

Third Sunday of Advent

Dec 15, 2024



St. Helen's
Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of New Westminster

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

All stand

OPENING HYMN Prepare the Way, O Zion

CP 102

GREETING

In this time and place

We gather on the unceded, ancestral lands of the Musqueam nation.

From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.

In this time and place

We await the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha.

CP 113

In this time and place

We await God's transformation of the world.

Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha.

CP 113

In this time and place

We await the coming of the Commonwealth of peace.

Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha.

CP 113

CONFESSION

When the Lord comes,

he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Holy One,
we long for you.
You know our wounding and our broken-heartedness.
You know how others have hurt us,
and how we have hurt others.
You alone have the healing we need.
Yours is the love that changes everything. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

Giver of life, have mercy on us;
pardon and deliver, revive and strengthen,
and keep us in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha.

CP 113

We have been waiting and longing for light, watching for signs of the Lord. "Promised of ages," "Messiah to come," hear us, we beg you: "Come, save!" (Choir)

Refrain.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Joy-giver,
you rejoice over us with gladness
and renew us in your love,
fashion us into an Advent people,
baptized in your power,

and making way for the joyous light
that no darkness could overcome,
so that all might see your goodness.
We ask this in the name of your incarnate Word,
Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Matt Powell

A reading from the book of Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE CANTICLE 3, (ISAIAH 12:2-6)

Dm Dm C/D Dm Dm F G Em⁷ A(sus⁴) A D/F Gm F/A B[♭]maj⁷ C

Sing prais-es to the Lord, sing prais-es to the Lord, sing prais-es to the

D(sus⁴) D Dm/C B[♭] E[♭]⁷ A⁷ D(sus⁴) Dm Dm Dm Dm⁷/C

Lord, for he has done glo-rious - ly.

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
For the Lord God is my strength and my might;
He has become my salvation. **R.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
Make known his deeds among the nations;
Proclaim that his name is exalted. **R.**

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
Let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

All stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CP 107

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord

and all people will see the salvation of our God. X3

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 3:7-18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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 ax 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." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CP 107

**Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord
and all people will see the salvation of our God. X3**

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*All stand*)

CP 681

Let us confess our faith, as we sing,

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds,
God from God, Light from Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
through whom all things were made.
Who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate of the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead,
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spake by the prophets.
And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom for prayer.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Daniel Melvill-Jones

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

**Wait for the Lord, Whose Day Is Near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

CP 94

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.
Maranatha: **R.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.
Before you rulers will stand in silence.
Maranatha: **R.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.
Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.
Maranatha: **R.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.
Give us with all the faithful departed
a share in your victory over evil and death.
Maranatha: **R.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you,
that with all your saints and angels
we may live and reign with you in your new creation.
Maranatha: **R.**
Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

After the prayers, those who wish may gather in a circle around the altar.

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

May the peace of God be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with signs of God's peace (a handshake, an embrace, or a nod and wave are all appropriate signs). Please remain standing.

THE OFFERTORY

As the altar is prepared for Holy Communion, the congregation is invited to make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN The Stars Declare His Glory

CP 413

Please remain standing until communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Eternal One,
risking hope in this season of anticipation,
watching and waiting for your Holy Light,
we bring our offerings to you and say in faith:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

We thank you for this bread and wine, gifts of your creation.
We thank you for the gift of Emmanuel: God with us. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.
And also with you.
Open your hearts.
We open our hearts to God.
Let us give thanks to God our Creator.
We give our thanks and praise.

Source of all, you made our world beautiful and good,
and made us to live in right relationship with you and all creation.
You companion and sustain us in both wilderness and oasis
and accompany us daily through remarkable and ordinary days.
You sent your Word to live among us and show us what you are like.

We bring our seeking pilgrim hearts to you, Creator God.
You spoke the universe into being,
the earth and all that dwells here,
from the seas below to the skies above,
you fashioned all living creatures
and imbued them with your love.

The signs of your goodness surround us,
and we give you honour and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

CP 689

We give all thanks and praise to you, our true and loving God.
Of your grace, you sent Jesus to be human, to share our life,
to announce your kingdom of justice and peace,
and to reconcile us to you.
Through Jesus Christ
you have restored the glory you intended for us.

On the night before he died, Jesus ate supper with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them, saying,
“Take and eat. This is my very self given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks and gave it to them, saying,
“Drink it, all of you.
This cup is a new covenant poured out for you and all people.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, we remember:
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,
and, longing for Christ’s coming again in glory,
we present these gifts to you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,
so that we who share this bread and wine
may embody your justice and love.

Draw us together in Christ,
and, in the fullness of time, gather us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you, our God and Creator,
and give you our unending praise. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the spirit of Jesus' teaching, let us pray.

**Source of Life,
holy is your name.
May your community of shalom be realized,
here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us each what we need for today.
Forgive us our wrongdoings,
and help us release those who wrong us.
Save us from times of duress,
and deliver us from the effects of evil.
For you hold truth and justice and love,
now and forever. 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 HOLY COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for all God's people.

Thanks be to God

All who seek Christ and are drawn to this holy table are invited to come forth to receive Holy Communion. Dipping the bread (intinction) into the wine is not permitted. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please indicate such by placing your right hand over your heart.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God

CP 690

COMMUNION HYMN

The Lord is My Song

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Choir)

All stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Merciful God,
may this eucharist free us from our sins,
fill us with unending joy,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**
**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.**
Amen.

BLESSING

May God the Source of Life,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.
Amen.

May God the Living Word,
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
Amen.

May God the Comforter,
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness.

Amen.

And the blessing of God,
Source of Life,
Living Word,
and Comforter
be with you now and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace to prepare the way for Christ.

Thanks be to God!

RECESSIONAL HYMN Rejoice Today with One Accord

CP 318

*Please be seated for the postlude. The community disperses in silence.
In respect of those who may linger in contemplation, conversation is
reserved for the narthex.*

ST. HELEN'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Scan for our
website

December 20 (Fri) 7pm
Family Christmas Carol Sing-Along Concert

December 24 (Tue) 8pm
Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist Service

December 25 (Wed) 10am
Christmas Day (BAS Eucharist Service)

Weekly Schedule

Thursday 1:30pm Tea & Social

Thursday 3:15pm Contemplative Prayer

Sunday Services 8am & 10am (In Person / Zoom)

All are welcome, please join us!

ST. HELEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Family Christmas Carol Sing-along Concert

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 20TH
7PM**

Admission by donation
Reception to follow



4405 w8th Ave, Vancouver BC V6R 2A2 | 604-224-0212

St. Helen's Directory

The Rev. Mark Munn, Priest & Rector (rev.mark.munn@gmail.com)

The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, Deacon

Dale Throness, Music Director

Matt Powell, Rector's Warden

Irene Vavasour, People's Warden

Rozi Purdy, Associate Warden

Tony Hodgson, Treasurer

Monica O'Brien, Envelope Secretary

Cynthia Jutras, Parish Administrator

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email the church office: 604 224 0212, sthelenswpg@gmail.com

How to Contribute to St. Helen's Financially

If you'd like to contribute financially to our shared congregational life and mission here at St. Helen's, you can:



- Use one of the envelopes available at the back of the church by the offering plate for cheques or cash
- Scan the QR code at left to contribute via credit card or Apple Pay
- Visit our website (pointgreyanglican.com/pages/give) to contribute via credit card or PayPal
- Set up a Pre-Authorized Donation (PAD). To do this, please reach out to our Envelope Secretary, Monica O'Brien via our office (sthelenswpg@gmail.com).