

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
January 4th 2026
The Epiphany of The Lord



“Nourishing faith and community”

Prelude

Words of Welcome (*Please stand as clergy enters*)

Musical opening We Three Kings of Orient Are

(Text and Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr MA USA 1820-1891)

*We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*



Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. **Refrain***

*Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. **Refrain***

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,*

*sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain***

*Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. **Refrain***

The Gathering of the Community

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Almighty God,
**to you all hearts are open all desires known, and
from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and
worthily magnify your holy name, through
Christ our Lord. Amen**

Gloria (sung)

(Daniel Schutte Mass of Christ One licence)

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest
And on earth, peace on earth
Peace to people of goodwill.**

**We praise you, we bless You
We adore you, we glorify You
We give you thanks,
For your great glory.
Lord God heavenly King,
O God Almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world,
Receive our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand
The right hand of the Father
Have mercy on us.**

**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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest
And on earth, peace on earth
Peace to people of good will.**

Amen, Amen.

Kyrie (sung)

**Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.**

**Kyrie Eleison
Christie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, eleison**

**Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.**

Let us pray,
Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but

the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Of Solomon.

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the
people,**

**give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all
generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
**may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.**

May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
**He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Reading Two: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians
*This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner
for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for*

surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

Gospel Hymn: CP160 As with Gladness Men of Old (Text William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) Music: Konrad Kocher (1786-1872) public domain)

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that cradle rude and bare,
so may we with joyful song,
raising voices pure and strong,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ to thee our heavenly king.

In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
thee forever may we sing

alleluias to our king.

Celtic Alleluia (sung)

(Fintan O'Caroll and Chris Walker OCP Publications One License)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**The Gospel of Christ
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Celtic Alleluia (sung)

(Fintan O'Caroll and Chris Walker OCP Publications One License)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Sermon: The Reverend Gail Rodger

Musical Moment for Reflection

Announcements

Hear O Israel (please stand)

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship Communion setting 6 prayer of confession 2 p388)

Dear friends in Christ, let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another. (*Silence is kept*)

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to

you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

(Please stand)

God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: CP 139 The First Nowell

(Text and Music Eng Traditional; public domain)

*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.*

*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.***

*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:***

*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:***

*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:***

*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:***

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray,

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people joined in praise and
thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen

Eucharistic Prayer (*Please stand*)

(Book of Alternative Service EP #1; musical setting CP719 The Great Thanksgiving setting #1)

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 gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation, and have shown your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of all peoples. Therefore, with angels and archangels, we give raise our voices in joyful praise to proclaim the glory of your name:

(sung)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(sung)

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. (sung) **Amen.**

Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(Musical setting VU960 R Langdon)

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and 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 table of love is offered for all people. It is Christ who invites us to meet love incarnate here, and all are welcome.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion

(Communion is offered at three locations in turn: station one is at the back of the church near the candles for those who prefer to stand and/or are physically challenged by steps without railings; station two, brought to the pew. Please let the usher know if you would like it brought to the pew; station three: at the altar rail for all those who are able)

Instrumental musical selections during communion

Prayer after Communion (*please stand*)

Let us pray,

God of all, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and forever. **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.

The Blessing

The blessing of the Holy Trinity; the loving Creator, who is the source of all being, of Jesus Christ who is the love incarnate in the world, and the ever present Holy Spirit, hold you, surround you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Musical Sending: SGP 24 I Am the Light of the World

(Music/Jim and Jean Strathdee Text: In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman © 1969 Desert Flower Music, One License)



Refrain:

*“I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love
you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home,*

*the work of Christmas is begun. **Refrain***

*To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below the sky above! **Refrain***

*To free the pris 'ner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations
with strength of good will,
to see God's children ev 'rywhere! **Refrain***

*To bring hope to ev 'ry task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in
an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! **Refrain***

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Scottish Episcopal Church; for Shane Parker, our Primate; Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Moosonee, Bishop Anne Germond; for our bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for St Philip Oak Bay, The Rev. Allan Doersken.

In our parish we pray for Walter Adams; Dorothy Barnes; William Bates; Myrna Bennett; Ann Berry; Cindy Bourgeois, Caleb Bourgeois, Cohen Bourgeois; Keith Brandsma & Keiko Hoshino; Doug & Bev Bowen.

In our community we pray for St John the Divine Food Bank.

For the month of January, we pray for those who do pastoral care.

Washrooms are found in the hall, up the stairs, on the right.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək'ʷəŋən speaking peoples, who are the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.

Welcome to all those visiting us at St. Peter and St. Paul.

We welcome saints, seekers and sinners as we live into a life in Christ, learning about and from one another as we worship God together. Christ binds us together in love through our diversity. If you are comfortable, please give us your name and address so we can add you to our weekly prayer list. We are looking forward to getting to know you better.

AGM IS COMING SOON!

REPORTS ARE DUE BY THE END OF JANUARY.

PLEASE EMAIL YOURS TO THE OFFICE AT

admin@stpeterandpaul.ca

Reports that are expected include:

Building Memorial Fund

Rector's Report

Wardens' Report

Nominating Committee Report

Treasurer's Report

Altar Guild

Cemetery Trustees

Church and Hall Maintenance

Gardening and Landscape

Knotty Club

Envelope Secretary

Pastoral Care

Safe Church

Mission, Ministry, and Outreach

A reminder that anything to be discussed at the AGM must first be cleared by Parish Council to be on the Agenda.

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