

Eve of Christmas

December 24, 2024



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

Welcome to St. Helen's Anglican Church!

We are so glad you've joined us this Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Christ!

You are always invited and welcome to worship with us! The **8:00 AM Sunday service** is a contemplative traditional service, and the **10:00 AM service** is a music-filled contemporary service. We also have tea and social time **Thursdays at 1:30PM** and Contemplative Meditation **Thursdays at 3:15PM**.

In the New Year, St. Helen's is launching a study series on the fundamentals of Christianity—perfect for new Christians and seasoned ones alike.

St. Helen's is also home to the Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry, which provides food and clothing to those in need in our community. We gladly welcome donations and volunteer partners to support this vital work.

St. Helen's is also a space for your community gatherings. Many of the church's spaces are available for rentals and are a wonderful place for events that bring people together.

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Want to stay connected? Scan the QR code to sign up for our email newsletter to learn more about what's happening at St. Helen's.



Thank you for being here tonight. May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your heart this season and always!

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME *All stand*

OPENING HYMN O Come All Ye Faithful

CP 118

GREETING

In this time and place

We gather on the ancestral lands of the Musqueam nation.

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

In this time and place

We give thanks for the light of God that shines in the darkness

A light no darkness can quench

In this time and place

We give thanks for the light and peace of Jesus Christ the Word made flesh.

The light of all people

In this time and place

We pray that the Spirit of God will be renewed in our hearts and minds

That we might be the light of God in the world.

In this time and place


Together, one people of God.

In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen

GLORY TO GOD



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est heav - en, Peace to your peo - ple here on earth.



Al - might-y God, we wor - ship you, We give you thanks and praise your birth.


Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o! De - o!




2. Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God, Have mer - cy on us and re - ceive our prayer.

repeat Refrain



3. For You a - lone are the One most Ho - ly, You a - lone are the Lord most high



Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit In the glo - ry of God. A - men.

repeat Refrain

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who know the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING ISAIAH 9:2-7

Suzanne Windsor-Liscombe

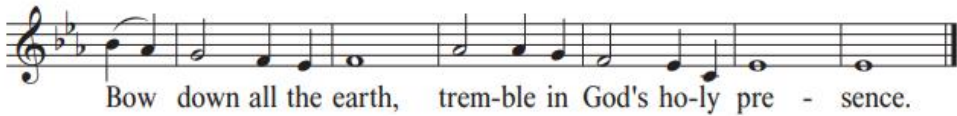
A reading from the book of Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96



Sing to our God a new song;
sing to God, all the whole earth.
Bless the Name of God in song;
proclaim the good news of salvation day to day.
Sing glory among the nations,
God's wonders among all peoples. **R.**

God is great and greatly to be praised;
more to be feared than all gods.
As for the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Holy One who made the heavens.
How majestic and splendid is God!
How wonderful God's holy temple! **R.**

Ascribe to our God, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to our God honour and power.
To the Holy Name ascribe due honour;
enter the hallowed courts with gifts.
Worship God in the beauty of holiness;
Let the earth tremble in awe and wonder. **R.**

Tell it out among the nations: "Our God reigns,
who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
who judges 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. **R.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the coming of our God,
who will come to judge the earth.
God will judge the world with righteousness
and with truth the peoples of the earth. **R.**

SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

Angela White

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

All stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace and joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-14 (15-20)

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.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the

heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Mark Munn

NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

**of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We 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

David Van Blarcom

In peace let us pray in God's presence:

In this holy night, your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

hear our prayer..

In this holy night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night, the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night, strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

Holy God,

in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints

through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

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 O Little Town of Bethlehem

CP 120

Please remain standing until communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man
of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother;

in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven,
we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise
to proclaim the glory of your name.

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.

Introduction Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry to You, O Lord mosthigh.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

mf *Broadly* *rit.* *ff* *molto rit.*

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, “ Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you,
Lord of all; presenting to you,
from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we,
made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

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

mf
O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin _ of the world;
Have mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

mf All
O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin _ of the world;
Lul - lay, lul - la, thou lit - tle tin - y child; *mp* Grant _ us your peace. *rall. p pp*

COMMUNION HYMN	Once in Royal David's City	CP 123
	Born in the Night	CP 130

All stand for the lighting of the congregational candles.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION	Silent Night	CP 119
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

God of all,

tonight you have united earth and heaven
in sending your Son to take our human nature.

May we who have tasted heavenly things
share in the life of his eternal kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Life is short.

We don't have much time to gladden the hearts
of those who walk this way with us.

So, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,

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. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God. Alleluia.

RECESSIONAL HYMN Joy to the World

CP 154

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.

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).