

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
December 22nd 2024
Home Church Connections Service
Advent four



*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

Let us pray,
Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Micah 5:2-5

A reading from the prophet Micah,

*But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,*

*in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 18 The Song of Mary (Luke 1.46–55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
**the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

Reading Two: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.*

*Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'*

*When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in
sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these
are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to
do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the
second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through
the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

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 those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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

In the world, we pray for The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); for Anne Germond, our acting Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Ottawa, Bishop Shane Parker, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese and region, we pray for our bishop, the Right Reverend Anna Green-wood Lee; St Luke Cedar Hill, The Rev. Daniel Fournier.

In our parish we pray for: Lawrence Surges and Hilary Mackey; Frances Thomasset; Betty Ann and Lew Townsend; Ann Walker; Rosemary Wallace; Adora and Bob Waters; Sharon Wickware; Max Wideman. For the month of December in our parish ministry we pray for the members of our parish council.

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

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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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