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*The Right Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie, Bishop*

*The Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Rector*

*The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Associate Priest*

***“Together in Christ  
we seek to love God and  
to love and serve all others”***

**December 24, 2019**

**Carols, Creche & Communion**



**Sunday Services** are at 8:30 a.m. (Traditional Rite)

10:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

**Office Hours** are Mon to Thurs, 9:00-Noon; **Closed Friday.**

**Celtic Eucharist and Gospel Discussion** Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

## **WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT**

*If you are a newcomer, please identify yourself to the Sidespersons or priest so we can welcome you and tell you about our church.*

*We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.*

*Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover preaches and presides today.*

<b>6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve</b>
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*Liturgical Assistant is Mike Armstrong*

*Acolyte is Maggie Weatherell*

*Sidespeople are Caroline DeCiantis & Brigitte Tandory*

*Director of Music is Nell Howard*

### **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Leader: As we meet together, we begin by remembering the Lekwungen speaking people, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through the many generations.

As we meet together, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent, whose joyful spirit embraces us. Now let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

**Introit:** “**The Virgin’s Slumber Song**” Sung by Kathy Middleton, Soprano  
By Max Reger

**Opening Sentence:** I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

**Opening Hymn:** CP 118 O Come All Ye Faithful (Verses 1 – 4)

**Welcome:**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath:** *Read by William Dolan*

**Hope, Peace, Joy and Love Have Arrived - Lighting the Christ Candle**

*Light All 4 Advent Candles*

With this lighting of the Christ Candle we rejoice with prophets, angels, and Mary and Joseph in welcoming Christ! Our hope has arrived! Thank you, God, for sending us your Son.

*Light the Christ Candle*

May this light remind us of the hope we all carry because you love the whole world!

**Hope is here. Love is here. Family is here.**

**Sing:** (*'Away in a Manger' melody*)

**We honor Messiah with Christ's candle flame**

**Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim**

**O Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night.**

**As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

**Call to Worship:**

On this holiest of nights,

**we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.**

On this most silent night,

**we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

On this nights of carols and candlelight,

**we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.**

**Collect of the day:** Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED**

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 9:2-7*

**Peter Hounsell-Drover**

**Psalm 96:**

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless God's name; tell of God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvellous works among all the peoples.

**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; God is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**Honour and majesty are before God; strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; bring an offering, and come into God's courts.**

Worship the LORD in holy splendour; tremble before God, all the earth.

**Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. God will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD.**

For God is coming, for God is coming to judge the earth.

**God will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.**

**Second Reading:** *Titus 2:11-14*

**William Hounsell-Drover**

**Gospel Hymn:** CP 123 **Once in Royal David's City**

(Verses 1 & 2 prior to the Gospel; verse 3 following.)

**Gospel:**

**Jill Dolan**

The Lord be with You.

**And Also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 2:1-14.

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Gospel Hymn Continued:**

**Sermon:** Chat @ the Chancel: *Dressing of the Creche*

**Musical Response:** CP 120 O Little Town of Bethlehem

**Prayers of the People:**

**Kathy Middleton**

Jesus Christ, born in a stable, Be with the poor and homeless this Christmas time.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, born of Mary, Be with young mothers across the world this Christmas time.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds, be with all who have to work this Christmas, and those who long to work.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, who became a refugee, be with those who fear for their lives, and those who have left homes and families this Christmas.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light. Amen.**

**The Peace:** Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. Peace be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED**

**Offertory Hymn:** CP 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Prayer over the Gifts:** Source of light and gladness, **accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever.**

**Eucharistic Prayer:** *(Evangelical Lutheran Worship)*

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

**Sanctus: CP 722**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of power and might,**

**Heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, 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 hope 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:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.**

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.**

**Lord's Prayer:**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, they 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.**

**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 Communion:** *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 you 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 your strengths. Come, for this is a table where all are invited, and all are welcome.*

*The Communion Anthem: "O Holy Night" Sung by Kathy Middleton, Soprano  
by Adolphe Adam*

*Communion Distributors: William, Peter, & John Hounsell-Drover*

**Communion Carols:**

**CP 140 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

**CP 135 Shepherds in the Field Abiding**

**Prayer after Communion:** Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, so that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

### **SENDING FORTH**

**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.

**Candle Hymn:** CP 119 Silent Night

**Blessing:**

**Mission Hymn:** CP 154 Joy to the World

**Commissioning:** Go now with joy in your hearts and peace in your mind. Go now, looking into each other's eyes as you would the eyes of the baby Jesus. Go now with gifts received from God, and gifts of love for one another. **We Go in Peace. Thanks be to God. Amen. Alleluia.**

