



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. Mary Church



### DECEMBER 28, 2025 – CHRISTMAS 1

*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.

Wednesday Communion: 10:00 a.m.

#### **St. Stephen's Service:**

Sunday Service: 11:15 a.m.

Continue to monitor our website - [ParishCS.ca](http://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

**9:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST**  
*Book of Alternative Services*  
The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding

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Welcome to St. Mary's this Christmas season. Whether you are a long-time member, a family member home for Christmas, or a guest from down the road or across the world, you are welcome. The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

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Prelude – *Joanne Lambert*

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

**Gathering: *Good King Wenceslas* (CP #145)**

**Good King Wenceslas looked out  
on the Feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about,  
deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night,  
though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight,  
gathering winter fuel.**

**“Hither, page, and stand by me,  
if thou knowest it, telling,  
yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?”**

**“Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
underneath the mountain,  
right against the forest fence,  
by Saint Agnes' fountain.”**

**“Sire, the night is darker now,  
and the wind blows stronger,  
fails my heart, I know not how;  
I can go no longer.”**

**“Mark my footsteps, my good page,  
tread thou in them boldly.  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
freeze thy blood less coldly.”**

**In his master's steps he trod,  
where the snow lay dinted;  
heat was in the very sod  
which the saint had printed.**

**Therefore, Christians all, be sure,  
wealth and rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
shall yourselves find blessing.**

### **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.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**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.**

### **Christmas Gloria** *Arr. Fr. Richard Laurensen*

**Glory be to God high  
Peace on Earth good will to all  
On the earth your praises sing  
For the tiny new born King.**

**Refrain:**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo (repeat)**

**You alone are holy  
You alone are most high  
With the Holy Spirit  
In the Father's Glory. Refrain**

### **Centering Stillness:**

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

**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**

### **The Readings**

**Psalm 23 BAS – Carol Watkins**

**1 The Lord is my shepherd; \* I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \* and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul \* **and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.**

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \* **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \* **you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \* **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Glorify 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.**

**Second Lesson: A reading from Romans – *Melanie Ihmels***

**Romans 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> 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!” <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> 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: *In the Bleak Mid Winter* (CP #122)**

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven can not hold him, nor earth sustain,  
heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am!  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;**

**if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

Lynn: May God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Lynn The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

### **Mark 1:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

Lynn The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Sung Response: *Alleluia* (CP #715 – refrain)**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

### **The Apostle’s Creed:**

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.**

## **The Prayers of the People – Lynn Schumacher**

### **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**

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 Carol: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (CP #146)**

**'Twas in the moon of wintertime,  
when all the birds had fled  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your king is born,  
Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.**

**Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender Babe was found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round,  
but, as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high:  
Jesus your king is born,  
Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.**

The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on  
the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.  
Jesus your king is born,  
Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

O children of the forest free,  
the beloved Manitou,  
the holy child of earth and heaven  
is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.  
Jesus your king is born,  
Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

**Prayer over the Gifts:** God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory. May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer #2**

**Presider:** May 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.

*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: 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.**

**The Lord's Prayer - Gordon Light (sung)**

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

**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:**

**Presider:** We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All:** **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

**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: *Away in a Manger* (CP #126)**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from on high  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

**Prayer after Communion:** *Let us pray.*

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:** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (CP #138)

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
You, who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, Come and worship  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant Light:  
Come and worship, Come and worship  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar:  
Seek the great desire of nations;  
You have seen his natal star:  
Come and worship, Come and worship  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear.  
Come and worship, Come and worship  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Though an Infant now we view him,  
He shall fill the eternal throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:  
Come and worship, Come and worship  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

**Dismissal**

L.A.: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CCLI# 245534

*Please join us for coffee & conversation in the Hall*

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**POTLUCK LUNCHEON –AT ST. STEPHEN** - There will be a potluck lunch in the hall after the 11:15 service today. All are welcome. Please bring items to share. Oven warming is possible.

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

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**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – If you have not already done so, please pick up your box of envelopes from the table in the narthex.

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**The Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's.**

**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.*

***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, 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.

### St. Mary's Anglican Church

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