Welcome to St. Luke Cedar Hill

The Third Sunday of Advent Pageant Sunday December 12, 2021



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We acknowledge that we gather with respect on the traditional territories of the Esquimalt, Songhees and WSÁNEĆ people, the traditional custodians of these lands.

We are grateful for their hospitality.

Welcome and Introduction (The Rev. Daniel Fournier)

Lighting of the Third Candle of the Advent Wreath

Please stand as you are able.

Reader: Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:

to you be praise and glory for ever.

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth

as a burning and shining light.

May we your servants rejoice in his light,

and so be led to witness to him

who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God.

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Confession

Priest: Merciful Father,

you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:

forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Lord Jesus,

you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:

help us also to prepare your way.Lord, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: Holy Spirit,

you speak through the prophets: make us attentive to hear your word.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Absolution:

Priest: Almighty God,

who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,

forgive you your sins,

open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn: CP 91 People Look East

(tune: Besançon)

Collect of the Day

Priest: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: God for whom we watch and wait,

you sent John the Baptist

to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth,

to hunger for justice,

and to suffer for the cause of right,

with Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

A Christmas Pageant "The Light Shines in the Darkness"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Cocks - Used with permission.

The Christmas Story According to John

Reader: Bruce Hallsor

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Then the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen God's glory, full of grace and truth. What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people. This light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(The Paschal candle is lit.)

Priest: From the yearning of the spirit, God's light was born

again in a child.

All: That Light shall never be diminished.

Praise God for the warm light of God's incarnate

love.

Carol: CP 118 O Come All Ye Faithful (first 2 verses)

First Monologue: "The Lamp Speaks"

Reader: Tara Poilievre

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

A lamp shines into the darkness,

a pinpoint of light in a dark night.

We know how our eyes will find even the tiniest spark of light when everything else around us is dark.

For light is stronger than the darkness.

At night, when a lamp is burning,

open the door on the darkness and see what happens.

The lamp light shines out and takes over a bit of the darkness.

Never does a piece of the darkness fall into a lighted room and take away some of the light.

Even a simple lamp enjoys the power of light.

Its flame allows the light to shine where we need it—into the darkest corners of house or stable.

A single lamp can show us the pathway on the darkest night, so no one stumbles while carrying a precious gift.

A lamp shining in the doorway welcomes us in from our wandering.

Its warmth pushes away our worries just like its light pushes away the dark.

The Christmas Story According to Luke Begins

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Carol: CP 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1, 3 and 4)

The First Monologue Continues: "The Lamp Speaks Again"

But what is a lamp without hands to strike the match and light the wick?

A lamp cannot light itself.

What is a lamp without hands to hold it up so its light shines into those dark corners?

A lamp cannot light itself high.

What is a lamp without hands to open the door and let the lamplight shine out into the darkness?

A lamp cannot open the door.

A lamp needs a life to look into the darkness and see who needs light to brighten their path.

A lamp needs a life to light the wick and set the light shining.

A lamp needs a life to open the door and hold it up high,

a life that will welcome a stranger into the light, into the warmth, into a heart and a hearth.

All: O God, shine your light into our lives on these dark days of winter.

Warm our hearts so that we will open our doors to your love.

May ours be the lives that shine light into the dark corners of your world.

May ours be the lives that welcome you to be born again in our midst this Christmas.

Amen.

The Second Monologue: "The Manger Speaks"
Reader: Barb Prescott

What is a manger?
Just a few pieces of wood, nailed together,
to serve a good purpose.
That's all a manger is.
Just a set of wooden arms,
strong enough to hold a new bundle of hay each day.
Still, a manger protects its bed of hay, keeps it clean and dry,
keeps the mice away.

A manger stands guard to offer its food, its source of life, to animals who rely on its steady footing.

That manger always stands ready

for whoever needs its nourishing cargo.

That manger will open its wooden arms to welcome the hungry lives which gather round it, lives that trust the manger holds what they need for the future.

The Christmas Story According to Luke Continues The Birth of Jesus

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol: CP 126 - Away in a Manger

The Second Monologue continues: "The Manger Speaks Again"

But how can a manger become a cradle for more than a bundle of hav? Can it be a cradle without hands to prepare the bed and welcome more precious cargo? Can a manger become a cradle without hands to lay a newborn to rest, hands which settle and soothe and tend new life? Can a manger be a cradle without hands. tiny and perfect, reaching up, reaching out for attention, for warmth, for love? A cradle needs a life to smooth the bed and smooth the forehead. A cradle needs a life to rock the baby and sing the soothing lullaby. A cradle needs a life to shelter, resting its tiny head, trusting itself to the manger's wooden arms and the mother's willing arms.

All:
O God, may our lives cradle your love this Christmas as we smile on the baby Jesus. May our love become a shelter for those who turn to us for protection. May our arms offer the welcome every stranger needs, in the name of Jesus who reaches out to us from the manger.

Amen.

The Third Monologue: "The Staff Speaks"
Reader: Kathleen Patterson

Not much goes into a staff.

It's cut from a tree and carved to be useful out there in the wild. A staff is just a walking stick, sturdy and dependable, something to lean on if you're weary.

A staff gives that extra footing when the path is slippery, or your knee is stiff and sore, feeling the weather on a cold, damp night.

For a shepherd, a staff offers a bit of support along a rocky path.

That staff gives an occasional prod to remind a stubborn sheep to move along to next green pasture.

And a staff with a bit of a curve comes in handy when a wayward lamb gets stuck in a crevice or a muddy patch in the field.

The Christmas Story According to Luke Continues The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Solo: Nativity Carol (Daniel)

The Third Monologue continues: "The Staff Speaks Again"

But what is a staff without hands to grip it firmly?
What is a staff without hands to place it wisely for sure support?
What is a staff without hands to prod that sheep gently
through the winding valley?
Hands to hook the crook around the silly lamb
that got stuck and pull it to safety?
A staff needs a life to test its strength.
A staff needs a life to lean on its dependability.
A staff needs a life who knows the sheep
and sees how they go astray.
A staff needs a life unafraid of the danger,
a life to kneel down and rescue the lamb,
pulling it free, guiding it on the way.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, we have come to find you this Christmas.

Be our staff to lean on when we lose our footing. Be our guide when we cannot find our way. Pull us free from danger.

Saviour, rescue us with the light of your love. Be our strength now and in the year ahead, so that we may walk with your courage and compassion, come what may.

Amen.

Carol: CP 148 See Amid the Winter Snow

The Fourth Monologue: "A Gift Speaks"
Reader: Gillian Bloom

Christmas is a time of gift giving.

Think of all the gifts wrapped up and waiting under your tree. Each gift is a piece of love chosen for someone special. Each gift is a piece of hope waiting to change someone's life. A gift is that little piece of joy given to make someone smile.

The Christmas Story According to Matthew

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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 aifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Carol: CP 146 Huron Carol

The Fourth Monologue continues: "A Gift Speaks Again"

Yet what is a gift without hands to present it?
What is a gift without hands to unwrap it?
What is a gift without hands to hold it up in wonder,
to cherish it, to play with it,
to touch the love it bears and make that love your own?
A gift needs a life to give it.
A gift needs a life to unwrap the love inside

and share that love outside, with all who wonder how love can give so much.

The Christ Child is a life born for us, born with us, to offer us God's gift.

The Christ Child is a gift, with love for each one of us so wonderful that we can share that love with others and never have the love run out.

Christ is the gift God gives today.

Christ is the gift we receive today.

Unwrap this gift for yourself and share this gift of love with everyone whose life touches yours.

Offertory Carol: CP 122 In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Offertory Prayer

Priest: Generous and loving God,

your gift to us in Christ Jesus

still opens our hearts with wonder. Bless these gifts given in his name,

so that they may draw others to your love

and the blessings we have found in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Led by Bruce Hallsor In response to the words, "God who is coming to us and who is here," the community prays, "Hear our prayer."

God of the starry heavens and the good old earth, We pray as we enter these later days of Advent. Today we have told your story in this Pageant, Of a newborn reaching out to us, to bring a smile to our lips and hope to our hearts. Thank you for your tenderness with which you touch our lives.

Today, we pray for peace:

Peace in all the places where there is anger or war or fear...

Peace in all the hearts that know sorrow or stress... We pray for people who will not sleep safely

because of conflict in their lives.....

Cradle all these people in your safety this day – Help to find long term solutions to homelessness.

God who is coming to us and who is here,

All: Hear our prayer.

Today, as we remember the Mary rocking her baby, we pray for all children born in this season.

Watch over mothers and fathers and grandparents, hoping for the best for their newborns...
Help us create communities where every child is valued and every family has enough ...
May families rejoice because Christ the Saviour Comes for each of us and for all of us.

God who is coming to us and who is here,

All: Hear our prayer.

Today, we pray for all those watching over the helpless and the hopeless...
Be with all those who must work in these darker colder days, to keep the world safe and to care for those in need....
Be with those who are sick or sad or lonely so each one will know your comforting presence...

God who is coming to us and who is here,

All: Hear our prayer.

God of the starry heavens and the good old earth, Eternal God, God who is coming, God with us, Today, as we we anticipate the Christmas season, Shepherds coming in haste, and the wise men coming in wonder, open our hearts to reach out to the Christ Child, to receive the gift you will offer us in him, even as we offer our love to you in his name. Bless us in the time ahead so we can share your love with all the lives that touch ours.

God who is coming to us and who is here,

All: Hear our prayer.

Priest: And now in one voice we pray the prayer that Jesus taught:

All: 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.

Carol CP 137 What Child Is This

Benediction:

Priest: Can you be a voice crying in the wilderness?

Can you proclaim that God is active in the world?

All: Maybe?

Priest: The time is near, of the crowning of the year.

All: We sing with angels,

setting the roadways and the buildings humming.

Priest: As people who are being changed,

we go into a world that is being changed.

All: Ready to share the Good News

that the long expected Jesus is coming, that we are being freed from whatever binds us.

Priest: Glory be to God!

Who walks with us, sings with us,

and struggles with us,

All: each and every day.

Priest: And the blessing of our loving God,

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Sending Forth Hymn: CP 95 O Come, Divine Messiah

(tune: Venez, Divin Messie)

Page 13

Dismissal

Priest: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

All: In the name of Christ.

Postlude

Thank you to all who helped with this service: Presider: Rev. Daniel Fournier; Liturgical Assistant: Sean Tiernay; Reader and Intercessions: Bruce Hallsor; Monologue Readers: Tara Poilievre, Barb Prescott, Kathleen Patterson, Gillian Bloom; Musicians: David Berry, Patricia Bates, Olivia Craster, Daniel Fournier, Genevieve Richards, Matthew Robertson, and Maria Ross; Sidespersons: Harry and Barb Felsing; Creation of Prayers of Intercession: Joan Scandrett; Videographers: Martin White and Neil Patterson; Service Planning and Service Outline: Daniel Fournier; Proofreading, Posting Bulletin and Livestream Link at the Website: Barb Prescott; Posting the Link at Facebook: Sharon McMillan; Printing Readings and Bulletins: Andrew Lloyd.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS Dec. 12th – Dec. 19th (**New Items, *Revised Items)

Welcome to David Berry – We welcome David Berry back to the organ bench again this morning. Susanne is taking a well-deserved leave of absence this month and into the new year. During this unpaid sabbatical, please keep Susanne in your prayers, while she spends time with her family to recharge. This is her first big break from weekly organist/choir director duties at St. Luke's since 2009.

Coffee Time via Zoom will start at 11:45 am after the inperson and livestreamed service. Watch for the link, which will be sent out by e-mail and join us in your home via Zoom. Hope to see you there. *Please register for next Sunday's 10 am Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent by phoning (250-477-6741) or e-mailing the office (admin@ stlukecedar hill.ca) before 11 am this Friday. (This will help us manage our capacity limits at this time.) You will need to wear a mask, be distanced in the church except within family groups or established bubbles, and use hand sanitizer when entering the church. The services will be livestreamed and recorded as well as being in-person. The Bishop encourages those who are unvaccinated to watch the online services.

**Christmas Services at St. Luke's will be at 4 pm, 7 pm, and 10 pm on Christmas Eve, and at 10 am on Christmas Day. You will need to register for the Christmas Eve services. You will not need to register ahead for the Christmas Day service. Please register for the Christmas Eve services by calling (250-477-6741), e-mailing St. Luke's office or register online at EventBrite. See the link at the Events page of St. Luke's website. The capacity limit for the Christmas Eve services is 80 people per service.

**Christmas Stocking Project and Outreach Donations This Month – We have changed our priorities this year for the Christmas Stocking Project and decided to support a local project. The money from the Christmas Stocking will be directed towards the Shelbourne Community Kitchen Pantry Program to help people locally who need support in obtaining fresh, healthy food. As well, donations which you include in your PWRDF envelopes or direct to PWRDF will be sent to the PWRDF to be used to support people in BC who have suffered losses from the recent floods. Please consider making donations to these worthwhile projects this month.

**Wind in the Willows with St. Luke's Players via Zoom — Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 pm. Don't miss this new twist on a classic story. You're sure to enjoy the homicidal badger, manic toad, sneaky weasels, car crashes, train chases, and a boatload of laughs! Tickets are \$10.00 (plus additional donation option) and are available through Eventbrite. See link at the Events page of St. Luke's website. A link to the Zoom

production will be provided once you have registered with Eventbrite and bought a ticket. Net proceeds will be donated to Hospice.

Christmas with Edie Daponte – Sunday, December 19th at 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm at Church of the Cross – A fundraiser for the Shelbourne Community Kitchen. Celebrate the holiday season with vocalist Edie DaPonte and the smooth musical rhythms of the Bob Watts Trio. Featuring musical styles from jazz to gospel and spanning several musical genres, everything from jazz standards to holiday favourites. A generous anonymous donor has offered to match all funds raised through this event, up to a total of \$25,000! What a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays, to double the impact of your donations, and do some good in our community. Tickets: \$20/person available online via Canada Helps. See the Events page of St. Luke's website for more information.

Longest Night Service – Tuesday, December 21st, 7 pm – The service this year will be held on the actual longest night of the year. Whether you have experienced loss in your life or simply are finding it difficult to enter into Christmas this year for whatever reason. Come and enter gently into a quiet holy time. This Longest Night Service, a service of Light in the Midst of Darkness, is open to everyone. You are welcome to invite a friend to come and share with you in this service of remembrance and hope.

2022 Contributor Boxes – Your box of envelopes for 2022 is available to be picked up from the church or the church office. If you are not able to come to church or the church office, please e-mail (admin@stlukecedarhill.ca) or call St. Luke's Office (250-477-6741) and we will arrange for someone to drop off your box. Even if you contribute by ECP (Electronic Collection Plate), please pick up your box. If at some point during the year you wish to make a donation for a special event or cause, such as for flowers, outreach, or a seasonal donation at Christmas or Easter, please use one of your envelopes for that additional donation.

*Repairs to the Rock Walls in the Cemetery Have Taken Place – These repairs cost just under \$10,000. We welcome donations towards these repairs and to the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery. Thank you to parishioners, friends, and descendants of those resting in the cemetery who have made recent contributions. Donations to date for the rock wall repair total \$5,514.00, more than half way to paying the cost of these repairs. If writing a cheque, please make your cheque payable to St. Luke's Church, noting on the cheque and your donation envelope that it is for the cemetery (and the rock wall repair). You can also make an online donation by credit card through Canada Helps. See more information and pictures at the News page of St. Luke's website.

Thank You for Your Support for the Ongoing Ministry of St. Luke's Church through your offerings by writing a cheque, making a donation online through Canada Helps, and by signing up for ECP. Note that the offerings will now be taken forward to the altar each Sunday during the service, but we aren't allowed to pass around the collection plate at this time. If you miss putting in your donation as you enter the church, donations left in the collection plates after the service will also be collected.

*From Advent to Epiphany – In this second reflection, Bishop Anna brings the wilderness prophets of old forward into our time to confront the pride and hypocrisy of our day. Watch this video at the News page of St. Luke's website. These two minute videos will be available at St. Luke's website each Thursday through to Epiphany.

Welcome to Laura Stear, who is working for us for two months through a Canada Summer Jobs Grant. She will be continuing work on the St. Luke's Library in the Lounge, researching the history of our stained glass windows and of people buried in St. Luke's cemetery, and continuing with archival work and other miscellaneous projects.

The December Issue of Diocesan Post is available to read online at the link sent by e-mail or from the News page of St. Luke's website. You should also receive a paper copy in the mail. Copies are available in the church as well.

*Country Grocer Save A Tape Program Update – Please continue to collect your Country Grocer receipts and turn them in to the Church Office, mail them to the Church Office, or put them in an envelope in the mail slot. We have now collected \$5,000.23 in grocery receipts and have reached our first goal of \$5,000 in receipts to receive a \$50.00 gift certificate. As of December 9th, we have \$4,356.67 towards our next goal of \$5,000 to receive a second \$50.00 gift certificate. Please keep dropping off your receipts so we can reach another \$5,000. See more information at the News page of St. Luke's website.

Stamps for Cookware for the Shelbourne Community
Kitchen – St. Luke's is collecting the stamps from Thrifty Foods
for the Vivo pots and pans promotion. The stamps collected will
be used to buy pots and pans for Shelbourne Community
Kitchen. The stamps can be put in an envelope and dropped off
at the office or put in the mail box by the hall front door. While
the promotion runs until March 2, 2022, the Kitchen is planning
to give away some pots and pans at Christmas so we hope to
have some pans for them by then.

Fairway Market Community Shopping Cards – We have now received our first payment of \$274.49. Please continue to use your reloadable Fairway Market Community Shopping Card so that St. Luke's can receive 5% from Fairway Market for every dollar loaded on the card. To join in this program, please pick up your reloadable card from St. Luke's Office. Please contact St. Luke's office or talk to Brenda Morgan for more information or visit the Fundraising page of St. Luke's website.

A Student Looking for a Place to Rent in the Gordon Head area contacted St. Luke's Office. She is looking for a bachelor's or 1 bedroom suite, with a budget of around \$1200. She is a

Mathematics student, who tutors children and also teaches music/theory. If you have a suite or know of one which is available, the student's contact information is available through St. Luke's Office.

**Grace Lutheran Church is Seeking a Custodian to join their team. This is a part-time contract position of 8 hours per week, beginning January 3, 2022. Duties will include keeping their building in orderly condition and liaising with the Administrative Assistant regarding cleaning tasks. If you wish to receive a complete job description and apply, send a note of interest to hiring@gracelutheranvictoria.ca. Include what has attracted you to the position, and any related work or personal experience you could bring to the job.

IN THE WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN PRAYER CYCLE, we pray for The Anglican Church of Canada - The Most Revd Linda Nicholls, Primate. In the Canadian ACC/ELCIC Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary's Office; Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator: Dawn Maracle. Animator, Indigenous Justice - Interim (ACC) and for Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the National Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation, and the staff of Communications; Kyle Giesbrecht, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration (ELCIC). In our Diocesan Prayer Cycle, we pray for Anna. our Bishop, and for the congregation of Holy Trinity, North Saanich, and their priest, Ian Powell. We also pray for Lutheran Church of the Cross and Pastor Lyle and Pastor Lyndon, and for the Diocese of Yukon and Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame.

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phone: 250-477-6741.

We hope you will visit again!

Rector: The Reverend Daniel Fournier

E-mail: incumbent@stlukecedarhill.ca

For Pastoral Care Needs, please contact the office

Parish Administrator: Andrew Lloyd Office Phone: 250-477-6741

Office E-mail: admin@stlukecedarhill.ca

Wardens: **Heather Simpson**

> Sharon McMillan Brenda Morgan

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY December 19, 2021

Advent Lessons and Carols Service

Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25 Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Micah 6: 6-8 Isaiah 65: 17-25

Luke 1: 26-38

FLOWERS

Flowers at St. Luke's are coordinated by Ann Séguin.

Please contact Ann if you would like to make a donation towards flowers at the Christmas services. There are no flowers during Advent.