartily invited.

Jan 8th: Parish Council Meeting – 7pm

Jan 15th: Men's Breakfast – 8:30am – Country Grocer Café Bowen Rd

Jan 27: The Bishop's Dinner - 5:30pm - Laurel Point Inn.

Purchase tix through Eventbrite or [click here](#)

All detailed event information can be found on the St. Philips website under the Events page: www.stphiliplantzville.ca

With special thanks to:

- *Caleb Lawrence, Diane Elliott and David Wilson who served as celebrant, reader and prayer leader.*
 - *Maureen Lawrence who served as greeter and communion assistant.*
 - *Nicole McDaid who served as Zoom manager and communion assistant.*
 - *Catherine Cembella for her musical leadership*
- Your leadership, support and example are greatly valued and appreciated. **THANK YOU!***

In the Worldwide Anglican Community, we pray for: The
Diocese of São Paulo – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

In our Diocese of British Columbia, we pray for: Our Synod
Office Staff.

This week in our Parish of St. Philip by-the-Sea, we pray for:
Lori Tanner, Mark Taylor, Anne Tennant, Frances and Rod Tester,
Alex and Paula Thomas and for all their families. We pray for peace
and for all refugees around the world.

UPCOMING SERVICE REMINDERS

Thursday, December 25th, 2025, **10am**

Christmas Day

Service of Holy Communion (BCP)

Celebrant: The Rev. Rosemary Mathews

Sunday, December 28th, 2025, 9:30am

First Sunday after Christmas

Service of Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Celebrant: The Rev. Leslie Flynn

Sunday, January 4th, 2026, 9:30am

Second Sunday after Christmas

Service of Morning Prayer (BCP)

Service Leader: David Wilson

Who We Are

We are part of the Diocese of British Columbia, which is a member of the Anglican Church of Canada and the world wide Christian Church.

We acknowledge with thanksgiving that we gather on the traditional lands of the First Nations Peoples, and especially those of the Snaw-Naw-As people.

We join a line of Anglicans who have worshipped on these islands for over 150 years. As we continue, we commit ourselves to a journey of truth and reconciliation between the indigenous peoples of this land and the non-native peoples of Canada.

We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe community in every respect including our ministry with vulnerable persons such as children, seniors, and persons with special challenges.

We welcome everyone, regardless of language, race or sexuality, into a Christian community whose core values are love, respect, kindness, and generosity.

If you are new here today, please make yourself known to the minister taking the service. We would love to get to know you better.