



St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020

“I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.”—Luke 2. 10–11

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.

Christmas Eve Worship

Clergy: The Rev'd Canon Craig Hiebert, The Rev'd Dyan Davison
Organist: Curt Bergen
Musicians: The St Mary Singers and St Mary's Choir
Live Stream Manager: Barry Whiston

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

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE & PROCESSION

Wachet Auf, J.S. Bach
In Dulci Jubilo, Michael Bach
In Dulci Jubilo, J.S. Bach

GREETING

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

My sisters and brothers: in the name of Christ I welcome you. With gratitude we worship and serve on these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen-speaking people, the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, and we commit to our continuing journey of truth-telling, healing and reconciliation.

We gather in spirit, if not in body, this year as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful, arr David Wilcock

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!
2. God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
O come, let us adore him,...
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,...
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n; word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,...

ACCLAMATION

from Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7 (William and Nathan Turner)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
***those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.***
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,

*and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH

ANTHEM

Adam lay ybounden (anon 15th C, arr Boris Ord)

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, ne had never our lady a-been heaven queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was, therefore we moun singen,
Deo gratias, Deo gratias, Deo gratias!*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

We give thanks for the light of hope—unrelenting and inexplicable.

Our hope in Christ shines on.

We give thanks for the light of peace—strong and unafraid.

The peace of Christ lights our way.

We give thanks for the light of joy—persistent and unpredictable.

The joy of Christ brightens our lives.

We give thanks for the light of love—hot and holy.

The love of Christ comforts and challenges.

Now let us light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

THE FIRST LESSON

Luke 2. 1-7 (John McCann)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem, arr. R. Vaughan Williams

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| 1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years,
are met in thee tonight. | 3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts.
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Chris enters in. |
| 2. O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above.
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love. | 4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sins, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel. |

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2. 8-16 (Dash Domagos)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of

David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

ANTHEM

Ding dong! merrily on high

1. Ding dong! merrily on high in heav’n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv’n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
2. E’en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And *io, io, io*, by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
3. Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2. 17-20 (Elizabeth Bergen)

When the shepherds saw Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ANTHEM

Gaudete (Traditional), arr. David Lee

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

Verses:

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.

THE FOURTH LESSON

John 1. 1-14 (Jackie Hiebert)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him

not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

What child is this

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| 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
<i>This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.</i> | 2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. R

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. R |
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RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he

rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. +We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTMAS

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the birth in time of your timeless Son, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of your radiant glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord,

Lord, grant us peace.

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share

our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE ANGEL'S PRAYER

Dart Domagos

Angel of God,
our guardian dear
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side
to light and guard,
to rule and guide. **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

SHARING THE LIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night (119)

As we sing the carol, the light from the Christ candle is shared from person to person.

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| 1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace! | 2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born! |
| 3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. | |

AFFIRMATION

Lord, in the beginning
when all was very dark,
you said: 'Let there be light.'
And there was light
and life throughout the universe.

And when the human race was exhausted, tired and weary, in the darkness of anxiety, confusion and sin, into that darkness you came as light in Jesus Christ.
God became a human being among us all.

Once again it is dark. Not just dark at midnight but dark in ourselves:
dark with doubt, dark with fear and uncertainty, dark with confusing and conflicting voices
in our ears.

Come, Light of life, lighten the darkness in our lives with your mighty word of love. Lighten
our hearts with the joy of your promised coming. Lighten our world with the hope that faith
in you still brings.

Amen.

BLESSING

We go out into Christmas Day in the peace of Jesus Christ. May his peace, that lightens the
soul with faith, lifts the spirit with hope and leavens the world with love, be yours tonight
and always.

And the blessing of God, the Creator, the Redeemer and the Spirit,
go with you, and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, C. Wesley

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| 1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" | 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! R |
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*Hark the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."*

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give them second birth. R

DISMISSAL

Go into the night as those who have seen the Christ.

We will go with faith and hope.

POSTLUDE

XII Noel Suisse, Grand jeu, et Duo: «Il est un p'tit l'ange» or «Ô Dieu de clémence», Louis Claude Daquin

XI Noel, en Récit en Taille, sur la Tierce du Positif, avec la Pédalle de Flûte, et en Duo: «Une jeune Pucelle»,

Louis Claude Daquin, Marcel Dupre



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