



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary Church

St. Stephen Church

Faith - Family - Friendship



**Welcome To
PARISH OF CENTRAL SAANICH
St. Stephen Church**



**DECEMBER 28, 2025 - CHRISTMAS 2
Baptism and Holy Eucharist**

*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.*

11:15 a.m. BAPTISM & HOLY EUCHARIST

Book of Alternative Services

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding & Preaching

A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors.

The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

Prelude – **Coventry Carol** – words: Robert Croo 1534

music: Tomas Mawdyke 1591

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Gathering Song: *The Lord's My Shepherd* - text: Ps. 23; para. Francis

*Rous 1650 Scottish Psalter, 1650; tune: CRIMMOND - Jessie Seymour Irvine
(1871) and David Grant (1872) (verse 1 – solo by Abby Moss)*

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

**My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.**

The Gathering of the Community

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

People And also with you.

Presider There is one body and one spirit.

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Presider **One Lord, one faith, one baptism,**

People **One God and Father of all.**

Presider Almighty God,

All **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from
you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gloria – Mass for the King of Glory

Betty Carr Pulkingham © 1973 (arr. for one voice by Daisy Essery)

Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest,

And peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

Presider: The candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Then Bennett Victor Edgington is presented by his parents and sponsors as follows:

Parents and sponsors:

I present Bennett to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Presider: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?

Response: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Response: I will, with God's help.

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

Answer: I do.

Prayers for the Candidates

Richard: Let us now pray for Bennett who is to receive the sacrament of new birth.

Richard: Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Richard: Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Richard: Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Richard: Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Richard: Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Richard: Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Richard: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his

resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Celebration of Baptism

Thanksgiving over the Water

The celebrant blesses the water.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider: We give you thanks, almighty God and Father, for by the gift of water you nourish and sustain all living things.

People: Blessed be God for ever.

Presider: We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Presider: We give you thanks for sending your Son Jesus. For us he was baptized by John in the river Jordan. For us he was anointed as Christ by your Holy Spirit. For us he suffered the baptism of his own death and resurrection, setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, and opening to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

People: Blessed be God for ever.

Presider: We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with his gifts so that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Presider: We give you thanks for you have called Bennett to new life through the waters of baptism. Now sanctify this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Anoint him with your Holy Spirit and bring them to new birth in the family of your Church, that they may become inheritors of your glorious kingdom. We give you praise and honour and worship through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: Blessed are you, our strength and song, and our salvation.

Presider: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: 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.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Presider: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

The Baptism

Presider: Bennett, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

I sign you with the cross, and mark you as Christ's own for ever.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant your original Blessing, and have raised him to the new life of grace.

Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit.

Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

The Giving of the Light

Presider: Receive the light of Christ, to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

People: **Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Presider: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People: **We receive you into the household of God.
Confess the faith of Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

Song: *This Little Light of Mine*

**This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Don't let satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**All around my neighbourhood, I'm gonna let it shine (3 x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

The Readings

Lynda Clifford: A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans
Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Here what the Spirit of God is saying

Thanks be to God

Gradual: *Be Exalted, O God* – Brent Chambers © 1977 CCLI# 21112

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the people.

I will sing praises to Thee among the nations.

For Thy steadfast love is great, is great to the heavens,

And Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.

Let Thy glory be over all the earth.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.

Let Thy glory be over all the earth.

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the people.

I will sing praises to Thee among the nations.

For Thy steadfast love is great, is great to the heavens,

And Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.

Let Thy glory be over all the earth.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.

Let Thy glory,

Let Thy glory,

Let Thy glory be over all the earth

Richard: The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Richard: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (CP #715 – refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mark 1:9-11

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon

him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Richard: The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (*CP #715 – refrain*)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

The Peace

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: You Have Been Baptized in Christ – Rev. Carey Landry &
Carol Jean Kinghorn-Landry © 1977 OCP

Leader: You have been baptized in Christ.

Echo: We have been baptized in Christ.

Leader: It is He that you have put on.

Echo: It is He that we have put on.

Leader: You who are washed in this water

Echo: We who are washed in this water

Leader: Have hope of eternal life.

Echo: Have hope of eternal life.

**God the Father has freed you and given you a new birth,
And to be a member of His holy people He now anoints
you with oil.**

Leader: You have been baptized in Christ.

Echo: We have been baptized in Christ.

Leader: It is He that you have put on.

Echo: It is He that we have put on.

Leader: You who are washed in this water

Echo: We who are washed in this water

Leader: Have hope of eternal life.

Echo: Have hope of eternal life.

**You are a new creation. In Christ you have been clothed.
See in this garment the outward sign of your dignity in Him.**

Leader: You have been baptized in Christ.

Echo: We have been baptized in Christ.

Leader: It is He that you have put on.

Echo: It is He that we have put on.

Leader: You who are washed in this water

Echo: We who are washed in this water

Leader: Have hope of eternal life.

Echo: Have hope of eternal life.

Receive the light of Christ; keep it burning brightly.

**Always walk as a child of the light with His flame alive
in your heart.**

Leader: You have been baptized in Christ.

Echo: We have been baptized in Christ.

Leader: It is He that you have put on.

Echo: It is He that we have put on.

Leader: You who are washed in this water

Echo: We who are washed in this water

Leader: Have hope of eternal life.

Echo: Have hope of eternal life.

Leader: Have hope of eternal life.

Echo: Have hope of eternal life.

After the offering is placed on the Lord's Table, all sing:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Jimmy Owens ©1972 Lexicon Music, Inc

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

(Eucharistic Prayer #2)

Presider: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name. *(singing)*

Sanctus & Benedictus – *music, Land of Rest, American traditional tune*

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

Presider: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray, singing

Lord's Prayer - Jodi Page © 1974 Celebration Services

**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 power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread #6

Presider: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

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.

Communion: Abba Father – Rev. Carey Landry © 1977 OCP

**Abba, Abba Father, You are the Potter,
We are the clay, the work of Your hands.**

**Mold us, mold us and fashion us into the image
Of Jesus Your Son, of Jesus Your Son.**

**Abba, Abba Father, You are the Potter,
We are the clay, the work of Your hands.**

**Father, may we be one in You, may we be one in You
As He is in You and You are in Him.**

**Abba, Abba Father, You are the Potter,
We are the clay, the work of Your hands.**

**Glory, glory and praise to You, glory and praise to You,
Forever, Amen. Forever, Amen.**

**Abba, Abba Father, You are the Potter,
We are the clay, the work of Your hands.
Abba!**

Prayer after Communion: Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask 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: *The Lord's My Shepherd* – text: Scottish Psalter 1650
(alt) music: Merla Watson**

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me; and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
My table thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forever more
My dwelling place shall be.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, amen.

Dismissal

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: ***How Many Kings*** – Jason Germain & Marc Martel © 2006

CCLI# 5351880

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for a light lunch in the Parish Hall

READINGS – JANUARY 4, 2026

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICES & BIBLE STUDY -
will resume at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary on January 7th.

***Wishing you a Blesséd
and
Happy New Year!***

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Sarah Mullally, the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for the Anglican Church of Canada and Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate; 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 for Chaplains and Chaplaincies.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of St. Philip, Cedar and the people of the Parish and surrounding community neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of Friendship Community Church.

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

Postulants: Gary & Richard

Seminarian: Melanie

For those being Baptized today: 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, Garth W., Chris P.

For the repose of the soul: of Mark Perkins and for comfort and strength for Fern, their family and friends.

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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St. Stephen's Anglican Church

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