

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
December 8th 2024
Home Church Connections Service
Advent Two



*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight.
All flesh shall see the salvation of God*

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 mercy, may the radiance of your redeeming love rise in our hearts, lighting the way from the shadow of darkness and guiding our feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 19 The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1.68–79)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen

Reading Two: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from the letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the

*wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it
is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ’*

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!

Please note that because the Lesson and Carols Service is taking place on Sunday December 15th at 10 a.m., advent three readings will not be read in service. You are invited to read the advent three readings in your home: Zephania 3:14-20; Canticle 3 BAS page 76 (Isaiah 12:2-6); Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:7-18.

All the liturgical readings may be found at the website:

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/>

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Church of the Province of Myanmar; for Archbishop Anne Germond, our interim Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Ontario, Bishop, William Cliff and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese, we pray for our bishop, the Right Reverend Anna Greenwood Lee; the people of Saint Peter, Campbell River The Rev. Stephanie Woods and Saint Saviour by-the-Sea, Cortes Island.

In our region we pray for St John the Divine, The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum, The Rev. Dr. John Thatamanil.

In our parish we pray for: Brian Poulsen; Don and Gail Rodger; Peter Saunders; Lynn Scott; Andrew Sebo; Pat Seidlitz; Jean Smith; Rosemary Smith; Nathaniel Sukhdeo, Ann Desgagne and Eloise.

In our community we pray for St. John the Divine Food Bank and those whose illness is addiction 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.

Parish of St Peter and St Paul
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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

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