

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
December 1st 2024
Home Church Connections Service
Advent One



*Look up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.*

Words of Welcome

The Gathering of the Community

(Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies Iona Community)

God of time and God of eternity

For you we wait

God of outer space and God closer than we can imagine

For you we wait

God of the roaring noise of the world and God of silence

For you we wait

In our work and play, our going out and our coming in

For you we wait

In this place and in this time

For you we wait

(If you have an advent wreath at home you are invited to light a candle while Psalm 130 is read)

Psalm 130

(rewritten by Nan Merrill *Praying the Psalms* 2007)

I wait for you, my soul waits,

for in your Love I would live;

My soul awaits the Beloved

as one awaits the birth of a child or

as one awaits the fulfillment of their destiny.

O sons and daughters of the Light,

welcome the Heart of your heart!

Then you will climb the sacred Mountain of Truth;

You will know mercy and love in abundance,

Then will your transgressions be forgiven;
and you will know the Oneness of All.

Collect

Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.

Let us pray,

God of justice, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, so that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25

Of David.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

**Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

**He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.**

Reading Two: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from the letter to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have

taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Announcements

Affirmation of Faith

(cf Ephesians)

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

(Iona Traditional)

Dear friends in Christ, not out of dread or fear, but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer. *(Silence is kept)*

**Eternal God, maker of the skies above,
Lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth,
Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters,
in earth, sea and sky you are there.**

**O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls,
in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, your presence is
around us, and we give you thanks, but when we have not
touched but trampled your creation, when we have not met but
missed you in one another, when we have not received but
rejected you in the poor, forgive us, and hear our plea for mercy.**

Listen to the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: “Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace, come, follow me.” And so we pray

**Lead us now, Holy God, to acknowledge your costly generosity
by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and
the whole earth cries, Glory! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Going into the World

(Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies Iona Community)

God of Advent,

Among refugees and outcasts, you breathed your first breaths. In the cry of a newborn child you proclaimed Emmanuel God-with-us.

Come God in the margins, breathe into us the spirit of longing for your kingdom. Come this advent to make us dream and work for a better world of justice and freedom. Come, Lord, come.

Blessing

(Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies Iona Community)

May the light of God

Lead us and make us unafraid

May the power of God

Protect us and make us strong

May the joy of God

Heal us and make us happy

May the grace of God

Bless us and keep us loving, now and evermore. Amen.

Dismissal:

Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.

In the name of Christ we go in hope to love and serve the Lord.

Amen!

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Anglican Church of Ireland; for Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, the interim National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Saskatchewan, Bishop Michael Hawkins, and Bishop of Missinipi, Adam Halkett and Isaiah Larry Beardy and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese, we pray for our bishop, the Right Reverend Anna Greenwood Lee; and the faithful of Parish of Pender & Saturna Islands, North Saanich.

In our region, we pray for St Luke Cedar Hill, The Rev. Daniel Fournier.

In our parish we pray for: Betty Ann and Lew Townsend; Joan Vazina; Ann Walker; Rosemary Wallace; John and Miriam Wankiewicz.

In our community we pray for the Rainbow Kitchen, and those who are hungry in our society.

For the month of December in our parish ministry we pray for the members of our parish council.

Welcome to all those visiting us at St. Peter and St. Paul.

We welcome saints, seekers and sinners as we live into a life in Christ, learning about and from one another as we worship God together. Christ binds us together in love through our diversity. If you are comfortable, please give us your name and address so we can add you to our weekly prayer list. We are looking forward to getting to know you better.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

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