

On the traditional land of the Semiahmoo

the Parish of St. Mark

OCEAN PARK

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome!

Welcome to St. Mark's! We're glad you're here.
We gather to give thanks to God, to pray for the world, and to be reminded that we are deeply loved. Whatever joys, worries, hopes, or questions you carry with you today, there is room for them here.
*You are God's beloved child, and you belong **here**.*

This morning in worship...

As we begin Advent, we also begin our new parish theme, the **Year of Trust**, with a four-part sermon series called **Trust Me!** In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminds us that God is faithful and will sustain us as we await the healing of the world. Throughout Advent, we will explore what it means to trust in God's promises, even when the future is uncertain, and to live courageously as people who have been entrusted with God's love.

Altar Flowers are given today by **Brenda Horner and Ron Henze** to the glory of God, and in thanksgiving for the gift of grandchildren, especially celebrating the safe arrival of Clark Ewan Bourdeau on October 26, 2026.

Today's Scripture
From *Introductions to the Lessons* by Bill Bennett.

Isaiah 64:1-9 At the end of the 6th century BC the people of Israel are returning from Exile to their homeland. They remember their failings and hopes, the expectation of a fresh start.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Paul, writing from Ephesus, had spent 18 months in Corinth in Greece. He warmly greets them and speaks of the imminent return of Christ.

Mark 13:24-37 Jesus prophesies the climax of history and the second coming.

Kids Club

Today is **Trust Sunday**! Through stories, games, activities, and conversation, children will discover to pray how Jesus taught us. Kids Club is a safe, welcoming, and fun place to learn and grow in faith. Kids Club Crew are trained and approved for ministry with children and follow St. Mark's safe ministry policies.

Coffee Hour

Please gather in the hall for coffee and refreshment following the service.

Next Week: December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Father Dara preaches.



the Gathering of the Community

Welcome

When the bell rings, please stand for the procession of the choir and altar party.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
that we may be saved.
Psalm 80:3

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.

The Confession & Absolution

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.
Almighty 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.

We light the Advent Wreath as we sing, Give Us Light *by Charles Vas.*
Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord.

Give us life... ***Grant us peace...*** ***Save us now...*** ***Give us grace...***

Common Praise 88

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever: now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

God of unveiled truth,
in times of darkened sun and waning moon, lift up our hearts and waken our love to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

Trust Sunday!

We have a wonderful program for your child this morning. They will return for Communion. Please note that all our adult Kids Club Crew have had a criminal record check and are approved by the Diocese of New Westminster to work with vulnerable people. All our Youth Crew have completed a Safe Church Training through the Parish.

All Who Are Thirsty
Brenton Brown, Glenn Robertson

All who are thirsty, all who are weak,
come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away
in the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

the Proclamation of the Word

We have large-print versions of the Scripture available for those who need one. Please ask a greeter for one.

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah (64:1-9).
Listen for God's Word.
Our hearts are open.

Psalm 80 (Restore Us, O God)
the Reverend David Taylor

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, let your face shine.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine on us.

Shepherd of our hearts, leader of your flock, listen to our prayer.
Shine your loving light, stir up all your might. Come and help your chosen people.

Maker of the earth, Maker of the skies, comfort those who mourn,
every aching heart, people torn apart. Come and help your chosen people.

Strengthen all who stand next to your right hand. Help your chosen people.
We will walk with you as you call us to. Shepherd us into your pasture.

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (1:3-9).
Listen for God's Word.
Our hearts are open.

Common Praise 89
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 13:24-37

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

Common Praise 89
O come, O wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Sermon

The Creed
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 power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; who descended to the dead; who, on the third day, rose again; who ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; who 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.

I Wonder...

What did I hear today that challenged, encouraged, or surprised me?

Where might God be inviting me to trust more deeply?



What in my life or in the world needs my prayers this week?

The Prayers of the People

While we have chiefly come to give thanks to God, our second purpose for gathering is to intercede for the world. We know that "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

The peace of the Lord
be always with you.
And also with you!

Lift Your Voice

the Reverend David Taylor

Lift your voice!
In the wilderness cry,
"Make a highway for God."
Valleys rise.
Mountains fall to your knees
at the glory of God.

Everyone is able.
Lift up your voice, do not fear.
Like a shepherd,
God gathers us near to the stable. See,
our God has come to save us!

When the night grows longer,
when all the stars disappear,
we will wait on our
God to draw near and grow stronger. We
will rise on wings as eagles.

Financial Support

Thank you for your faithful stewardship through your tithes and offerings. Your generosity helps St. Mark – Ocean Park continue its ministry and serve our community.

If you would like to become a regular giver, please complete a welcome card and give it to a greeter or the priest.

Ways to Give:

- Cash or cheque (payable to The Parish of St. Mark – Ocean Park)
- Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)
- Electronic Donation Station (EDS) in the foyer (ushers are happy to help)
- e-Transfer to **give@stmarkbc.org**
- CanadaHelps through our website

If you would like donation envelopes, please contact the parish office.

Tax receipts are issued each February for donations made during the previous calendar year.

the Celebration of the Eucharist

Today we use Eucharistic Prayer 3.

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.

The priest continues in prayer.

Common Praise 722
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full,
full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.

The priest continues in prayer.

The Lord's Prayer *(said)*
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.

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us
in your kingdom.
Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.

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

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Prayer for healing is available during Communion on the right side of the sanctuary.

I Lift My Eyes Up
Brian Doerkson
I lift my eyes up to the mountains.
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from you,
maker of heaven, creator of the earth.
Oh how I need you, Lord.
You are my only hope.
You're my only prayer.
So I will wait for you
to come and rescue me.
Come and give me life.

As The Deer
Martin J. Nystrom
As the deer panteth for the water,
so my soul longeth after thee.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship thee.

You alone are my strength,
my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship thee.

You're my friend
and you are my brother
even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.

I want you more than gold or silver.
Only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver
and the apple of my eye.

'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus
Louisa M. R. Stead

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
just to know: "Thus saith the Lord."

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,
precious Jesus, Saviour, Friend;
and I know that thou art with me,
wilt be with me to the end.

Announcements

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

Great is Thy faithfulness
Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyan

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not,
thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter,
and springtime and harvest;
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Go in peace, trusting in God's love,
and sharing in the healing of the world.
Thanks be to God!

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The Pulse

Youth News

Youth Group
Grades 8 to 12
Fridays from 7 to 9 pm

December 4th is
Present Wrapping Night

We're meeting up at Guilford Mall from 7-9pm to wrap presents for charity!

Bring a friend!!





Today is Trust Sunday!

Children are welcome to join the fun downstairs where there will be games, activities and a story about **how God trusts Mary to have baby Jesus!**

Sunday Videos!

Check out our YouTube channel each Sunday for great videos to watch with your children!
@st.mark-oceanparkanglicanc3043

The Lunch Basket is given this week by **Marsha G. Mathers** to the Glory of God, celebrating Shayla Megan's birthday and her ability to honour God and Proverbs 14:31 Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who are kind to the needy honour him.



Prayer Chain & Sunday Intercessions

If you, or someone you know is in need of prayer, please connect with **Lynne** at **lynneh1@telus.net**. She will share your request with a community of faithful intercessors!

To have a name mentioned in the Sunday Intercessions, please write their name on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary, connect with **Michael** at **michael@klaverrealtor.ca**, or contact the office.

Library News ***NEW TO THE LIBRARY***

Unhappy Holidays Blessings for a Blue Christmas

By Sherah-Leigh Gerber

An Advent devotional for people who find Christmas difficult because of grief, loss, illness, loneliness or other hardships. Compassionate reflections and blessings for people who may not feel joyful during the holiday season.



News & Events

This week at the Parish

Wednesday	Holy Communion, 10 am
	Savvy Seniors, 1pm
Thursday	Contemplative Prayer, 7pm
Friday	Youth Group, 7pm

Gift Wrappers Needed

Our Outreach Committee is participating in the Surrey Firefighters gift-wrapping project at Guilford Mall on December 4th. We are looking for volunteers to wrap gifts in shifts throughout the day and evening. All monies received will go towards our Lunch Basket for Hungry Children program.

Please contact **Brenda Horner** at **brendah604@outlook.com** if you can help.

Handels Advent Messiah

Thursday December 3rd, 7:30 - 9pm

Handel's Messiah, presented by Cantare Super Orchestram, with outstanding soloists.

Tickets can be purchased at chilliwacksymphony.com

~~Artists For Peace: RISING UP!~~

December 5th, 6pm - 8pm

A special concert in support of Care for Children. Enjoy a vibrant evening of music, dance, live painting, local art, and delicious refreshments. Join Artists for Peace in this delightful community event with tal-ented artists from around the world! Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite.com. Just Search for Artists For Peace: RISING UP!

First Fruits – Winter Produce Boxes

Thanks to the generosity of those who supported our First Fruits Produce Table over the summer, we are delighted to offer fresh fruit and vegetable boxes to members of our community who would appreciate a little extra support this winter. Boxes will be available once or twice a month, as funds allow. There is no financial assessment or need to explain your circumstances. If a produce box would be helpful to you or your household, simply complete **a registration form, available on the Welcome Table in the narthex**. This is one small way we can share God's abundance with one another!

Parish Council & **Parish Treasurer**

Do you feel a little nudge to join the **leadership team of our parish**? It might just be the Holy Spirit! We are **particularly eager to find someone willing to serve as Parish Treasurer in 2027**, along with others who feel called to share their gifts in leadership. Speak with David after the service to explore how you might help lead and serve our parish in the coming year.

What is Advent?

Advent, meaning "coming," is the four-week season of preparation for Christmas. We celebrate Christ's coming among us and look forward with hope and trust to God's promise to make all things new.



2027: The Year of Trust

Following our Year of Invitation, we turn our attention to trust. At the heart of the Christian life is the invitation to trust in the goodness and love of God, even when the world seems uncertain. Trust does not mean having all the answers or being free from doubt. It means learning to place our lives in God's hands, believing that God's promises are true and that God's love will never abandon us.

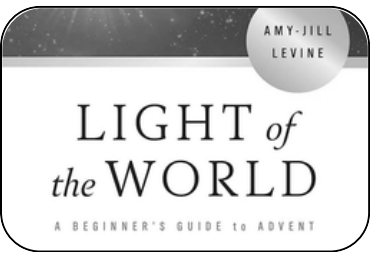
But trust is also something God places in us. God trusts us to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ, and has entrusted us with the gifts of creation, the care of one another, and the work of healing the world. Throughout this year, we will explore three dimensions of trust: **what it means to trust God, what it means to be trusted by God, and what it means to be entrusted with God's gifts and purposes.** Together, we will discover how trust gives us the courage to live faithfully, take risks in love, and participate in God's great work of making all things new.

Parish Financial Update – October 2026

As of October 31, St. Mark's has an **operating deficit of approximately $38,585**. General donations are $59,516 below budget, while operating expenses are only 1.3% over budget. Stronger-than-anticipated rental and other income has helped offset some of this shortfall.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our parishioners, both in regular giving and in supporting designated ministries and outreach. While designated gifts enable us to undertake many wonderful ministries and projects, these funds are restricted to their intended purposes and cannot generally be used to meet our operating needs.

Regular giving sustains the everyday life, worship, and mission of St. Mark's. **As we approach the end of 2026, we invite everyone to prayerfully consider whether they are able to make an additional year-end gift toward general operations.** Every contribution, large or small, helps sustain our shared ministry and strengthen the future of our parish.



Advent Book Study

With Father Dara on Light of the Word *by Amy-Jill Levine.*
Meets Tuesdays online at 7pm. Books are 30$

the Prayer Corner

Advent invites us to slow down and make room for God. Each day, find a quiet moment. Light a candle, take a deep breath, and become aware of God's presence. These simple prayers can be used around an Advent wreath or on their own.

Advent I — Hope

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian New Year. We begin with hope! As Christians, we trust that God has not abandoned this world and that darkness, suffering, and evil will not have the final word. God is at work, bringing healing and new life to creation.

Goodness is stronger than evil!
Light is stronger than darkness!
God is making all things new!

Read the following passage slowly and aloud three times.
Allow the words to settle into your heart.

A reading from Isaiah (9:2)
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.

If you are using an Advent wreath, light the first blue or purple candle, and pray,

Loving God,
you are the source of our hope. When the world seems dark, help us to trust in your light. Give us courage to live as people of hope, sharing in your work of healing the world; through Jesus Christ, our friend and companion. Amen.

Return to this same prayer each day throughout the week. Repetition is an ancient Christian spiritual practice, allowing familiar words to sink more deeply into our hearts. As you pray, notice how the words speak to you differently from one day to the next.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	John 1:35-42	Wednesday	Luke 20:19-26	Friday	Luke 20:41-21:4
Tuesday	Luke 20:9-18	Thursday	Luke 20:27-40	Saturday	Luke 21:5-19

the Parish of St. Mark - *Ocean Park*
STMARKBC.ORG

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