



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary Church

St. Stephen Church

Faith - Family - Friendship



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Welcome To PARISH OF CENTRAL SAANICH St. Stephen Church



PEACE

DECEMBER 7, 2025 – ADVENT 2

*We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional
lands of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish peoples*

St. Mary's Service:

Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m.

St. Stephen's Service:

Sunday Service: 11:15 a.m.

Continue to monitor our website - ParishCS.ca

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Incumbent
Bishop Logan McMenamie, Honorary Assistant

Associated Clergy: The Ven. Bob Baillie
The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane
The Rev. Paul Schumacher,
The Rev. Gil Shoesmith, deacon

*Please practice Health protocols that make you feel comfortable.
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

HOLY EUCHARIST
Liturgy of Islands and Inlets (VI Liturgy)
The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding
Melanie Ihmels, Preaching

A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors.
With thanks, please mute your cell phones during the service.
The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

Prelude – *Joanne Lambert*

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Candle of Peace on the Advent Wreath:
The first & second candles are lit as we sing:

A Candle Is Burning - Sandra Dean & James R. Murray (t. CP#126)

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace.
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

Processional Hymn: *Hark the Glad Sound!* (CP #98)

**Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**

**He comes, the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst;
the iron fetters yield.**

**Christ comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and from the treasuries of his grace,
to bless the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.**

The Gathering of the Community

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

All: And also with you.

Lon: In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish Peoples.

All: From many places and Peoples we come to this house in prayer.

Maria: In this time and place we are not alone for we meet in the presence of the living God.

All: For we meet in the presence of the living God.

Lon: In this time and place we are not alone for the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

Maria: In this time and space we are not alone for the wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

All: The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

Lon: In this time and space we are not alone for we gather with the whole company of heaven. In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

All: In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

Maria: In this time and place together, one People in Jesus Christ.

**All: In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Kyrie (*CP #706*)

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy on us.

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy on us.

Centering Stillness:

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. (Silence)

The Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, **purify our hearts and minds, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.** *Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.*

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Deb Butler: A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 11:1-10

- A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² 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.
- ³ 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,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed 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.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ 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.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 – Deb Butler

1 Give the king your justice, O God, * **and your righteousness to the king's son;**

2 That he may rule your people righteously * **and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * **and the little hills bring righteousness.**

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; * **he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * **from one generation to another.**

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * **like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; * **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, * **who alone does wondrous deeds!**

19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever! * **and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Sean Lyon: A reading from the Book of Romans

Romans 15:4-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

Gradual: *On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s cry (CP #103)*

**On Jordan’s bank, the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home
Where such a mighty Guest may come.**

Maria: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Maria: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of

repentance, ⁹ and do not presume 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Maria: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gradual (*con’t.*)

**To heal the sick stretch out Thine hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let Thy light restore
Earth’s own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Ghost, forevermore.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Sermon – Melanie Ihmels

The Apostles’ Creed (*said*)

Presider: 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 of the People – *Maria King*

Confession & Absolution:

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy and welcomes sinners and invites them to the table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Presider: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Presider: 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.**

The Peace *All stand*

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

*The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another in a manner that feels safe for you.
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

Offertory: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (CP #117)

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Saviour
When half spent was the night.**

**This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us
And share our every load**

Prayer over the Gifts: God our strength, we are nothing without you.
Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name
of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

(Eucharist Prayer C)

Presider: God is here

People: The Spirit is with us.

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

People: We lift them to God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: It is indeed right that we should praise you, God of love, our
source and our fulfillment, for you create all things and in
you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is
manifest in land and sea and sky. You made us in your
image. And even though we turn from you, again and again
you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother gathers her children, you embraced a people as
your own, to nurture them in the way of compassionate love.
You sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and
born of Mary. Jesus revealed your love for all Creation, and
showed us the way of reconciliation.

Having lived among us - Jesus suffered the cross, Died,
And in rising again became the firstborn of the renewed
family. And so as we gather around your table, With saints
of every age and your beloved creation we raise our voices
and sing:

Sanctus (Steve Bell)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth of Your glory are full
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth of Your glory are full
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest**

Presider: To you be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me. After supper he took the cup; 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, Poured out for you and for many; do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Presider: Recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son. When all of creation groans, unite us in Christ and give us your hope that we might be strengthened to do your work, as your body in the world. Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit, all praise and glory be yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray: *(said)*

The Lord's Prayer:

**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 pow'r and the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Presider: 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.**

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Administration of Holy Communion

All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.

*If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing,
please cross your arms over your chest.*

Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Instrumental Music during Communion

Prayer after Communion: Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us
with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call
to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider: Glory to God

**All: whose love, 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

Sending Song: *When the King Shall Come Again* (CP #109)

**When the King shall come again
all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign,
life and joy and healing:
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated;
this is God's redemption day
longingly awaited.**

**In the desert trees take root
fresh from his creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration.
Rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning;**

valleys, this is your new birth,
mountains, greet the morning!

Strengthen feeble hands and knees,
fainting hearts, be cheerful!

God who comes for such as these
seeks and saves the fearful.

Deaf ears hear the silent tongues
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes see the lifeless ones
walking, running, leaping.

There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean
walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound
all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned,
share in his rejoicing!

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 14, 2025

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:4-9; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

THE ARCHDEACON'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE – Please pick up your letter today. Should you wish to make a special offering to give thanks to God for all that he has given, please use the envelope enclosed in your Christmas letter. There are also spare Christmas envelopes on the table at the back of the church.

Included in the envelope *an important 2025 Financial Update letter* for your prayerful consideration.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER TIME – at the home of Eva and Rick Townsend has been cancelled through to the end of December. It is hoped that this time of reflection will resume sometime in the new year, date to be confirmed.

ST. STEPHEN'S OUTREACH – For those who do not have offering envelopes, you may bring your outreach offering in a plain envelope, marked “Outreach for Month of ____” with your name and address and, if applicable, your Electronic Collection Plate number.

Nov.	Christmas Hampers
Dec.	General Outreach

Christmas is not far away.

Last year we were able to support First Nation Families and others known to us. We bought gift cards from Fairways which seemed to be well received.

Last year we spent about \$800 from both the November and December Outreach categories, which had been donated prior to shopping.

Hoping you can help out again, while realizing we are all experiencing our own increased food costs, gas prices etc. It all helps no matter the amount and is always appreciated by those who receive our gifts.

Many blessings,
Lynda Clifford, Outreach
Bob Buchanan & Mike Philip, Wardens

ANOTHER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVENT

Once again this year our Parish has chosen to support the Saanich Peninsula Lions Food **12 Days of Christmas Giving Holiday Food Drive**.

Listed below are the items most needed:

- Day 1 - Cereal
- Day 2 - Canned Tomatoes
- Day 3 - Toothbrushes
- Day 4 - School Snacks
- Day 5 - Juice
- Day 6 - Canned Fruit
- Day 7 - Pasta Sauce
- Day 8 - Cake / Muffin Mix
- Day 9 - Shampoo / Body Wash
- Day 10 - Helpers (Instant Potatoes / Hamburger Helper)
- Day 11 - Canned Meat
- Day 12 - Pancake Mix

If you are able to donate some or all of the items listed above please place them in a reusable bag and deliver it to either St. Mary (narthex) or St. Stephen (Church Hall) on December 14th – Advent 3.

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for the Church of Bangladesh. We pray for Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada; John Stephens, Metropolitan of The Province of B.C and Yukon We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Anna, our bishop and Trinity Anglican & Lutheran, Port Alberni

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of Salt Spring Island and the people of the Parish and surrounding community neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of Saanichton Bible Fellowship.

Our Parish Clergy: Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul and Gil

Postulants: Gary & Richard

Seminarian: Melanie

For our Parish Families: Judith Mariampillai & Roche Mariampillai and Peter & Margaret Simpson and their families

For those being Baptized: Bennett

For those ill or in need of prayer: Neville & Patricia, Roche, Diana A., Fern & Mark, Dennis, Logan, Tom, Glenda

For Those with Long-Term Needs: Cheryl, Ted, Jillian S., Paul J., Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery, Courtney, Nancy J., Kristen

For friends beyond the parish: Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Bryan, Karen & family, Drew, Sheila P., Amy, Anna, Betty O., Betty E., Alysha, Sue P., Michelle, Cassidy, Carl G., Keith & Lillian, Michael A., Jasmine, Kai

In the greater community: We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. We are all called to create communities where all children of God are safe and respected. We pray for those impacted or endangered by the toxic drug supply crisis and also for their loved ones who are, or have been, impacted.

CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego
His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949
His email: ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

***Note:** Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.*



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