

December 21, 2025 4:30 pm

A Service of
Lessons and Carols



Loving God. Loving People.
Growing in Christ Together.

Presiding:
Assisting:

The Reverend Canon Dr. Patrick McManus
The Reverend Ginie Wong
The Reverend Deacon Jennifer Cameron
The Reverend Deacon Natania Friesen

Prelude:
Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen
arr. Mary Beth Bennett

Gathering of the Community:

Carol:
Once in Royal David's City (123)
Vs. 1, 2, 5, and 6
Tune: Irby
Soloist: Julia Kennific, soprano

Welcome:

The Bidding Prayer:

Presider: My sisters and brothers in Christ, in this season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word, let us reflect on the time of our rebellion against the creator of the universe. Let us join with Mary, the favoured handmaid, and offer ourselves in service to God's holy and saving purpose for the world. Let us give thanks to the one whose power has made us the children of God.

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us join with the song of the angels and saints and make this place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the Prince of Peace, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry, and those among us who find that there is no room for them in the inn.

Let us remember the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, and pray for the oppressed, refugees, the isolated, and those on the edges of our society.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved.

And remembering the promise that he shall reign forever and ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church, that we may be a sign that God's rule on earth has already begun.

The Lord's Prayer:

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.**

1st Reading - Humanity's Fall:

Genesis 3:6–15

Reader: Terry Smith

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of

both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.'

Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol:
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Vs. 1, 5-7

Veni Emmanuel

The 2nd Reading – The Promise of a Righteous King:

Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9

Reader: Chris Pitts

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (117)

Es ist ein'Ros

The 3rd Reading – The Annunciation:

Luke 1:26-38

Reader: The Reverend Deacon Natania Friesen

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The

Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem:

Mid Winter

Bob Chilcott

The 4th Reading – The Birth of Jesus:

Luke 2:1-7

Reader: The Reverend Ginnie Wong

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol:

O Little Town of Bethlehem (120)

Tune: St Louis

The 5th Reading – The Shepherds and the Angels:

Luke 2: 8–20

Reader: Sharon Conway

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem:

Gaudete! Christus est natus

arr. Mark Deckers

The 6th Reading – The Visit of the Magi:

Matthew 2:1–11

Reader: Mary Anne Huggins

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening

their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol:

The First Nowell (139)

Vs 1, 2, 5, and 6

Tune: The First Nowell

During the Offertory Hymn a collection will be taken to support the ministry of the Church and the music program at All Saints Kingsway. If you'd like a receipt for income tax purposes, please be sure to include your name and address on the envelope provided in the pew

Prayer over the Gifts:

Presider: Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this night. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The 7th Reading – The Mystery of the Incarnation:

John 1:1–14

Reader: The Reverend Deacon Jennifer Cameron

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Presider: 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.**

Blessing:

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

Carol:
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (138)
Tune: Mendelssohn

The Dismissal:

Deacon: As we await our coming Saviour,
go forth in the love of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High
arr. Dale Wood

*We are so glad that you could be with us this afternoon. We wish you all a very
happy Christmas!*

Readers: Terry Smith, Chris Pitts, The Reverend Deacon Natania Friesen, The Reverend Ginnie Wong, Sharon Conway, Mary Anne Huggins, The Reverend Deacon Jennifer Cameron.

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Sextons: Phuntsok Rabten and William Cuaresma

Churchwardens: Mary Anne Huggins, Terry Smith, David Costen, and Michael Wickware

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to seeing you again soon!

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