

The Anglican Parish of St. Peter and  
St. Paul

December 7<sup>th</sup> 2025

Advent Two



*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his  
paths straight.  
All flesh shall see the salvation of God*

.

## Prelude

### Words of Welcome

*(Clergy enters; please stand)*

### Musical opening CP 91 People Look East! The Time is Near

*People, look east! The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People look east and sing today:  
love, the guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled;  
even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim*

*one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

### 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 that 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 two: the candle of peace 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.

## Collect

*Common Worship: Additional Collects* (2004) alt.

Let us pray,  
Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, so that  
when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge  
and saviour, we may be ready to receive him, who  
is our Lord and our God. **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.***  
(please be seated)

## The Proclamation of the Word

### Reading One: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the

belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Of Solomon.

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the

people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

In his days, righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth.

**Amen and Amen.**

Reading Two: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so*

*that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,*

*‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’;*

*and again he says,*

*‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;*

*and again,*

*‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,*

*and let all the peoples praise him’;*

*and again Isaiah says,*

*‘The root of Jesse shall come,*

*the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;*

*in him the Gentiles shall hope.’*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel Hymn: CP106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

(Text: Isaiah, 40:3-11; para. James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt, public domain)

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!*

*O Zion, give voice to good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
the works of pride all perish,  
like flowers they shall decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.*

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according  
to Matthew

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*‘In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” ’*

*Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

*‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-*

*floor and will gather his wheat into the granary;  
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'*

The Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel Hymn CP106 There's a Voice in the  
Wilderness

(Text: Isaiah, 40:3-11; para. James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt, public domain)

*But your word, O God, is faithful,  
your arm, O Lord, is strong;  
you stand in the midst of nations,  
and you will right the wrong.  
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,  
and fold the lambs to your breast;  
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,  
and give to the weary rest.*

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!*

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 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.” 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.**

Da Pacem Domine (Give Peace O Lord) (sung)  
(Music Melchoir Franck 1579-1649; text Denis Donnelly, used by permission)

*Peace, joy at Christmas time  
At Christmas time we sing for the whole world  
peace.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

(after passing the peace please be seated)

Hymn: CP 123 Once in Royal David's City

(Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1894); Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876), public domain)

*Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high,*

*when, like stars, his children crowned  
all in white shall gather round.*

*(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:

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our 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 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:

(sung)

**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 among 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 *(Stand, Sit or kneel as your custom)*

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,

God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of 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: CP 98 Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes (tune CP306)

(Music: alt tune CP 306 Thomas Haweis (1734-1/20) adapted Samuel Webbe the younger (1770-1843) and text: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) public domain)

*Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:*

*let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.*

*Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and from the treasuries of grace  
to bless the humble poor*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.*

### 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!**

### 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

We pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines; for Shane Parker, our Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, t Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh, Bishop Lydia Mamkwa; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese and region, we pray for our bishop, the Right Reverend Anna Green-wood Lee; and St Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay, The Rev. Craig Hiebert and The Rev. Dyan Davison.

In our parish we pray for: Andrew Sebo; Pat Seilitz; Jean Smith; Rosemary Smith; Roland Stacey; Nathaniel, Ann and Eloise Sukhdeo.

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

For the month of December in our parish ministry we pray for the members of our parish council.

We pray for parish members Cameron Lupton and Ayda Skara and their upcoming wedding on December 28 2025.



ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL  
ESQUIMALT

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