



228 S. Dogwood Street
Campbell River, BC V9W 6Y7
250 286-1613

December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve
Lessons and Carols and zoom



Priest-in-charge

The Rev. Dr. Catherine Dafoe Hall
250-668-3701 catherinehall@cdafoe.ca

Deacon

The Rev. David Fitzsimmons
250-201-3330 david.fitzsimmons@telus.net

Bishop

The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee
Diocese of Islands and Inlets

A Service of Lessons and Carols

We are still using safe practises. All people 12 and up are required to show proof of vaccination. Masks are required. There is no congregational singing. At the appropriate time you will be directed to the nearest Communion Station; there will be one at the front and one at the rear of the church. Being safe also requires Christian caring for one another; please be gentle and kind.

The First Christmas, far in the past, was important for the world, and for us. As we hear the Christmas story again let us remind ourselves of our present day need for God, and our present day connection to the ancient story.

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for God is speaking peace to faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

God's glory shall dwell in this land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

God's glory shall dwell in this land.

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

God's glory shall dwell in this land.

Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

God's glory shall dwell in this land.

Hymn 118 vv 1 and 2 O, Come all ye Faithful

The world where Jesus was born was full of danger and oppression. Roman military occupation, oppressive tax collectors, slavery, and more. The oppression we experience in our world is different but no less severe: COVID 19 and its variants, poisoned street drugs, homelessness, and more. The world longs for hope now as it did before.

First Reading: [Isaiah 35:1-10](#)

Let us pray:

**Hope of the desperate and strength of the weak,
you give streams in the desert of wasted lives,
and abundant future to cities made desolate.**

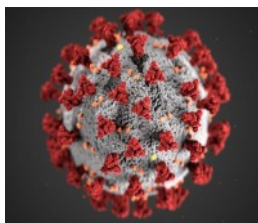
**Hear our prayer for the exiles of our time,
the prisoners of poverty and tyranny,
the victims of illness, waste, and hunger.**

Come among us as new life for all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,

Word made flesh and hope revealed. Amen

Hymn 106 vv 1 and 2 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying



When the Angel Gabriel came to seek a woman to be the mother of the child a young woman, a young woman of courage and faithfulness said yes, and helped to continue the saving work of God. God seeks that same yes from each of us, calling us to be bearers of the Divine to a world in need.

Second Reading: [Luke1:26-38](#)

Prayer

Almighty God, who looked with favour on your servant Mary, and called her to be the mother of your Son, nurture in us the humility and gentleness that found favour in your sight, that with her we may proclaim the greatness of your name and find the mercy you show to those who fear you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 117 Lo How a Rose E're Blooming



The way of God is often different from human ways and in Mary's Song we learn that God is turning our expectations completely around; the proud will be brought low, the rich will go away hungry, and the hungry will be fed. When Mary visited Elizabeth she spoke these prophetic words.

Third Reading: [Luke 1: 46-56](#)

Prayer

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Lord. May our hearts leap with joy and our mouths be filled with songs of praise to welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

Hymn 120 vv 1 and 2

O, Little Town of Bethlehem



It is difficult to imagine that the Son of God would be born in such humble circumstances—the princesses and princes in England are born in a safe, clean, and warm hospital, attended by highly trained medical people. Jesus was, at least temporarily, homeless born in a stable. Mary gave birth without the supportive presence of her mother and village women around her. He strength and courage shine through these stories.

Fourth Reading

[Luke 2:1-7](#)

Prayer:

O God our Creator, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Hymn: 126 Away in a Manger



Blessing of the Creche

This Creche is a gift of the Halstead family to St. Peter's.

It was said that St. Francis of Assisi popularized the Creche, a depiction of the Holy Family with visitors and surrounded by animals. Sometimes the depictions allow us to forget the poverty of the family that could find no room in the inn. The Creche is a reminder to all that we are called to shelter the Child in our hearts.

Prayer.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The birth of the Child Jesus was announced by the Angels. They did not go to centres of power but to those who served. They appeared to shepherds, at work in the fields, caring for sheep who were needed by the people for food and for their wool. We don't encounter real shepherds of sheep often in our present life but there are shepherds among us.

Fifth Reading: [Luke 2: 8-20](#)

Hymn 135 vv 1and 2

Shepherds in the Field Abiding

Prayer

God of love, Jesus told us that he came to serve, not to be served, and he called us to do likewise. We give thanks for those among us who are shepherds of your people. May we, like them, have hearts to serve your hurting world. Amen.





The Gospel of Matthew tells of Magi—those who have knowledge and power, who came from far away, bringing gifts to the infant king. We actually don't know how many Magi there were but we do know there were three gifts. The three gifts brought by the Magi speak of the nature of Jesus. The gift of gold is brought to a king. The gift of incense is offered to the Divine. Myrrh is a grave spice, meant to preserve and perfume the body of the dead person. There are modern Magi among us: our Indigenous Elders, teachers and professors, leaders in the business and political world.

Sixth Reading: [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Almighty and everliving God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: 154 Joy to the World





Matthew's Gospel continues with the story of the flight into Egypt. Mary and Joseph and the infant Jesus become refugees, fleeing from an oppressive king who feels threatened by the child. There are many refugees in our world today, this parish has been a part of refugee ministry and has made a difference by that service. The flow is unceasing and will not change until there is justice and peace in our world.

Seventh Reading: [Matthew 2: 13-15](#)

Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, receive, we pray, all innocent victims into the arms of your mercy. By your great might frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



Incarnation Litany

(In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "Lord, grant us peace.")

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the birth in time of your timeless Son, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of your radiant glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord,

Lord, grant us peace.

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Prayer

Almighty 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

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

People **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

God came to the world as a human being, a child, to live a full human life, experiencing the trials and sorrows and joys and wonders of life. God came in human form to show us the path to peace, justice, and wholeness for the world. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 119 Silent Night

Blessing

May the God of infinite goodness
scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Schedule

There is no service Christmas Day or December 26; you are encouraged to visit another parish online.

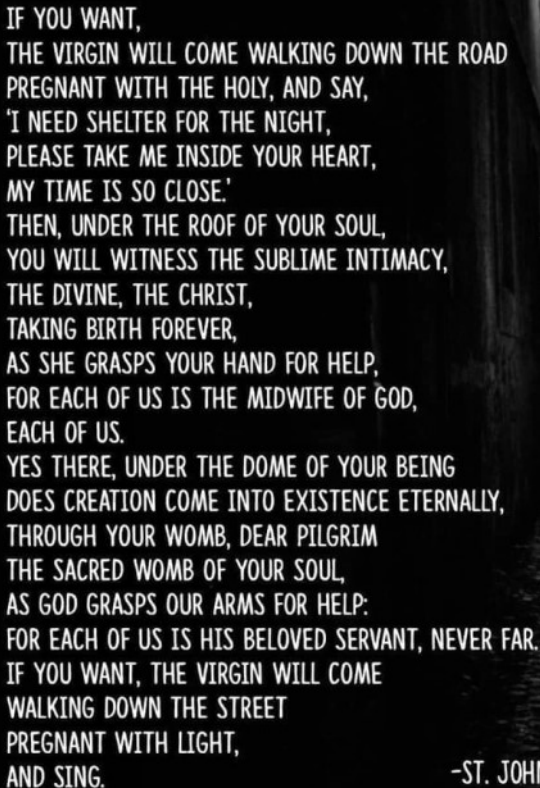
The Anglican Church of Canada offers a Festival of Lessons and Carols: [2021 National Service of Lessons & Carols: From Coast to Coast to Coast - YouTube](#)

The parish office will be closed until January 5. Messages may be left on the telephone or by email.

In case of a pastoral emergency please call Cathie at 250-668-3701.

May this Holy season be a time of blessing for you and your family.

Poinsettias in the church are given to the Glory of God by Trina Soltys and Kate Fitzsimmons.



IF YOU WANT,
THE VIRGIN WILL COME WALKING DOWN THE ROAD
PREGNANT WITH THE HOLY, AND SAY,
'I NEED SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT,
PLEASE TAKE ME INSIDE YOUR HEART,
MY TIME IS SO CLOSE.'
THEN, UNDER THE ROOF OF YOUR SOUL,
YOU WILL WITNESS THE SUBLIME INTIMACY,
THE DIVINE, THE CHRIST,
TAKING BIRTH FOREVER,
AS SHE GRASPS YOUR HAND FOR HELP,
FOR EACH OF US IS THE MIDWIFE OF GOD,
EACH OF US.
YES THERE, UNDER THE DOME OF YOUR BEING
DOES CREATION COME INTO EXISTENCE ETERNALLY,
THROUGH YOUR WOMB, DEAR PILGRIM
THE SACRED WOMB OF YOUR SOUL,
AS GOD GRASPS OUR ARMS FOR HELP:
FOR EACH OF US IS HIS BELOVED SERVANT, NEVER FAR.
IF YOU WANT, THE VIRGIN WILL COME
WALKING DOWN THE STREET
PREGNANT WITH LIGHT,
AND SING.

-ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS (1542-1591)

WELCOME!

Parish Staff and Leaders

Bishop's Warden: Lois Tirebuck

People's Warden: David Storrie

Deputy Wardens: Bill Ritchie and Tony Smith

Treasurer: Holly Finn

Musicians: Georgia Smith, Kate Fitzsimmons, and Lori Gooldrup

Custodian: Gwen Demerse

Prayer Chain: Kate Fitzsimmons

Communications Director: Trina Soltys

Envelope Secretary: Frank Maga

Healing Prayer Ministry: Sue Vickery

Lay Assistants and Readers: Bill Ritchie

ACW President: Bev Lawrence, Lois Tirebuck

Mindfulness: Jane Jennings

Coffee Monday: Jennifer Coolen

Sunday School: Jane Monchak, Diana Hicks

Altar Guild President: Frances Hudock

Librarian: Jane Jennings

Community Garden Liaison: Rick Monchak

Safe Church: Judy Antonelli

PWRDF Rep: Barb Henshall

Building: George Wagner

The parish of St Peter Anglican Church and St Saviour Anglican Church is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Ligwi'da'xw people: the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and Kwiakah First Nations; the unceded traditional territory of the Klahoose First Nation; the unceded traditional territory of the K'omoks First Nation and the unceded traditional territory of the Homalco First Nation. We seek a new relationship with the first peoples here; one based on honour and respect. We pray that we may live more deeply into the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.