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 9:00 • St. Stephen Church 11:15



November 29, 2026

Join us as we worship the living Christ!

We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional lands of the W̱SÁNEĆ and Coast Salish Peoples

Continue to monitor our website - ParishCS.ca

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Incumbent

Associated Clergy
Bishop Logan McMenamie • The Ven. Bob Baillie • The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane
The Rev. Paul Schumacher • The Rev. Gil Shoesmith, deacon

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 Hope on the Advent Wreath – Lynn Schumacher
The first candle is lit as we sing:

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

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in November's dark night,
While angels sing blessings from heaven's dark sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

♫ **Gathering Song:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (CP #89)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily.
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

3. O come, o come great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law, in cloud and majesty and awe.

The Gathering of the Community
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**
Almighty God, **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.**

♫ **Hymn of Praise:** *Be Still and Know*

1. Be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God.

2. I am the Lord that healeth thee…

3. In Thee, O Lord, I put my trust…

Centering Stillness & Prayer of the Day
Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. *(Silence)*
God of unveiled truth, in times of darkened sun and waning moon, lift up our hearts and waken our love to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

THE READINGS

Isaiah 64: 1-9 – Brett Cane (SM) • Sharryl Pearce (SS)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.
Hear what the Spirit of God is saying. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18 – Greg Robinson

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

[18] Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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.**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 – Jan Bergink (SM) • Lynda Clifford (SS)

[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[4] I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5] for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— [6] just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— [7] so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8] He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Hear what the Spirit of God is saying. **Thanks be to God.**

♫ **Gradual:** ***Wait for the Lord, Whose Day is Near*** **(CP #94)**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart. (*repeat 3x)*

Mark 13:24-37 – Lynn Schumacher (SM) • Mike Philip (SS)
God be with you. **And also with you.**
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

[24] 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, [25] and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26] Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. [27] Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
[28] 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
[32] 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and

commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35] Therefore, keep awake—
for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the
evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, [36] or else he may find
you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say to all:
Keep awake.'

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

♫ **Anthem** (*St Mary Only*): **Holy Darkness** (Congregation join on chorus)

Refrain:
Holy darkness, blessed night, heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence, we embrace your holy night.

1. I have tried you in fires of affliction; I have taught your soul to grieve.
   In the barren soil of your loneliness, there I will plant my seed.
2. I have taught you the price of compassion; you have stood before the grave.
   Though my love can seem like a raging storm, this is the love that saves.
3. Were you there when I raised up the mountains? Can you guide the morning star?
   Does the hawk take flight when you give command? Why do you doubt my pow'r?
4. In your deepest hour of darkness I will give you wealth untold.
   When the silence stills your spirit, will my riches fill your soul.
5. As the watchman waits for morning, and the bride awaits her groom,
   so we wait to hear your footsteps as we rest beneath your moon.

The Apostle's Creed (*see pew insert*)

The Prayers of the People – Lynn Schumacher (SM) • Mike Philip (SS)

The Peace
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**
The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another.

♫ **Offertory: All Earth is Waiting**

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'
one whose name is 'God with us' our Saviour shall be;
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

Prayer over the Gifts

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY EUCHARIST

Book of Alternative Services – Eucharistic Prayer 3

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

♫ **Sanctus: (Aidan - John Bell)**

Holy, holy, holy God of power, and might
Heaven and Earth are full, are full of your glory.

***Refrain*: Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.** (*repeat)*

Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is the one
Coming in the name, the name of the Lord ***Refrain***

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup of wine; and 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, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore, Father, according to his command, we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory; and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread, and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

♫ **The Lord's Prayer** *(see pew insert)*

Breaking of the Bread *(Bishop Logan McMenamie)*
He who calls us to be awake and watchful is now present in this bread.
He who stands at the door and knocks is now present in this wine.
May the bread we share awaken our hearts, and the cup we drink keep hope alive within us.
The gifts of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Administration of Holy Communion
All are invited to share in the Bread or a Blessing. • Gluten Free Wafers are available upon request.
Please cross your arms at the rail if you would like a blessing.

♫ **Communion:** *Hope is a Star*

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain: When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. *Refrain*

3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. *Refrain*

4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart. *Refrain*

Prayer after Communion
God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. **Amen**

Doxology & Blessing
Glory to God, whose power 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.**

♫ **Sending Song:** *Christ be Our Light*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Chorus: **Christ be our light.**
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light.
Shine through your church, gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Chorus*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. *Chorus*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stones.

Chorus: **Christ be our light.**
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light.
Shine through your church, gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come. *Chorus*

Dismissal

♫ **Postlude –** Joanne Lambert CCLI# 245534

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the parish hall.

Front cover art:

Thank you to all who are assisting today:
St. Mary: ♫ Joanne Lambert, *Readers*: Brett Cane, Greg Robison, Jan Bergink, Lynn Schumacher, *Assistants*: Lynn Schumacher, Brett Cane, Carl Schwazer, Shirley Schwazer, 🔔 Matty Stuart, 🟤 Irene Feir
St. Stephen: ♫ Joanne Lambert, *Readers:* Sharryl Pearce, Greg Robinson, Lynda Clifford, Mike Philip, *Assistant:* Mike Philip

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A note regarding the Hymn *Holy Darkness:* As Christians, we have often been taught to associate light with goodness and darkness with evil. Light represents hope, truth, and the presence of God, while darkness is something to fear, something to escape, or something to overcome.
But the hymn *Holy Darkness* invites us to look again.
It suggests that darkness is not necessarily the absence of God. Indeed, darkness can become a sacred place where God is deeply present. There are times when we encounter God not in the brightness of certainty, but in the shadows of uncertainty, grief, vulnerability, and questioning.
Think of the darkness of the womb, where life begins; the darkness of the earth, where seeds take root; the darkness of night, when we rest and surrender our need to be in control. – *Bishop Logan McMenamie*

Parish Financial Position

The first month of our fourth quarter results show an increase in giving resulting in a healthier financial position for both St Stephen and St Mary. If the seasonally adjusted gifting continues as anticipated and expenses follow historical patterns the parish should finish the year with slim surpluses.

Financial Position as Of October 31, 2026			
Category	**St Stephen**	**St Mary**	**Parish**
Giving and donations	76,529.40	153,766.41	230,295.81
Other operating income	21,720.60	17,202.00	38,922.60
Total operating income	98,250.00	170,968.41	269,218.41
Total operating expenses	95,622.99	175,866.56	271,489.55
Projected Surplus/(Deficit)	2,627.01	-4,898.15	-2,271.14

2026 Christmas Season Events & Services

December 5	9:00-12:00 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast w/ Santa (by donation)	St Mary
December 20	9:00 & 11:15 a.m.	Lessons and Carols Service with Holy Eucharist	St Mary St Stephen
December 23	5:30 & 8:00 p.m.	Vox Humana Choir Concert: A Child's Christmas in Wales (by donation)	St. Mary
December 24	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist	St. Stephen
December 24	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist	St. Mary
December 25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service with Holy Eucharist	St. Mary
December 27	10:00 a.m.	Combined Service with Holy Eucharist	St. Stephen

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRIFTY SMILE CARDS – Please have your order to Irene by 10:00 on **Tuesday, December 8th** with payment by cash (to Irene) or cheque payable to St. Mary Church (to the office mail slot). Thank you for your support!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST W/SANTA – Catering by Fresh Cup and hosted in connection with the Saanichton Village Association, with proceeds supporting the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation. Come enjoy a pancake breakfast ($10 adult; $5 children) and take a photo with Santa! (by donation).

Where: Cooper Hall (St. Mary) • When: Saturday December 5 from 9-12p.m.

ST. MARY OUTREACH – In your offering envelope package you will find special monthly outreach envelopes. 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.

November	**Rainbow Kitchen –** Rainbow Kitchen is a hub for food security programming in the Capital Regional District providing free hot meals and facilitating food sharing to anyone in need.

ST. STEPHEN OUTREACH

November	**Christmas Hampers** – To provide grocery store gift cards to local families in need.

Help support our Parish with a donation via Canada Helps. The QR code will direct you to our donation page.

Thank you for your gift!

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OFFICE HOURS
Parish Administrator - Hannah Nickel
Monday-Thursday • 9:00-1:00
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INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the **Hong Kong Kheng Kung Hui**. We pray for Archbishop Sarah Mullally; 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 St. Peter & St. Paul, Esquimalt.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the **Parish of Holy Trinity, North Saanich,** The Rev. Denise Doerksen, and the people of the North Saanich community. We pray for the parish as they new and innovative ways to be church and blend that with their living out of Reconciliation and Social Justice.

Our Parish Clergy: Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul and Gil, Seminarian Melanie, and postulants Gary & Richard

In our Parish: We pray for Brian and Dulcie Butt, and Nancy Choat.

For those ill or in need of prayer: David Scarth, Bob Buchanan, Cathy Swinscoe, Roche M., Rev. Gil Shoesmith, Leslie P., Karen C.

For those with long-term needs: Lynn S., Brett., Jane, Paul, and Natalie.

For friends beyond the parish: Seminarian Melanie, and postulants Gary & Richard, Rudi D., Alysha, Cassidy, Lynda T., Courtney.

In the greater community: Those Who Serve & Those Who Care: We pray for municipal leaders, first responders, social workers, healthcare workers, and all who serve the common good. We pray for caregivers: for those caring for aging parents, children with additional needs, or loved ones living with illness or disability. May all who serve and care for others find strength, support, and renewal in their own lives.

Globally: Reconstruction & Recovery: We pray for communities rebuilding after earthquakes, wildfires, war, and other disasters; for families restoring their homes and livelihoods; and for schools, hospitals, and places of worship being rebuilt. We pray for all who carry the wounds of loss and trauma, and for those who offer practical and emotional support. May those who are rebuilding find strength, hope, and the resources they need to create safe and flourishing communities once again.

SCRIPTURES & READERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Isaiah 40:1-11 – Nichola Wade (SM) • Trish Bonham (SS)

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13 – Marian Towstego

2 Peter 3:8-15a – Marcia McMenamie (SM) • Jaqueline (SS)

Mark 1:1-8 – Ken Pedlow (SM) • Sean Lyon (SS)