

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

Advent Lessons & Carols, November 29, 2026

"Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." *Luke 21. 28*

Welcome

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.

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.

Flower Dedications

If you would like to schedule a
Celebration *or* ***Memorial Flower Arrangement***
at the next opportunity, please contact
the office: admin@stmarysoakbay.ca

10:00am Service

From the Book of Occasional Celebrations of the Anglican Church of Canada

Minister of Welcome:	Mary Huxley	Readers:	Elizabeth Baldwin, Bob Gill,
Presider & Preacher:	The Ven Craig Hiebert		Jackie Hiebert, Christina Watkins,
Organist:	Emma Paterson, Nathan Sood		Mary Huxley, Karin Rasmussen,
Musicians:	St. Mary Singers		Sherry Armstrong, David Stewart

Please note that this service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending in person, you are acknowledging and consent to the fact that the video images of you may appear online.

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

The Community Gathers Before God

Prelude Emma Paterson

Processional Hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel (89)*

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.

2. 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. *R*
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
   who to your tribes on Sinai's height
   in ancient times once gave the law,
   in cloud and majesty and awe. *R*
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*
6. 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. *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*

Blessing of the Light

The Lord is my light and my salvation:
Our God shall change the darkness to light.

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As darkness falls you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.
By the light of Christ, your living Word,
dispel the darkness of our hearts
that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

The Advent Wreath is lighted.

The Bidding

The First Lesson Genesis 3. 1-20, Elizabeth Baldwin

The eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

Prayer

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**.

Anthem *Adam Lay Ybounden,* Boris Ord

The Second Lesson Isaiah 40. 1-11, Bob Gill

Comfort, O comfort my people.

Prayer

God our hope,
hear again the cry of exiles,
imprisoned in a dark land of war, hunger, and intolerance.
Come among us with strength and healing
and bring us back to the world
of your just and holy purpose.
We ask this through Jesus Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen**.

Hymn *Comfort, comfort ye my people (100)*

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people;
speak ye peace, thus says your God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
bowed beneath oppression's load;
speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2. Hark! The herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, the warning call obey!
Now prepare for Christ a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3. Make ye straight what long was crooked;
make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble
as befits Messiah's reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all the flesh shall see the token
that God's Word is never broken.

The Third Lesson Isaiah 64. 1-9a, Jackie Hiebert

Tear open the heavens and come down

Prayer

O just Judge of all the world,
when the dark power of evil threatens your creation,
may we, through your strength within us,
maintain the sure knowledge of your love and mercy,
which we see in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Anthem *Hide Not Thou Thy Face,* Farrant

The Fourth Lesson Isaiah 35. 1-10, Christina Watkins

The desert *shall rejoice and blossom.*

Prayers

Creating and renewing God,
giving life in all its fullness,
bring, we pray, all the children of this earth
to the freedom of your holy purpose.
May we see your beauty and glory
in seas and lakes washed clean,
in fields of plenty and forests strong,
and in humanity made whole
in body, mind, and mutual care,
in the pattern of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**.

Hymn *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.

The Fifth Lesson Micah 5. 2-4, Mary Huxley

From you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel.

Prayer

God of small beginnings,
you bring strength out of weakness and hope out of fear.
By the power of your Spirit
make us, your children, followers and partners
in the grand design of your kingdom of love,
rooted and revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Hymn *Hail to the Lord's anointed (101)*

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

3. Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

4. O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-best.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever:
that name to us is Love.

The Sixth Lesson Isaiah 11. 1-9, Karin Rasmussen

The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Prayer

God our salvation,
who by water and the Holy Spirit
delivered us from sin
and raised us to the new life of grace,
give us an inquiring and discerning heart,
the courage to will and to persevere,
a spirit to know and to love you,
and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen**.

Anthem *A tender shoot,* Otto Goldschmidt

Gospel Mark 13. 24–37, Sherry Armstrong

"What I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Prayer

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility,
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn *"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us (110)*

1. "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us;
   the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:
   "Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
   Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
   their urgent summons clearly spoken:
   "The time has come, O maidens wise!
   Rise up, and give us light;
   the bridegroom is in sight.
   Alleluia!
   Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
   that you the wedding feast may share."

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing.
   Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
   she wakes and hurries through the night.
   Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious
   in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
   her star is risen, her light grows bright.
   Now come, most worthy Lord,
   God's Son, incarnate Word,
   alleluia!
   We follow all and heed your call
   to come into the banquet hall.

3. Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
   let saints and angels sing before you,
   as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
   Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
   through them we stream to join the immortals
   as we with joy your throne surround.
   No eye has known the sight;
   no ear heard such delight:
   alleluia!
   Therefore we sing to greet our King;
   forever let our praises ring.

The Seventh Lesson John 1. 1–14, Ven Craig Hiebert

The Word became flesh and lived among us … full of grace and truth.

Anthem *Manz, E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Reflection

Prayers

David Stewart

The congregation may sit, stand or kneel for the Advent prayers.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,

let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations God's sceptre of righteousness,

let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,

let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,
especially Barry, Cameron, Daphne, Diane, Jean, Karen, Kerry-Ann, Pat, Wendy, William, and those we name silently or aloud… [silence]

let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,

let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world,

let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility,
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. ***Amen***.

With longing in our hearts for the reign of Christ,
let us offer our prayer to the Source of our salvation.

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.

Hymn *Lo, he comes with clouds descending, echoing the day's Gospel (114)*

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
deeply grieving,shall the true Messiah see.

3. Now redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected;
thrilled the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

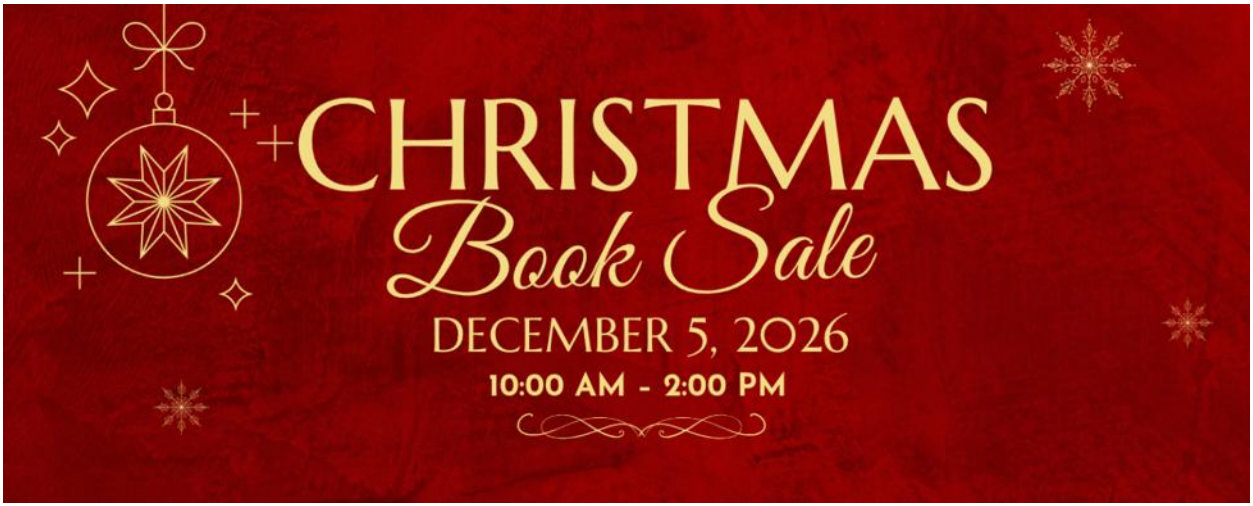
4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Oh come quickly! Oh come quickly!
Oh come quickly!
Hallelujah ! Come, Lord, come!

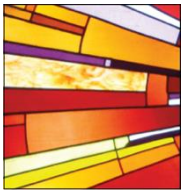
Blessing

Postlude Nathan Sood

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.







1701 Elgin Road, Victoria, BC V8R 5L7
250-598-2212 • info@stmarysoakbay.ca
www.stmarysoakbay.ca

Incumbent:	The Venerable Craig Hiebert *chiebert@stmarysoakbay.ca*
Priest Associate:	The Reverend Dyan Davison *associate@stmarysoakbay.ca*
Honorary Associate:	The Reverend Dr John Macquarrie *jmacquarrie@stmarysoakbay.ca*
Parish Administrator:	Marianne McGahon, 250-598-2212 *admin@stmarysoakbay.ca*
Creative Coordinator:	Sara Baker *creativecoordinator@stmarysoakbay.ca*

The Stewards of St Mary's
wardens@stmarysoakbay.ca

Rector's Warden:	Lorna Bampton, *lbampton@stmarysoakbay.ca*
Deputy Rector's Warden:	Elizabeth Baldwin, *ebaldwin@stmarysoakbay.ca*
People's Warden:	Jane Anderson, *janderson@stmarysoakbay.ca*
Deputy People's Warden:	Amanda Bolt, *abolt@stmarysoakbay.ca*
Givings Secretary:	Anne Underhill, *givings@stmarysoakbay.ca*

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