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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"***

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Service

March 15, 2026



Gerung, Matthias, approximately 1500- 1570. Healing of the Man Born Blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition.

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.

<p>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Book of Alternative Services, p. 185</p>

*Lay Eucharistic Minister is Carol Denton
Sidespeople are Marlyn Butler & Sharon Crews
Ministry of the Chalice – Rob Taylor & 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 x^wsepsəm 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: CP 505 Be Thou My Vision

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

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures for ever.

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.**

Sentence of the Day: I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life.

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, **through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; 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: I Want Jesus to Walk with me

PD

I want Jesus to walk with me,
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my life-long journey,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Carolyn Hamar

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and

his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 23

Carol Denton

The Lord is my shepherd; *** I shall not be in want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures *** and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul *** and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *** for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ***you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ***and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

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

Gradual Hymn: PoP 112 When Our Lives Are Ruled by Fear (Vs 1 & 4)

Text: David Bjorlin, b.1984; © 2020 GIA Publications, Inc

When our lives are ruled by fear and our churches choked by greed,
when success becomes our goal and security our creed:

Refrain: Let us brave the wilderness, dare to walk where few have trod,
leaving safety's easy path, risking doubt, and finding God.

When the road ahead is steep and our courage is so small,
when we stumble at the start and are certain we will fall: **[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 John.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to be-come his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered,

"Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People:

Sue Hamblin

(Please be seated for the prayers)

Each petition will end with – Lord, in your mercy.

Please respond with – **Hear our prayer.**

Confession & Absolution:

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

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.**

(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 397 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Prayer over the Gifts: God of light, your Word brings to us a new vision of your glory. Accept our offering of praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer #3 (BAS Pg. 198):

The Sanctus: VU 951 Santo, Santo, Santo (Anon., Argentina)

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:

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Our Father in Heaven, **Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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 pow'r and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread:

We break this bread,

Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

The Communion:

Communion Anthem: Give me Jesus *Sung by Bonnie Stuart, Soprano*

American Spiritual. Arr: Norah Duncan ©2021 GIA Publications

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

Prayer after Communion: Father, **through your goodness we receive your Son in word and sacrament. May we always have faith in him, 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: MV 138 Love Colours Outside the Lines

© 1995 Common Cup Company; Arrangement © Andrew Donaldson

My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain: We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;

I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines. **Refrain**

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;

I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before, throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

Commissioning:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ!

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INTERCESSIONS

for The Anglican Church of Kenya.

We pray for our Primate Shane, John our Metropolitan,

Anna our Bishop, and Ingrid our Priest.

In the Western Peninsula & Gulf Islands region for St. Mary & St. Stephan, Central Saanich. The Ven. Len Towstego and Rev. Gil Shoemith.

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 Cena, Andrew, Steve, Alan, Linda, Jim, John, Tina, Jenny, Barb, Jim, Wayne, and Neil, and the residents and staff of Broadmead Lodge.

For Those Who are Mourning

We pray for the family and friends of Agnes Richardson, especially for her sons Wayne, David, and Ian.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

SHARED MINISTRY

Last Chance to Vote – The new Church of the Advent Logo design is now on display in the Narthex, presented to you in three versions. Which one is your favourite? Please take a moment to choose one of the three (and pick A or B) and write your name and sign on the corresponding sheet. Online voting is also an option. Check your weekly newsletter!

Jazz Vespers this evening - Church of the Advent is thrilled to welcome this evening vocalist Stephanie Greaves to our Jazz Vespers stage. Stephanie has performed all over the world. With an untiring commitment to her craft, she's become a household name at public events and private functions across Victoria and Vancouver Island. Be it at intimate solo shows, dinner theatre at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel, or singing Canada's national anthem for international dignitaries or tens of thousands of cheering Vancouver Canucks and BC Lions fans, Stephanie displays the versatility and grace of a natural performer. Stephanie will be accompanied by one of our favorite performers, award-winning jazz pianist Attila Fias.

Save Your Treasures! - Our annual **Garage Sale** is happening soon, on **Saturday, May 2nd**. This has always been a major event in the life of our church family and our Westshore community and, as in the past, we'll need lots of donated items! Please remember the Garage Sale when you and/or your neighbours are doing your spring cleaning and sorting. Note that we are **not accepting** clothing, TVs, computers, large furniture, mattresses, carpets, cribs and car seats, travel mugs and water bottles or books, records and movies (you can save these last three for the Book Sale in October).

We will be accepting donations during the following times:

Sat. April 25, 9 am to 3 pm

April 27 – May 1, 9 am to 3 pm

Any questions? Contact Linda Van Sickle at 778 265 5347 or lindavs51@gmail.com.

Maundy Thursday - A Maundy Thursday Agape Meal & Eucharist service will be held in the church at 6 pm on Thursday, April 2nd. If you would like to attend and can contribute to the Agape meal, a sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please indicate there if you can bring either buns or bread, fresh or dried fruit, or nuts. These foods will accompany the soup that is being provided. We ask everyone please bring their own cutlery, plate, glass and bowl.

Ladies Guild Project – Members of the Ladies Guild enjoyed a creative project at their meeting this past Wednesday, March 11th. Each member was asked to consider how they would describe what being a member of Church of the Advent means to them. Using old magazines, scissors and glue, they each created a collage of images and text that told their own story of life here in this church family. Have a look at their creations on the bulletin board and cupboard door in the parish hall while enjoying your coffee this morning.

From the Parish Library – A third selection of books for Lent can be found on this week's Top Shelf, these suitable for Passiontide. To borrow one, please fill out a green slip from the shelf below the display, and put it in the box labelled Library.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mar 15 Jazz Vespers feat. Stephanie Greaves, 7 pm

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

Mar 25 Community Lunch, 12 pm, Hall

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

Mar 29 8:30 Breakfast, Room C

Apr 1 Community Coffee Social, 9:30-11 am

Apr 2 Maundy Thursday Agape Meal & Eucharist, 6 pm, Hall

Apr 3 Good Friday Service, 10 am

Apr 4 Bilingual Easter Vigil Service & potluck, 6 pm

Apr 5 Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am, Esquimalt Lagoon

Easter morning services, 8:30 & 10 am

Apr 6 Easter Monday, Parish office closed

Apr 8 LG Meeting, 1:30 pm

Apr 6-12 Sr Ingrid on Vacation

Apr 13-16 Sr Ingrid at Clergy Conference

Apr 21 Book Club (all welcome), St. John's Rm, 10 am

Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm

Apr 22 Community Lunch, noon

Apr 25 Spanish Service, 5:30 pm, & Parish Spring Potluck, 6:30 pm

Apr 26 8:30 Breakfast, Rm C

Apr 27-May 1- GARAGE SALE PREP WEEK

May 2 GARAGE SALE DAY; Taize Service, 5 pm

Anglican Church of the Advent Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday Mar 29	Palm Sunday & Passion of the Cross 10 AM
Monday Mar 30	Meditation & Prayer Service, Chapel, 6 PM
Tuesday Mar 31	Meditation & Prayer Service, Chapel, 6 PM
Wednesday April 1	Meditation & Prayer Service, Chapel, 6 PM
Thursday April 2	Maundy Thursday Agape Meal and Eucharist Service at 6 PM
Friday April 3	Good Friday, Church, 10 AM (Meditation on the final words of Jesus)
Saturday April 4	Easter Vigil (Spanish & English), @ 6 PM (with potluck dinner after)
Sunday April 5	Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM Esquimalt Lagoon Easter 8:30 AM Service Easter 10 AM Service (followed by children's Easter Egg hunt)