

**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**December 29, 2024**



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

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*All stand*

OPENING HYMN Good Christians All, Rejoice

CP 153

## GREETING

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to all on earth.  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

As we gather, we acknowledge with respect and gratitude  
our presence on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands  
of the Musqueam People.

## CONFESSION

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'  
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

The kingdom is yours, but we turn away from your just rule:

**Holy God, holy and mighty,** CP 707  
**holy immortal one, have mercy on us.**

The power is yours, but we trust in our own power and strength:

**Holy God, holy and mighty,** CP 707  
**holy immortal one, have mercy on us.**

The glory is yours, but we fall short of the glory of God:

**Holy God, holy and mighty,**

CP 707

**holy immortal one, have mercy on us.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you,

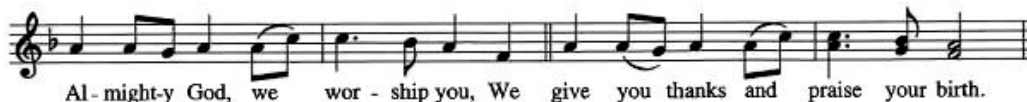
forgive you your sins,

and bring you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**



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



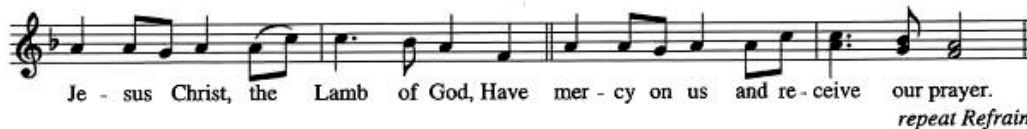
Al - might-y God, we wor - ship you, We give you thanks and praise your birth.



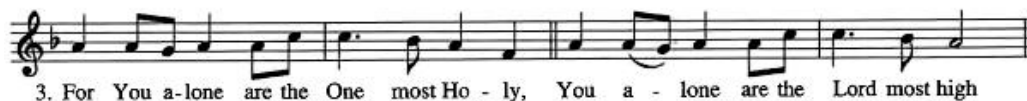
*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! De - o!



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.

O God, you have known us from our mother's womb.

You call us to follow you through all our days

and seek us even when we wander.

Clothe us with your love,

so that we may grow in grace and find favour in your sight;

through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING     1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26

Matt Powell

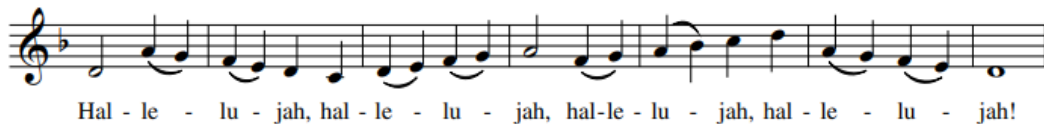
### A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 148



Hal-le-lujah!

Praise God from the heavens;  
sing praise in the heights.  
Sing praise, all angels,  
sing praise, all you heavenly host. **R.**

Sing praise, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.  
Sing praise, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens. **R.**

Let them praise your name, O God;  
for you commanded, and they were created.  
You made them stand fast for ever and ever;  
you gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R.**

O praise God from the earth,  
you sea-monsters and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will; **R.**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars:  
Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;  
Rulers of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all sovereigns of the world;  
Young men and women,  
old and young together. **R.**

Let them praise your name, O God,  
for your name only is exalted,  
your splendour is over earth and heaven.  
You have raised up strength for your people  
and praise for all your loyal servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near you.  
Hallelujah! **R.**

SECOND READING COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand for the Gospel*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CP 457

**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 2:41-52

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.**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they

were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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

Daniel Melvill Jones

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(All stand)*

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**We believe in God, the Source of Life,  
by whom every being in heaven and earth  
is created, named, and sustained.**

**We believe in God, the Living Word,  
who restores us to relationship**



**and speaks to us through faith.  
We believe in God, the Holy Spirit,  
who comforts, guides, and strengthens us  
to share the good news of grace.  
We believe in God,  
one, holy, undivided Trinity:  
Source of Life, Living Word, Comforter:  
Mystery. Amen.**

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hepsi Chand

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

THE PEACE

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The Peace of the Lord 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    All Poor Folk and Humble

CP 151

*Please remain standing until communion.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of light,  
in the birth of your Son we see your glory.  
May we who share in this mystery  
grow daily in your love.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

**We give our thanks and praise.**

Creator, you made our world --- beautiful and good.

You made us to live in right relationship with you and all creation.

You sent Jesus to live among us and show us what you are like.

We give all thanks and praise to you, our true and loving God.  
 You laid the foundations of the earth and enclosed the seas.  
 You brought forth all creatures and gave breath to humankind.  
 Wondrous are you, Holy One.  
 All you create is a sign of hope for our journey.

And so, we join with the heavenly beings  
 and all of creation as we sing:

*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 most high.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
**Broadly**  
 rit. **ff** *molto rit.*  
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Glory and honour are yours, Creator of all,  
 your Word has never been silent.  
 Of your grace, you sent Jesus  
 to be human, to share our life,  
 to proclaim the coming of your holy reign,  
 and to give himself for us.  
 Through Jesus Christ you have reconciled us to you  
 and 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 be a people of hope, 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

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.**

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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

**Thanks be to God**

## 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; Grant — us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN      What Child Is This

CP 137

*All stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

Source of truth and joy,

may we who have received the gift of divine life

always follow the way of your Son.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the 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

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with his joy and peace;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN It Came Upon the Midnight Clear CP 140

*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.*

## **Thursday Afternoon Tea and Scrabble & Contemplative Prayer Returns** **January 9th**

After a short break for the holidays, our Thursday afternoon tea and Contemplative Prayer gatherings will resume on Thursday, January 9th at 3:15 PM in St. Helen's side chapel.

This peaceful time of prayer and reflection is a wonderful way to center yourself in God's presence amidst the busyness of life. Whether you're a regular participant or looking to try something new, you are warmly invited to join us. We look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!

### **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](http://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](mailto:sthelenswpg@gmail.com)).