

The Anglican Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul  
December 24th 2019 - 10:00PM  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelit Eucharist Service  
"Nourishing Faith and Community"



**Two Chorale Preludes:** "Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland", BWV 659  
& "Jesu, meine Freude", BWV 610 - *Johann Sebastian Bach*



Assistive listening  
devices available

Words of Greeting and Welcome: *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Celebrant: 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.

**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.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let us glad songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy.

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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love.

## Lighting of the four Advent Candles and the Christ Candle

*Celebrant:* 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.

When we lit the first candle, we are reminded our hope is in Jesus.

**All: May God's love shine in our hearts.**

*Celebrant:* When we lit the second candle, we acknowledged the Lord is our peace.

**All: May God's peace be reflected in our lives.**

*Celebrant:* When we lit the third candle, we know abiding joy is found in the Lord.

**All: May God's joy in us, spread joy to the world.**

*Celebrant:* When we lit the fourth candle, we are reminded that the birth of Jesus Christ is the gift of the unconditional love of God to all humanity.

**All: May God's love move us to action in loving each other.**

*Celebrant:* Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love for all people.

**All: Dear God, as we light the center candle, may we celebrate with the full joy the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Gloria: (*sung*) **Glory to God on High**

Glory to God on high,  
and peace to all on earth.

We worship you, we give you thanks,  
our heavenly King.

We give you praise,  
almighty God and Father blessed  
in glory bright.

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
the Father's only Son,  
the sacrificial Lamb,  
who saves the world from sin,  
have mercy Lord.  
Beside the Father's hand enthroned,  
now hear our prayer.

You only are the Lord.  
You only are most high.  
You only are the holy one,  
Lord Jesus Christ.  
And now you reign  
with Father and with Spirit one  
in glorious light.

Collect:

Holy God, we thank you for the message of peace and of love that  
Christmas brings to our distracted world. Give peace among nations,  
peace in our land, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts as we  
remember the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of Peace. May his spirit of

love encircle us this Christmas night as we journey back into the awesome and timeless mystery that is the story of the coming of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

### The Story of Faith is Proclaimed

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

*Janet McDonald*

p. 555 Bible

#### **Psalm 96**

*(said responsively by full verse)*

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

**Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!**

**Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.  
**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.**  
He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth. **Amen.**

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

*Jean Smith*

p. 969 Bible

**O Little Town of Bethlehem** (*Forest Green*)

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.

*Deacon:* The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20;

p. 832 Bible

*Deacon:* The gospel of Christ.

**All:** Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given  
as love imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of God's heaven!  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

Christmas Message

*The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Solo: Cantata For Us a Child is Born, BWV 142

- Composer *Unknown*, Text from *Erdmann Neumeister*

I Overture & VII Alleluia

Lawrence Surges, organ & baritone

## Prayers of the People

### The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All:**           **And also with you.**

### **Offertory: Shepherds in the Field Abiding**

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
tell us, when the seraph bright  
greeted you with wondrous tidings,  
what you saw and heard that night.

**Refrain:**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

We beheld (it is no fable),  
God incarnate, king of bliss,  
swathed and cradled in a stable,  
and the angel strain what this:

**Refrain:**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Choristers on high were singing  
Jess and his virgin birth,  
heavenly bells the while a-ringing,  
"Peace, good will to all on earth."

**Refrain:**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!



Thanks, good shepherds, true your story;  
let us go to Bethlehem.

Angels hymn the king of glory;  
carol we with you and them.

**Refrain:**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: God of peace and love – accept all we offer on this joyful feast  
in the name of the One who is Lord now and forever. **Amen.**

The Sacred Meal is Shared (*reserve sacrament*)

The table of bread and wine is now ready. It is the table of company with Jesus and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here

**The Lord's Prayer: (sung)**

**All: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the family of God.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*All are welcome at the table of our Lord.*

## **The Communion**

*Chalice Administrants: Deacon Wally Eamer & John Ducker*

## **The First Nowell**

1. The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

### **Refrain:**

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

3. And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**

**Prayer after Communion:**

*Celebrant:* Holy God, may we be open to the blessings of Christmas: the gift of childlike wonder; of radiant hope; of the peace which passes all understanding; and joy which knows no bounds, as we bring ourselves to you in response to the greatest gift of all— the Babe of Bethlehem.

**All:** **Amen**

*Celebrant:* 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 and we will sing that beloved Christmas hymn, Silent Night, by candle light.

*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.*

## **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

*Candles are extinguished*

## **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.

### **Go, Tell it on the Mountain**

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

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. **Refrain**
2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth. **Refrain**
3. Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Commissioning: Go...

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude: XII Noel – Suiss, grand jeu, et duo - *Louis Claude Daquin*

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the Glory of God by Annette Pitts.*

*We thank those who prepared the sanctuary and those who had roles in the worship service today.*

**REMINDER- TOMORROW  
Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Holy Communion with Hymns  
at 10:00 am**

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

**You are always welcome to join us every Sunday morning at 8:30 am for  
Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion  
and at 10:30 am for Eucharist using the Book of Alternative Services.**

**Every third Sunday of the month we offer a service using  
the Eucharistic Liturgy for the Islands and Inlets.**

**Everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments  
and conversation after the services.**

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 Anglicans worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.



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Safe Church Liaison	Karen Hogg	250-386-6833
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