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The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest

The Rev. Colleen Lissamer, Deacon

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

**November 28th, 2021 – Advent 1
Sunday Virtual Worship Service**



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

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. Dr. Paul Schumacher presides & shares preaching with Rev. Colleen Lissamer

Organ prelude - Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome: Good morning, and welcome to this service of worship on this First Sunday of Advent for 2021. My name is Paul Schumacher, and I am interim priest-in-charge here at the Church of The Advent during this time of transition. I am joined today by the Rev. Colleen Lissamer who will take part in this service of the Word.

As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, 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 today, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent. Let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Come, come with your doubts, your strengths, your weaknesses, and your fears, for God loves us all and all are welcome in this space. We invite you to come and join our readers, prayer leaders, music director and choir members, along with our technical team, as we offer prayer and praise to our Creator.

Scripture Sentence of the Day Scripture shares with us, “Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Today, we light the first candle on the Advent wreath. The candle of Hope. Please join me in the spirit of this prayer.

Invitation: We come to this new season of Advent and gather around a wreath to light candles. The wreath reminds us of the circle of our human community and the lights illuminate the many ways in which we bring ourselves to the Incarnation, God’s longed-for presence among us – human and holy, Emmanuel – God with us and God coming to us.

Lighting the Candle and Illuminating the Stories of Hope: *(Light one purple/blue candle.)* We light this candle for the Christmas story that shines hope on our lives.

Naming Our Stories of Hope: The Advent season is a season of stories that bring us into the presence of God. The story of the birth of Jesus is told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, in carols that we sing, in legends as old as the first century Common Era and as new as story books on a bookstore shelf. We celebrate today, our stories of hope.

Prayer: Emmanuel, we find your story in the pages of scripture and the whispers of all our storytelling. Help us in this Advent season to become storytellers of hope for our time. Amen

Opening Hymn: CP# 89 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

(Plainsong: Arr. Healey Willan © 1966 Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission.)

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us her ways to go.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law,
In clouds and majesty and awe.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty power to save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!

Greeting:

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

And also with you.

Act of Praise: Stir up your power, Lord of all, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our transgressions before you. Keep us blameless until the coming of your new day. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Chat @ the Chancel: Rev. Paul

Song: Song: **MV#33 – “Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope”**

(Words & Music: traditional song. Cameroon. Arr. More Voices, 2001. Arrangement copyright © 2007 The United Church of Canada)

Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Hallelujah for evermore.

First Reading: Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, ‘I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!’ And he was afraid, and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’

For the Word of God is scripture,
For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 122 (BAS Pg. 882)

1 I was glad when they said to me, * Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

2 Now our feet are standing * within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city * that is at unity with itself.

4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, * the assembly of Israel,
to praise the name of the Lord.

5 For there are the thrones of judgement, * the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: * May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls * and quietness within your towers.

8 For my brethren and companions’ sake, * I pray for your prosperity.

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, * I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-4, 21:22-22:5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him;

they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

For the Word of God is scripture,
For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,
All: Thanks Be to God

Hymn of the Day: MV#1 “All Are Welcome”

(Text: Marty Haugen {1950 -}; Tune: Two Oaks with refrain; Marty Haugen {1950- } © 1994 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.)

Let us build a house where love can dwell,
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell,
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God’s children dare to seek
To dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness,
And as symbol of God’s grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: ***Refrain***

Let us build a house where love is found,
In water, wine, and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: ***Refrain***

Let us build a house where hands will reach,
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve, and teach,
And live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: **Refrain**

Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard,
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed,
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafters: **Refrain**

Gospel: John 20:19-21

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John**.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher & Rev. Colleen Lissamer

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe that Jesus took the form of a servant, so we commit ourselves to serve others.

We believe that God is love, so we commit ourselves to reconciliation.

We believe that Jesus gives us his Spirit, so we commit ourselves to his work in the world.

We believe that God is the light of life, so we commit ourselves to bearing God's light to this world.

We believe that the Holy Spirit speaks through us, so we commit ourselves to proclaim the good news of God's gift of abundant life for all, in the world that God loves. Amen

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People November 28, 2021

Dear Lord, As we enter this season of Advent, please remind us that Advent is waiting. Waiting for the birth of Your Son Jesus the Christ. This Advent, let us wait in Hope, in Faith and in sympathy and Love with one another---for together we wait in joy! Lord God, only you can see into our hearts and know that under all the busy-ness of our lives, there is a deep longing to make this Advent one that welcomes you more deeply into our own lives.

I will end each petition with "Holy and Compassionate God"

Please respond with **"Hear Our Prayers"**

Who are we, O God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word and move us by your spirit to bless your wonderful works.

"Holy and Compassionate God" **"Hear Our Prayers"**

We pray for the Church, for all churches in the world, in our Diocese, and in our neighbourhood and we pray for our own church. We pray for all the leaders of our church and ask that you give them the wisdom and the knowledge they require to do **Your** work.

"Holy and Compassionate God" **"Hear Our Prayers"**

Heavenly Creator, we pray for those who have asked us to pray for them. And we pray for those who have no one to pray for them. You know what is in their hearts Lord and only You know what each of them needs. We pray for Brian, Travis, Donna, Cynthia, Irene, Travis, Joan, Bill, Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Kian, John, the staff and residents of all care facilities in Victoria, and any others you wish to name out loud or silently in your hearts. As we have named them in our hearts so let them feel your presence and friendship in their lives as we commit them to your loving care.

"Holy and Compassionate God" **"Hear Our Prayers"**

Loving Creator, we pray for all who mourn, and we ask that they find comfort in You. We ask for your strength for them, in their time of need. Let them know they are loved and wrap them in Your love and warmth.

"Holy and Compassionate God" **"Hear Our Prayers"**

We ask blessings and pray for all those who protect us. We pray for all hospital workers, members of our Military, police, firefighters and first responders. Please watch over those here at home and those deployed throughout the world and return them safely to their families.

"Holy and Compassionate God" **"Hear Our Prayers"**

Heavenly Father, thank you for Your presence every moment of every day. When the road twists unexpectedly, remind us that You are near.

May the God of Hope fill you all with joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them into his grace. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

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.

May 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 and Saviour. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

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.

Blessing:

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,

Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God, our Creator,

Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, And the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

And may the blessing of the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be with you this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Shared Ministry:

Commissioning Hymn: G#590 “Christ Be Our Light”

(Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell {1957-}. © 1993, 2000, Bernadette Farrell, Published by OCP.)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. ***Refrain***

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. ***Refrain***

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone. ***Refrain***

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come. ***Refrain***

Commissioning: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your ways and share your message of salvation with all peoples of every nation. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

TODAY WE PRAY

*Pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.
Pray for Barry our Executive Archdeacon, Anna our Bishop,
Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge, & Colleen our Deacon.
Pray for Church of the Advent, Colwood, & Diocese of Kootenay.
In the Selkirk Region for Ecumenical & Inter-faith partners.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Bill, Kian, Travis,
Bob, Irene, Cynthia, Joan, John, Donna, & Brian.
The staff and residents of all care facilities in Victoria.
We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.*