

The Anglican Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul  
December 8<sup>th</sup> 2024  
Advent Two



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

## Prelude

### Words of Welcome

*(Clergy enters; please stand)*

### Musical opening: CP106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

*(Text: Isaiah, 40:3-11; para. James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt, public domain)*

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!*

*O Zion, give voice to good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
the works of pride all perish,  
like flowers they shall decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.*

*But your word, O God, is faithful,  
your arm, O Lord, is strong;  
you stand in the midst of nations,  
and you will right the wrong.  
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,  
and fold the lambs to your breast;*

*in pastures of peace you'll lead them,  
and give to the weary rest.*

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!*

### 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**

*(Advent two: the candle of peace is lit 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.

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.**

### Advent Song (VU7)

*Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.*

***When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.***

*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth  
Giving a promise of safety and worth. **Refrain.***  
(please be seated)

### 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 Song CP 98 Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes (tune CP306)

(Music: alt tune CP 306 Thomas Haweis (1734-1/20) adapted Samuel Webbe the younger (1770-1843) and text: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) public domain)

*Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.*

*Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and from the treasuries of grace  
to bless the humble poor*

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.**

Gospel Song CP 98 Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes (tune CP306)

(Music: alt tune CP 306 Thomas Haweis (1734-1/20) adapted Samuel Webbe the younger (1770-1843) and text: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) public domain)

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.*

Sermon: *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Musical Moment

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 Intercession and Thanksgiving

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.”

**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.**

(after passing the peace please be seated)

**Hymn: CP 123 Once in Royal David’s City**

(Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1894); Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876), public domain)

*Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,  
when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather  
round.*

*(Our offering plate is not passed through the pews or placed on the altar. Instead it is placed symbolically in front of the font near the back of the church, a calling to all the baptized to be part of the kingdom in the practice of committed giving. If you have missed it and would like to donate, it does remain available briefly after service.)*

Prayer over the Gifts:

God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer *(Please stand)*

*(Evangelical Lutheran worship, prayer #4 Advent) (music from Great Thanksgiving setting 1. CP719 Common Praise).*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, mighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ; You comforted your

people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(sung)**

**Holy, holy holy, Lord,  
God of power and might;  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming again.

**Come Lord Jesus. Come Lord Jesus. Come Lord Jesus, come.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come amongst us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit, come.**

All praise and glory are yours Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.

**Amen! Amen! Amen!**

The Lord's Prayer (*Stand, Sit or kneel as your custom*)

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,  
(adapt. from a change by R. Langdon VU960)

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

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.**

### Invitation to table

Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity. Christ has gathered his people around the earth to commune at this table. And so, come: you from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South. Come. Come with your doubts, come with your hopes, come with your inadequacies and with all your strengths. Come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### The Communion

(Communion is offered at three locations in turn: station one is at the back of the church near the candles for those who prefer to stand and/or are physically challenged by steps without railings; station two, brought to the pew. Please let the usher know if you would like it brought to the pew; station three: at the altar rail for all those who are able)

Instrumental musical selections during communion

### Prayer after Communion *(please stand)*

Let us pray,

Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us today. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **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.**

### Sending Hymn: CP506 Lord of All Hopefulness

(Text: Jan Struther (1901-1953) Music Irish traditional arr Martin Shaw. Oxford University Press One License)

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:*

*Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.*

### Dismissal

Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.

**In the name of Christ we go in hope and peace to love and serve  
the Lord. Amen!**

### Postlude



*Please note that because the Lesson and Carols Service is taking place on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> 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/>

### Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək<sup>w</sup>əŋən speaking peoples, who are 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.

## 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.



ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL  
ESQUIMALT

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