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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”***

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

10:00 a.m. Service

February 8, 2026



Moyers, Mike. Shine, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

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.

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Book of Alternative Services, p. 185**

Lay Eucharistic Minister is Carol Denton

Sidespeople are Elaine & Art Youngson

Ministry of the Chalice – Joan Hoffman & Lydia French

Director of Music is Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and xʷsepsəm 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 Hymn: PoP 32 Filled with Awe We Come before You

Author: David BJORLIN, b.1984; © 2020 GIA Publications

Filled with awe we come before you, God of mystery and might,
and our certainties grow cloudy calling us to faith's dim sight.
Shake us out of small convictions or a god we can explain;
give us glimpses of your glory that no vision can contain.

Where your holiness surrounds us, light that hallows and reveals,
no more can we hide in shadows all the dirt the dark conceals:
words that injure, thoughts that mangle, acts that sidestep love's demand.
We, O God, are broken people and we scar your holy land.

Touch our lives, O God of mercy, with your burning coal of grace.
Burn away oppression's structure; build up justice in its place.
Then when we discern together what you call us all to do.
Move our words and works to answer:
"Here we are, we follow you!"

Sentence of the Day: I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Collect of the Day: Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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

Chat at the Chancel:

Hymn: G 429 He Came Down

Transc. and Arr. © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope,
Hallelujah forevermore.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9

Jose Perena Pratt

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to

quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 112 (Pg. 860)

Carol Denton

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord * **and have great delight in his commandments!**

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; * **the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house, * **and their righteousness will last for ever.**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; * **the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending * **and to manage their affairs with justice.**

For they will never be shaken; * **the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumours; * **their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.**

Their heart is established and will not shrink, * **until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor, * and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honour.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Dayle Robertson

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

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

Gradual Hymn: G 590 Christ Be Our Light

Author: Bernadette Farrell b 1957. © 1993, 2000, Bernadette Farrell, Published by OCP

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. **[R]**

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. **[R]**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [R]

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. [R]

(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 Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

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.**

Confession & Absolution:

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving. In silence we call to mind our sins.

Merciful God, **we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

-From A New Zealand Prayer Book

(Please stand as you are able for the Peace)

The Peace:

The peace of the Lord 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 502 You Are Salt for the Earth

Prayer over the Gifts: God of compassion and forgiveness, **receive our offering this day, and make us one with him who is our peace, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer #1 (BAS Pg. 193):

Santo, santo, santo. Mi Corazón te Adora!
Mi Corazón te sabe decir; Santo eres Dios!
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God!

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:

“I am the bread which has come down from heaven,” says the Lord.
Give us this bread for ever.

“I am the vine, you are the branches.”
May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.

The Communion:

Communion Anthem: The Kingdom of God

Sung by Choir

Author: Taizé Community. © 2001, 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

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

Prayer after Communion: Eternal God, **in you we find peace beyond all telling.**
May we who share in this heavenly banquet be instruments of your peace on earth, in the name of Jesus Christ the 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

Shared Ministry:

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Sending out of Lay Eucharistic Visitors:

In the name of God and of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in Christ's body and blood.

We being many, are one body, because we all share in the one bread.

May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in the community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing:

Commissioning Hymn: CP 631 The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy

Commissioning:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ!

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INTERCESSIONS

TODAY WE PRAY

We pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

*We pray for our Primate Shane, John our Metropolitan,
Anna our Bishop, and Ingrid our Priest.*

*In the Western Peninsula & Gulf Islands region Christ Church Gabriola Island, and
the Rev. Mona Smart.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers and for those we know and love, especially Janelle, Liz, Andrew, Steve, Alan, Frank, Linda, Jim, John, Tina, Jenny, Barb, Jim, Wayne, and Neil, and the residents and staff of Sunset Lodge.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

SHARED MINISTRY

Blessing of the Lenten Liturgical Wall Hanging - Join us on Sunday, February 15th at the 10:00 service for a very special unveiling and blessing of our new Lenten liturgical wall hanging. The hanging was lovingly created by the hands of Mary Wills and Linda Van Sickle. It's truly a very special work of art and you will see how its unique design and pattern represent meaningful themes around one's faith journey.

Family Board Games Night – Monday, Feb 16 @ 5 PM - Do you enjoy boardgames? Feel like getting together with friends for some games, snacks and plenty of laughs? Then join us on Family Day at 5 pm in the hall for our next Church of the Advent Family Boardgame Nights. Did we mention snacks and drinks? That's right! In true boardgame café style, we will have bowlfuls of snacks, popcorn, and drinks available to keep tummies from grumbling. All proceeds will go to the Coffee Fund. Come out and enjoy the spirit of fellowship mixed with a little healthy competition and plenty of fun!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch – Mark your calendar for our annual Pancake Lunch on **February 17th!** The LUNCH is from noon to 1 pm, hosted by the Ladies Guild. Cost is \$12 per person, and \$5 for children under ten.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - In preparation for Shrove Tuesday, we are currently seeking volunteer support to help pull off our annual parish **Pancake Supper**. We are looking for one or two people to coordinate, and for additional help with preparing the pancakes, sausages, etc. Please email or call the parish office if you are interested in helping out in any way or have questions. Thank you in advance for your support!

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting for the year 2025, scheduled to take place on Sunday, February 22nd following the 10:00 service. Please note there is only one service on this day. The full AGM report and Financials are now available in the Narthex.

From the Parish Library - On today's Top Shelf is Amy-Jill Levine's book *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, which Sister Ingrid used as a foundation for her sermons before Christmas. Well worth a read at any time of year! To borrow it, please fill out a green slip from the shelf underneath, and put the completed slip in the pink box marked Library on the same shelf.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb 10 Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm - TENTATIVE

Feb 11 Ladies Guild Meeting, Hall, 1:30 pm

Feb 15 8:30 Breakfast (Black History Month)

Feb 16 Family Board Game Night, Hall, 5 pm

Feb 17 Shrove Tuesday Lunch & Dinner

Feb 21 Spanish Service, 6 pm

Feb 22 Combined 10:00 service (no 8:30)

Annual General Meeting begins at 12 pm, after service

Feb 28 Celebration of International Black Cuisine, Hall, 6:30 pm

Mar 4 Community Coffee Social, 9:30-11 am, Hall

Mar 7 Parish Council Planning Session, 8:30-12, Chapel

Mar 11 Ladies Guild Mtg, 1:30 pm

Mar 14 Parish Movie Night, 6 pm, Hall

Mar 15 Jazz Vespers feat. Stephanie Greaves, 7 pm

Mar 17 Book Club, 10 am, St. John's Room

Mar 25 Ladies Guild Lunch, 12 pm, Hall

Mar 28 Spanish Service (Oscar Romero) & Potluck, 6 pm

Mar 29 8:30 Breakfast, Room C