

The Anglican Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul

December 15th 2024

A Lessons and Carols Service



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

(Clergy enters; please stand)

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 three: the candle of joy 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.

Giver of true love, help us enter the mystery of advent, of you being Christ-with-us and Christ coming. In the waiting may we find your presence deeper within ourselves and work toward the true restoration of the whole world. And let the love that lives in our hearts shine out, and all we meet will know your love. 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.*

*Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn
Telling the world that the Saviour is born. Refrain*
(please be seated)

Telling the story in lessons and carols

Story Introduction: The beginning and the end

(read by The Rev Gail Rodger)

CP 132 Of Eternal Love Begotten

(Text: Aurelius Prudentius (348-413?) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) Music: Melody Plainsong Mode 8 (12th cent) adapt *Piae Cantiones* 1582 (public domain))

(please remain seated to sing this hymn)

(All sing)

*Of eternal Love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.*

(All sing)

*At his word the worlds were framed. He commanded, it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining, of the moon and burning sun,
evermore and evermore.*

(Women and high voices only sing)

*O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.*

(Men and low voices only sing)

*This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets, promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.*

(All sing)

*O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
all dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and king;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.*

(All sing)

*Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.*

First Lesson

Story: The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.
(read by Licette How)

Second Lesson

Story: The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.
(read by Lynda Delaney)

CP 89 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

(Text: 9th Century translated John Neal (1818-166) Music: Plainsong Mode 1 *Processionale* (15th Cent)
arranged by Healey Willan (1880-1968), public domain)

*O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Third Lesson

Story: The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.
(read by Licette How)

Silence is held

Adoration Prayer: The Rev Gail Rodger

Fourth Lesson

Story: St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

(read by Lynda Delaney)

CP 136 What Child is This?

(Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898); Music: Melody English Traditional, public domain)

*What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are
keeping?*

Refrain:

***This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels
sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.*

Refrain

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own
him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone
him. **Refrain***

Homily: *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Special Music: The Angels' Song *(words and music Mary Kay Beall)*

Fifth Lesson

Story: The shepherds go to the manger.

(read by Licette How)

Silence is held

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(read by Keith Brandsma)*

CP 136 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night.

(Text: Luke 2:8-14 para. Nahum Tate (1652-1715); Music: Melody While Book of Psalms, 1592, public domain)

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.*

“Fear Not,’ said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.

“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

*To you in David’s town this day is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:*

*the heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands, and in a manger laid.”*

*Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:*

*“All glory be to God on high, and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin, and never cease.”*

Prayers of the People *(read by Keith Brandsma)*

(Bidding is: Let us pray to the Lord. Response is)

Lord, have mercy.

(At the final prayer “...we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ:” response is:)

To You O Lord.

Lord’s Prayer *(led by Keith Brandsma)*

As our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to say together:

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.

Sixth Lesson

Story: The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

(read by Lynda Delaney)

CP 146 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

(Text: Jean De Brebeuf (1593-1649) tr. Jesse Middleton (1872-1960); Music: Melody French Trad (16th cent), public domain)

*'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard
the hymn:*

Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

*Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of Rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song ran loud and
high:*

Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

*The earliest moon of the wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver-pelt.
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.*

*O children of the forest free, beloved of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace
and joy:*

Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Seventh Lesson

Story: St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.
(read by Licette How)

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.

CP 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(Text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788); Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847) adapt. William Cummings (1831-1915), public domain)

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the Herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the Herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of
Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.*

Hark! the Herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Dismissal

Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.

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

Postlude

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.

Washrooms are found in the hall, up the stairs, on the right.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen speaking people, 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.

We care about Esquimalt!

St Peter and St Paul is your local Anglican church and a registered charity. We have donated over \$6,800 this year to local people in need, St John the Divine Food Bank, Rainbow Kitchen and The Victoria Friendship Native Centre. Please consider making a donation tonight or becoming a committed supporter of SPSP by setting up a monthly donation through our website using the “donate now” button or use the QR code provided.



Credit cards accepted and charitable tax receipts are provided.

www.stpeterandpaul.ca

Christmas Eve
Candlelit Eucharist Services 7 PM and 10 PM
Christmas Day
Eucharist Service 10 AM
St Peter and St Paul Anglican Church
1379 Esquimalt Road



Parish of St Peter and St Paul
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