

The Anglican Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul
December 22nd 2024
Advent Four



A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

(Clergy enters; please stand)

Musical opening: Sing of Mary Meek and Lowly (Tune CP 453)

(Text: Roland F. Palmer 1938 Oregon Catholic Press Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); One license 01076 Tune: CP 453)

*Sing of Mary meek and lowly,
Virgin-mother pure and mild,
Sing of God's own Son most holy,
Who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother,
God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother,
Takes our nature by his birth.*

*Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,
In the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary
Love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her,
Though he went forth from her side,
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,
Till on Calvary he died.*

*Glory be to God the Father;
Glory be to God the Son;
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Glory to the Three in One.*

*From the heart of blessed Mary,
From all saints the song ascends,
And the Church the strain reechoes
Unto earth's remotest ends.*

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 four: the candle of love 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,
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.**

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***

*Love is a flame that burns in our hearts
Jesus has come and will never depart. **Refrain** (Please be seated)*

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 Hymn CP 122 In the Bleak Midwinter

(Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Gustave Holst (1874-1934) Oxford University Press, public domain)

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.*

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.

Gospel Hymn CP 122 In the Bleak Midwinter

(Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Gustave Holst (1874-1934) Oxford University Press, public domain)

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*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 I can, I give him – my heart.*

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 363 My Soul Proclaims Your Glory, Lord

(Text: Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-56) Music: John Hatton ?-1793, public domain)

My soul proclaims your glory, Lord, my spirit sings with thankful voice

For you my lowly prayer have heard: in you, my Saviour I rejoice.

Nations unborn will bless your name, giver of boundless grace to me, in every age you are the same: you make the humble whole and free.

You have made bare your mighty arm to break the yoke of selfish power, and lift your broken ones from harm, bursting the gates of greed's proud tower.

You fill the hungry mouths with food, and show the poverty of wealth. Your ancient vow you have made good, and raised your children to new health.

Glory to God all being's Spring, to God the Word, salvation's voice, To God the Spirit, praise we sing: with all the ages we rejoice.

(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:

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the 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 the 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:

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

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, in this sacrament we receive the continuing promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, follow your will through faith. We ask this 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: Canticle of the Turning

(Text: Rory Cooney; Tune: Irish Traditional arr: John Ferguson 1990 GIA Publications One License)

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.***

*Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.*

*Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. **Refrain***

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.*

*Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.*

*The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. **Refrain***

*Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:*

*God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. **Refrain***

Dismissal

Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.

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

Postlude

Territorial Acknowledgement

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.

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.



ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

Parish of St Peter and St Paul

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