

St. Alban's Anglican Church

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Third Sunday of Advent
December 15th, 2024
10:00 am
All Welcome.

December 15th, 2024 – Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St. Alban's Church and to our **In-person and online worship.**

"St. Alban's Anglican Church, Richmond, acknowledge we gather on the ancestral, unceded lands of the Musqueam people, the hən'q'əmin'əm' language group. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is God's land." And work today and each day to live in right relationship and reconciliation.

10:00 am Eucharist - The Book of Alternative Services (BAS)

Advent is the time when the people of the Church prepare for the coming of Christ Jesus now as well as long ago in Bethlehem. There are changes in our liturgy for the next three Sundays to help us hold this special time while the world around us is racing to Christmas.



At the sound of the Bell, please keep silence.

Opening Hymn

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

CP 106

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All

And also with you.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: Christ is our faith and our life.

All: May the peace of Emmanuel be with us all.

Leader: And love shine in our hearts.

All: Our joy is in the coming of the Lord.

(Three violet candles are lit.)

Leader: Let us pray: that our hope may be strengthened.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

Leader: God of our heart's desire, the warmth of Your love and our minds are searching for the light of Your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in our joy so that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy.

All: Amen.

Collect

God of power and mercy,
**you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes,
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah

Scott Stewart

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. *Zephaniah 3: 14-20*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 3, BAS (Isaiah 12:2-6)

REFRAIN *Ring out your joy, for the Holy One of Israel is in your midst.*

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, and he will be my Saviour. **R**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his name is exalted. **R**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Nathalie Stewart

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. *Philippians 4:4-7*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

CP 714

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O 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. *Luke 3:7-18*

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Apostles Creed

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers & Intercessions

Reverend Kathy Yeo

Confession & Absolution

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.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant
All

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant

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.

The Peace

People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory hymn

Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding

CP 108

Prayer over the Gifts

God of hope,
**renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

May God be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to God

Let us give thanks to Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh,
and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again
in power and great triumph to judge this world,
that we, without shame or fear,
may rejoice to behold his appearing.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

CP 722

Celebrant

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;

CP 724

Celebrant

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**

CP 725

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant In the words and languages closest to our hearts we pray the prayer Jesus
taught us.

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant

God of promise you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Communion Hymn

Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free

CP 113

Wait for the Lord, Whose Day is Near

CP 94

Prayer after Communion

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.

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

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,

find us watching and waiting.

Amen.

With love and compassion,

come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,

come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,

come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Sending Hymn

What a Friend We have in Jesus

CP 532

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord...
Thanks be to God.



Christmas Eve Dec 24th 7pm
Christmas Day Dec 25th 10 am
All Welcome!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – Third Sunday of Advent

December 15th, 2024

For the World: For peace in the world, especially in the Middle East between Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and Russia.

For the Church:

In the Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Tanzania.

In the Anglican Church of Canada: The Acting Primate Archbishop Anne Germond and the Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary's Office.

In the Diocese of New Westminster:

· St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge - St. Michael, Vancouver - The Revd Wilmer Toyoken, Urban Aboriginal Ministry – Mr Stephen Seegerts.

Indigenous Archbishop, Archbishop Revd Chris Harper;

General Secretary, Archdeacon Alan Perry, and The General Synod Staff.

For our Companion Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines, Bishop Benny and our partner parish of Holy Innocents, Bebe.

For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, our Partner in Communion: Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration MOR Mr. David Jones, District President, and the members of Board of Elders of the Canadian District of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

For St. Alban's: Fr. Bill, Deacon Kathy and Rev. John Marsh, our supply priest. For the Wardens and Synod delegates on the Search Committee for a new priest. For our staff, Benjamin and Jennifer. For our Outreach volunteers and those whom they serve. For the *360 Ministry (Chinese Language Ministry). For members and visitors, present and on-line.

For the sick and needy: June S., Anne D., Sue R., Scott Stewart

+For those who have died in the peace of Christ especially Hermine Scrubb. May light perpetual shine upon them and may they rest in peace.

Staff Office hours:

Jennifer – Tues & Thurs work from home.

Wed's and Fri in the office 9am -12pm.

Please email:

- Reverend Bill Mok- Honourary Assistant,
And Missioner of Chinese Language Ministry
- Jennifer Kirk- Office Administrator
- Rev. Katherine Yeo - Librarian
- Larry Scherban – Vicar's Warden
- Sue Robertson – People's Warden
- Stephanie Christie – Associate Warden
- Thelma O'Keeffe – Envelope Secretary
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Ministering Through the Liturgy

<i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>	Reverend John Marsh
<i>Music:</i>	Benjamin Sigerson & Choir
<i>Bulletin:</i>	Jennifer Kirk
<i>Readers:</i>	Scott Stewart, Nathalie Stewart, Rev John Marsh
<i>Intercessions:</i>	Reverend Kathy Yeo
<i>Eucharistic Minister:</i>	Kas Kothari
<i>Greeter:</i>	Stan O'Keeffe
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Stephanie Christie
<i>Flowers:</i>	Sue Robertson, Gillian Cellura, Pam Hiensch

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God.

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