



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**



JANUARY 4, 2026 – EPIPHANY

*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

**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

HOLY EUCHARIST

Diocese of Islands and Inlets Liturgy (*V. I. Liturgy*)

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 – Joanne Lambert

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Gathering Song: *As with Gladness Men of Old* (CP #160)

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Ever more be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom Heavn and Earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that cradle rude and bare,
So may we with joyful song,
raising voices pure and strong,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun, which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our king.

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.

Melanie: 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.

Melanie: 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.

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

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

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria!

Gloria Gloria Gloria

Glory to God on high (repeat)

And on earth peace to God's people

Glory to God (repeat)

Centering Stillness:

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

The Prayer of the Day: Almighty and everliving God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

The Readings

Marian Towstego - A reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 – *Marian Towstego*

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.**

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, * **and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

11 All kings shall bow down before him, * **and all the nations do him service.**

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, * **and the oppressed who has no helper.**

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; * **he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, * **and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

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.

Sue Smith: A reading from Ephesians

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see^l what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: *The First Nowell* (CP #139 Vss 1, 2, 3 & 5)

**The First Nowell, the Angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;**

**in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:**

Refrain:

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born is the King of Israel!***

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (*refrain*)**

**And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. (*refrain*)**

**Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense (*refrain*)**

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

***Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!***

Melanie: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Melanie: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east^[b] and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘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^[d] my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Melanie: 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 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 - *Melanie Ihmels*

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 Hymn: The People That in Darkness Sat

(CP #156, Vss 1, 4, 5, 6)

**The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the Light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.**

**For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit one.**

Prayer over the Gifts: Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

(Eucharist Prayer A)

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: Great Creator, with wit and wisdom you have formed the universe.

Your Spirit brooded over all in expectation, midwife of transformation. At your Word, the skies, the seas and the lands and all life came to be.

The winds and breezes, waters, fresh and salt, calm or gale swept, beaches and tides, mountains, rain and snow, are the setting of life and teach respect for the forces of nature.

In this land the First People learned to depend upon the plants, the cedars, the sea creatures, the deer, the wolves, the bears of the forest, the sea birds, ravens and eagles for daily needs and signs of what is to come.

In ceremony and song, in dance and art, these relationships are portrayed and honoured.

All created things shared life with one another, sensing connection with one other.

When connections were dishonoured and broken, creation suffered.

Creation continues and brings light from night, freedom from slavery, and life from death.

Sanctus & Benedictus – *music, Land of Rest,*

**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: The living Word was sent to freely share sorrow and joy, pain and healing, life and death in Jesus our brother and friend.

On the night before Jesus died, he feasted with his companions. He taught them to remember how they are loved and to know his presence with them and in them always.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying,

“Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you”.

Later he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to his companions saying,

“Drink this, all of you; this is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for the world for forgiveness and healing. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me”.

Entering into the mystery of faith we call:

**People: Come, Creator.
Come, transforming Word.
Come, Breath of Life.**

Presider: We recall the offering of Jesus, guardian of your people: a birth in poverty, a child refugee, a worker with his hands, the gathering of disciples and teaching and healing the People, his power over sin and triumph over death and his sacred presence unbounded by space and time, and we offer to God this bread and cup.

Send the Breath of Life, like wind, blowing where it will, north, east, south and west. May the Breath brood over these gifts and all who feast at this table offering a foretaste of the eternal feast to come.

People: Bless and unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus that we may celebrate with all creation. Sing, mountains and valleys, fields and seas, creatures of the rivers, oceans and forests!

Presider: May all who share this poor pilgrim’s portion from bread and cup be incorporated as one body and one holy people, God’s priesthood joined in the offering of Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection for the reconciliation of all things.

Reveal the unity of your Church, the mystery of our communion with our holy forebears and all yet to be born.

By our mother Mary, Michael and all the holy angels, Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, apostles, prophets, ministers and martyrs, may we be encouraged in faith and in walking the earth gently.

People: In good time, we will walk straight on,
not looking back, not turning our head,
to enter the presence of God and all the saints.

Presider: Glory and honour to God Triune, dynamic of love, complete and perfect unity, in one holy church, now and in all ages.

People: Amen.

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.

Instrumental music during Communion

Prayer after Communion: God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. **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: *We Three Kings*

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain***

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. *Refrain***

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

Dismissal:

Leader: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the parish hall

READINGS – JANUARY 11, 2026

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST AND BIBLE STUDY – will resume on January 7th. The service begins at 10:00 a.m. and Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.

ST. STEPHEN'S 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES – For those who have requested Envelopes, or if you wish to use this method of giving please speak with Lynda Clifford or call the office at 250-652-1611 to make arrangements.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATIONS – If you would like to initiate giving through automatic debit or credit card, or adjust the amount of your current offering, please speak with Lynda.

DONATING THROUGH THE WEBSITE - You may donate to either congregation on-line by going to the parish website (**ParishCS.ca**) and clicking the “DONATE” tab on the top line. From there follow the instructions. *Please specify in the note box (this is most helpful for bookkeeping purposes) where your donation should be applied.* May be used for Outreach donations as well.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is scheduled for February 22nd, 2026. There will be a combined service at St. Mary at 10:00 a.m. followed by light refreshments and the meeting. Please bring finger foods to share. Please begin preparing your reports for submission to Leslie (lpedlow@parishcs.ca) by January 30th. We will continue with a condensed version of the Annual Report. Forward-looking reports are eagerly anticipated from:

The Incumbent

The Wardens

Outreach

Cemetery Report, 2025 Financial statements & draft 2026 budget

2025 Church Financial Statements and 2026 draft budgets

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Sarah Mullally, the next Archbishop of Canterbury; the church of the Province of Central Africa. 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 Christ Church, Alert Bay.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of Christ Church, Gabriola and the people of the Parish and surrounding community neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of Saanich Peninsula Catholic Parish.

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

Postulants: Gary & Richard

Seminarian: Melanie

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.

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:** Worshipers 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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