

The Anglican Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul
Christmas Eve December 24 2024
Family Eucharist Service 7 PM



I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Prelude:

Words of Welcome

(Please stand as clergy enters)

In the season of Advent we have used the Advent wreath and its candles to help us get ready for this great celebration of the birth of Christ, and so we have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy and love.

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, a love incarnate which fulfils promises of old and demonstrates God's love for all.

(Christmas candle of advent wreath is lit)

Let us pray,

Holy God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him born the king of angels:

O come, let us adore him,(3X)

Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

*glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, (3X)
Christ the Lord.*

*See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, (3X)
Christ the Lord.*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, (3X)
Christ the Lord.
*(remain standing)**

The Gathering of the Community

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

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.

Gloria (Tune: chorus of Shepherds in the Fields Abiding)

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo

(be seated)

The Story of Our Faith

Reader: In the days of Herod the King, the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to the city of Nazareth. To a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, and the virgin's name was Mary. And the Angel said unto her: 'Hail, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.'

And when she saw the angel, she was troubled. The Angel said: 'fear not Mary; for you have found favour with God. You shall bring forth a son and call his name Jesus.'

It came to pass that Caesar Augustus decreed that all the world should be taxed, everyone to his own city. So Joseph went from Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem, and Mary, his wife, was great with child.

And so it was that, while they were there, the day came that she should deliver her baby. And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Away in a Manger *(remain seated)*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from on high
and stay by my cradle until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask you to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

Reader: There were, in the same country, shepherds in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. When, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were very afraid. And the angel said: ‘fear not, for I bring you tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.

When the angels were gone, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing which is come to pass.’ And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And behold, there came wise men to Jerusalem saying, ‘where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star and have come to worship him.’ And lo, the star, which they saw in the East, went before them, till it stood over where the young child was.

When they came into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and worshipped him. And when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts of gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

The wise men departed back to their own country and the shepherds also returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.

And the child was called Jesus, which was so named by the angel.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (*St Louis*) (*Please stand*)

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary; and, gather all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.*
(*be seated*)

A Christmas Reflection *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Special Music: “Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring” from the cantata *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben* (BWV 147) by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, Jesus's birth drew strangers from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; draw all people into unity, loving each other through diversity, that we might be the church and the people you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As ordinary people streamed to Jesus' light, and kings to the brightness of his rising; draw all in authority, to his brightness that they might see mercy and justice. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; bring us your peace, and bring an end to war, terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; remind us again of your creation and how to steward it well. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn; be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay

their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and travelled together to far off lands; protect those who travel. Please bless all families, especially the families of our parish, those who could gather and, be with those who could not. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the assurance of life eternal; give to the departed, eternal rest and let light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this night, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, we pray. **Amen.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts: the table is set

(The offering plate is in front of the font at the back of the church to accommodate your gift. The offering plate is not passed through the pews or brought forward and is available before and briefly after each service. You may also donate online by using the QR code on the inside of the back page of this bulletin.)

Go, Tell it on the Mountain *(Please stand)*

Refrain

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

Refrain

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth.*

Refrain

*Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

Refrain

Prayer over the Gifts (Tune: What Can I give Him?)

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what can I give him; give him my heart.

Eucharistic Prayer (*remain standing*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
because in the mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of salvation
in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Now with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
we lift our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

(Tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing Melody)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might adored
heaven and earth are shining bright
with the glory of your light.
Loud hosannas now we sing! In the highest may they ring!
Blessed is the coming one, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son.
Glory in the highest! Holy God, your name be blessed.**

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and

proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(Tune: We Three Kings)

Dying Christ destroyed our death.

Rising Christ restores our life.

Christ will come again in glory, raising us all to life.

Oh, God of power, God of might, God of love, our hearts delight:

Feed us, guide us, walk beside us, bless us with gentle light.

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat

and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, with the words 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world
God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

(Tune Infant Holy Infant Lowly)

God our Mother, Christ our Brother,

Spirit in these gifts you vow

By your giving, in our living, we become your body now

Bread is broken, light revealing; word is spoken for our healing

Make us all your body now. Amen. Amen.

The table of love is offered for all people. It is Christ who invites us to meet love incarnate here, and all are welcome.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

(be seated)

The Communion

(Communion will be offered in the pew for those with mobility issues; please let the greeter/usher know. Communion is at the altar rail. If receiving, please walk single file on the right to the front. Responses to receiving the host include: Amen: Hallelujah; or Thanks be to God. Please approach the altar rail and cross your arms if you prefer a blessing. Please be seated after receiving.)

Instrumental musical selections during communion

Prayer after Communion *(please stand)*

Let us pray,

God of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending Jesus to take our human nature. May we all share in the life abundant on earth and in the eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Candle lighting

As the light of love shines in the darkness so a candle's light shows the love of God to the world. And now, we'd like to invite you to light a candle.

Candles are lit by passing the light on from one to the other along the pew. Please hold the lit candle upright and tip only the unlit candle to prevent wax from dripping. Once all the candles are lit, we will dim the lights and sing. We will then hold silence for a few moments.

Silent Night

*Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus Lord, at thy birth*

Please hold silence

Please do not blow out your candles. Candles will be snuffed out. As the light of the candle is extinguished, we say:

May God's love live in your heart and shine in your life.

Blessing

May the true spirit of Christmas be with us all
the spirit of joy that overflows from the heart
and makes neighbours rejoice,
the spirit of peace that harmonises differences
and makes music of our common life.
the spirit of love that sings the mind
of God to the world.

And may the blessing of the manger –
God's creation all around;
the blessing of the shepherds –
God's people on the ground;
the blessing of the angels –
good news for all, and peace for the world,
be among us, and remain with us, always.

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing. (3X)*

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:

*let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy. (3X)*

*No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found. (3X)*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love. (3X)*

Dismissal:

Go forth into the world rejoicing and loving one another in Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Merry Christmas!

Postlude:

Thank you so much for coming tonight. St Peter and St Paul hope and pray you will have a blessed Christmas and every happiness in the New Year.

For this service

Greeter: Don Rodger

Reader: Rhonda Koch

Server: Adora Waters

Organist: Lawrence Surges

Altar guild: Barbara Hooper and Lynda Weller

Donations for poinsettias and flowers are given in Glory to God from Gail Gill, Betty Hendry, Rosemary Wallace, Ann Easton, Licette How, Leatrice Lam, Annie Kung, and Sharon Wickware.

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

You are always welcome to join us every

Sunday morning at 10 AM in person or 9AM online. After

Christmas, Sunday services resume on January 5th 2025.

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən 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.

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 donating 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



ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

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