



# St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

*The Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020*

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.” *Isaiah 61.1*

## Welcome

*The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen speaking people. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.*

## Advent at St Mary's

As we keep one another physically safe, we are also seeking ways to celebrate the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Advent, and the mystery of Christmas. Here are just some of the things coming up this month at St Mary's:

**Advent Music:** Live streamed concerts and recordings.

**Community Advent in the Garden:** Reflections and prayers available to use in the memorial garden at St Mary's each week during Advent, with the chance to add an ornament to the lighted crabapple tree.

**Christmas Novena in the Garden:** December 16-25, drop in during the day to listen to music, readings and prayers in the Garden—also available online each day.

**Virtual Christmas Pageant!** Details are in the works.

Keep checking:

[www.stmarysoakbay.ca/advent-christmas](http://www.stmarysoakbay.ca/advent-christmas)

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## 10:00am Service of the Word

Presider & Preacher:

The Rev'd Canon Craig Hiebert

Organist:

Curt Bergen

Musicians:

The St. Mary Singers, Pamela Whiston

Live Stream Manager:

Pedro Siqueira

*Note: in the service order, words set in **bold italic type** are said by the congregation.*

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### THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

#### PRELUDE & PROCESSION

*Andante from Italienisches Konzert (BWV 971) (J.S. Bach),  
Pamela Whiston*

#### WELCOME

#### INTRODUCTORY RESPONSES

Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;  
***show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.***

Will you not give us life again,  
***so that your people may rejoice in you?***

Show us your mercy, O God,  
***and grant us your salvation.***

Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name!  
***Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.***

#### CENTRING STILLNESS

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God.

*Silence is kept.*

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist,  
***through all such faithful ones***  
***you proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life.***  
***Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise***  
***that we will walk in the way of Christ,***  
***whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.***

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

In our homes we gather around wreaths  
to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys,  
and love so hard to find and share in this season of coronavirus.  
We affirm that our candles mean we claim the power to call this season Advent  
when God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.  
We light the candles of hope and peace...

*We now light the candle of joy  
in spite of missing so many things  
we thought were essential to a merry Christmas:  
like parties, Christmas visits, pictures with Santa, chances to hug, and more.*

God's joy ignites embers under loss and sorrow  
and brightens the path to love.

*Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come,  
lighting hope, peace and joy on the wick of our lives  
so that we may shine on our world  
with a simple smile, an unexpected laughter. Amen.*

Maren Tirabassi, *Gifts in Open Hands*

[sung:]

*O come, O Dayspring from on high  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

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## THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

### PSALM 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

*Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.*

***Then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."***

The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

***Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.***

Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

***Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.***

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

**READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11, Kat McCann

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup>and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the Lord  
for the display of his splendor.

<sup>4</sup>They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

<sup>8</sup>“For I, the Lord, love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.  
In my faithfulness I will reward my people  
and make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants will be known among the nations  
and their offspring among the peoples.  
All who see them will acknowledge  
that they are a people the Lord has blessed.”

<sup>10</sup>I delight greatly in the Lord;  
my soul rejoices in my God.  
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness  
and praise spring up before all nations.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***Thanks be to God.***

#### **GOSPEL HYMN**

1. Freedom,  
Oh Freedom,  
Oh Freedom,  
Freedom is coming, oh yes I know!
2. Oh Jesus,  
Oh Jesus,

*Freedom is Coming, South African/Nyberg*

- Oh Jesus,  
Jesus is coming, oh yes I know!
3. Oh Freedom,  
Oh Freedom,  
Oh Freedom,  
Freedom is coming, oh yes it's now!

*Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:*

God be with you.

***And also with you.***

The Good News of Jesus according to John.

***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>19</sup>Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup>He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup>They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup>Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup>John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

<sup>24</sup>Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup>questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup>"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup>He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup>This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of Christ

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

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## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### SERMON

### ANTHEM

*Gaudete* (Traditional), arr. David Lee

Translation:

*Chorus: Rejoice! rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, rejoice!*

*At this time of grace and longed-for blessing, love faithfully offers a song of praise.*

*God is made human in this wonderful birth: the world is cleansed through the rule of Christ.*

*The gate of heaven now opens which to us was closed, sending forth transforming light through which holiness is found.*

*Therefore we meet in pure songs of joy: we bless the Lord, King of our salvation.*

### AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.***

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.***

***He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

***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 FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Kat McCann

In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer:

Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer.***

*In your prayers this week remember the following: those in need of healing and care, including Brad, Robert, Leanne, Dorothy, Mary, Anne, Rachel, Brynn, Scottie, Vic, Monty, and Catherine. We pray our diocese of islands and inlets and for Anna, our bishop-elect, Ansley, our diocesan administrator, Melissa, our Metropolitan, and Linda, our Primate. Pray for the congregation of Holy Trinity, Sooke. Diocese of Caledonia and Bishop David Lehmann. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Bishop Susan Johnson. In the Church further afield, pray for Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury) The Rt Rev'd Timothy Thornton - Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands. Pray for all who are struggling with isolation during the ongoing pandemic. Give thanks for the development of coronavirus vaccines, and pray for their swift and wise distribution.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Awaiting his coming in glory  
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

***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.***

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## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

### COMMUNITY NOTES

#### AFFIRMATION

*The congregation stands*

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

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing ...

#### HYMN

1. When the King shall come again,  
all his power revealing,  
splendour shall announce his reign,  
life and joy and healing;  
earth no longer in decay,  
hope no more frustrated,  
this is God's redemption day  
longingly awaited.

*When the King Shall come again (109)*

2. In the desert, trees take root,  
fresh from God's creation;  
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit  
join the celebration;  
rivers spring up from the earth,  
barren lands adorning.  
Valleys, this is your new birth;  
mountains, greet the morning!



3. Strengthen feeble hands and knees;  
fainting hearts, be cheerful!  
God, who comes for such as these,  
seeks and saves the fearful.  
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues  
sing away their weeping;  
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones  
walking, running, leaping!
4. There God's highway shall be seen  
where no roaring lion,  
nothing evil or unclean,  
walks the road to Zion:  
ransomed people homeward bound  
all your praises voicing,  
see your Lord with glory crowned,  
share in his rejoicing!

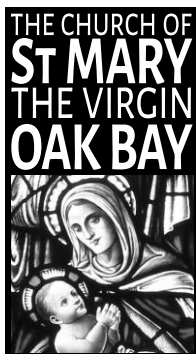
## DISMISSAL

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

*Thanks be to God.*

## POSTLUDE

*Fugue on the Magnificat, J.S. Bach*



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