



St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2021

“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 peoples. 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.

VISITORS *Welcome!* We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.

COMMUNION All are invited to receive communion. For your safety, only the bread will be shared. Be assured that in the Anglican Church of Canada it has always been our tradition that receiving only one of the elements is considered full Communion.

Gluten free wafers for communion are available. Please request it from the person who is distributing the bread.

10:00am Service

From The Church of England, Common Worship

Presider & Preacher:	The Rev'd Canon Craig Hiebert
Ministers of Welcome:	Karen Wilson, Mary Lawrence
Music Director:	Curt Bergen
Musicians:	The St. Mary Singers

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

*Congregational singing is now permitted while wearing a mask indoors,
with or without outdoors this is in order to maintain the safety of all.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE & PROCESSION

Kyrie Heiliger Geist BWV 671, J.S. Bach

WELCOME

GREETING

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

How does this happen?

God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah: "Jerusalem, the time is coming, when it will be said to you: 'Don't be discouraged or grow weak from fear! The Lord your God wins victory after victory and is always with you. He celebrates and sings because of you, and he will refresh your life with his love.'"

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Last Sunday, we began in the dark, and then we lit two candles. Today, on the third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles.

First, second and third candles are lit. While this is being done, the following is read:

Every week in Advent, we light another candle. Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of the baby Jesus, the Messiah who will show us the way back to God.

The Messiah is on the way to us. As we prepare for his coming, may we repent of our sins. May we remember our baptisms with water. May we be ready to be baptized with God's Holy Spirit and fire. May we be ready to help our Lord proclaim the good news of God's love to all people, so that the world will be filled with joy. Amen.

STILLNESS

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

Silence is kept.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God who winnows the wheat from the chaff: ***let the fire of your Spirit purge us of greed and deceit, so that, purified, we may find our peace in you and you may delight in us. Grant this through him whose coming is certain and who day draws near, Jesus, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.***

Opening Prayers (1997) alt.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Philippians 4. 4-7, Elizabeth Bergen

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 3

Isaiah 12. 2-6

² Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

³***With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say on that day:***

***Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.***

⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶***Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.***

GOSPEL HYMN

O Come Emmanuel vs 1, 4, 5, 7 (89)

Ref. Descant and altern. harm. David Willcocks (1919-2015). Arr. © 1996
Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission.
Ref. Desc. And altern. Harm.(c) 1970 Oxford university Press.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

4. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. R

5. O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. R

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. R

GOSPEL

Luke 3. 7-18

Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:

God be with you.
And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ ¹¹In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ ¹³He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SERMON

ANTHEM

What Sweeter Music, Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Elizabeth Bergen

Let us pray, seeking God's mind as we face the needs and concerns of our time:

Lord, you are our deliverer.

You are our refuge and our strength.

In your prayers this week remember the following: Those in need of healing and care, including Carrie, Dorothy, Mary, Kat, Peter, Adeline, and the family of Sarah. Our diocese of islands and inlets and for Anna, our Bishop, Lynn, our Metropolitan, and Linda, our Primate. The parish of Holy Trinity, North Saanich and their clergy Ian Powell. Diocese of Yukon and Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Bishop Susan Johnson. In the Church further afield, pray for the Anglican Church of Canada. Pray for all those whose lives have been disrupted by ongoing storms and flooding and storm damage. Pray for the continued work of all health care workers. Pray for the ongoing work of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Presider reminds us of God's healing and forgiveness

PEACE

The congregation stands

Let God's presence and peace in Christ Jesus keep a watch over your heart and mind and free you from being anxious.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Remaining in our places, we share physically-distant signs of Peace with those around us.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

For safety, the Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion.

Please also consider one of the other means of giving that do not require our volunteers and staff to handle cash and cheques: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or bi-weekly or monthly direct debit donations via our diocesan Electronic Collection Plate (details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate).

OFFERTORY

Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes (98)

1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
2. Christ comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst;
the iron fetters yield.
3. Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and from the treasuries of grace
to bless the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Common Worship (CW) Prayer A

The congregation remains standing, as they are able

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and saying:

sung: 735

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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.***

Silence is held

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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 People of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

Please follow the direction of the greeters as they invite rows to receive communion. Please maintain a single flow: approach via the main aisle and return via the side aisles. If you do not wish to receive communion, but someone else in your aisle wishes to pass by you, please exit your pew temporarily to allow them to pass at a safe distance. You are also welcome to approach the presider for a blessing only—this is traditionally indicated simply by crossing your hands over your chest as you approach.

One of the ministers will bring the Bread out into the garden to serve those worshipping outside.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

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

HYMN

Hark! A Herald Voice Is Sounding (108)

desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935). Desc. (c) Cambridge University Press.

1. Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"
2. Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us all, with deep repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven,
4. that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

DISMISSAL

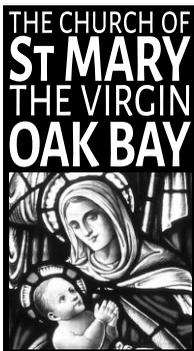
As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel, Andrew Carter

The musical postlude is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for our encounter with God's Word as it has been experienced this day. You are invited to use this time for reflection, remaining seated.



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