

Welcome to
St. Luke Cedar Hill
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025 – 10 am
Holy Eucharist

Fourth
Sunday
of
Advent



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We acknowledge that we gather with respect on the traditional territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples, known in our day as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, the traditional custodians of these lands. We are grateful for their hospitality.

Picture on the Front Page:

Fourth Sunday of Advent, designed by Sharon McMillan

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Please stand as you are able.

Priest: May God be with you.

All: And also with you

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting for Week Four

Priest: Holy God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Saviour of every nation.

All: Amen.

Voice 1 Because too many people are wandering
in the wilderness,
because too many people are sitting in the valley of the
shadow of death,
because too many of our conversations are laced
with conflict and bitterness, we light candles...

Voice 2 Because people all over the world are suffering, and
we're often too distracted to notice, we light candles...

Voice 1 One for hope, one for peace, one for joy,
and one for love...

(Light the fourth candle in the Advent wreath.)

Voice 2 May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

Voice 1 May the light from these candles illuminate the valley
of the shadow of death.

Voice 2 And may the fire from these candles burn away
whatever would prevent God's love
from being born among us.

Voice 1 Friends, be not afraid, even now — even now —
God's love is overwhelming the world,
on earth as it already is in heaven!

Hope Is a Star
(by Brian Wren)

(Fourth Verse)

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

Welcome and Introduction (*The Rev. Daniel Fournier*)

Opening Hymn: CP 89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(tune: *Veni Emmanuel*)

Invitation to Confession

Priest: Dear friends,
doubt and confusion are not unique to us,
even in matters essential to our faith.
People have long asked for signs from God
when they are in turmoil.
Joseph's deep question about Mary
is the focus of today's Gospel.
His moving forward on the strength of answers
given in a dream should be a source
of deep encouragement for us.
Serious questions are not inappropriate;
in fact, they can lead to amazing answers and events.
As we enter into this Fourth Sunday of Advent,
let us search our hearts as we confess...

Silence is kept.

Kyrie Confession (*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy*)

Priest: Lord Jesus, you entered life in an unexpected way:
Kyrie eleison.

All: Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Priest: Christ Jesus, you came in a situation of question and doubt:
Christe eleison.

All: Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you were embraced in acceptance and love:
Kyrie eleison.

All: Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Priest: The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Collect of the Day

Priest: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Shepherd of Israel,
who by a dream guided your servant Joseph
to embrace your promise of salvation:
lead us in the way of grace and peace,
so that we may bear your promise into the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7: 10-16

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80: 1-7, 16-18

*Response: **Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved***

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. **(Response)**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink. **(Response)**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. **(Response)**

Let your hand be upon the one of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. **(Response)**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 1: 1-7

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia *(sung 4 times)*

[From: Norah Duncan; GIA Publications, Inc.]

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1: 18-25

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the gospel:

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Hymn: CP 117 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

(tune: Es ist ein' Ros)

Homily: The Rev. Daniel Fournier *(Please be seated.)*

Anthem: "Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth"

Please stand as you are able.

An Affirmation of Faith *[Based on "A Liturgical Affirmation",
from A New Zealand Prayer Book]*

Leader: We declare our faith as we say:

**All: You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Sitting, standing or kneeling, as is your custom.

Let us offer our prayers to God for the life of the world
and for all God's people in their daily life and work.

IN THE WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN PRAYER CYCLE,
we pray today for the Anglican Church of Burundi,
The Most Revd Sixbert Macumi, Primate. **Locally we**
pray for Anna, our Bishop, and Christ Church
Cathedral, and the Very Reverend Jonathan Thomas.
We also pray for Lutheran Church of the Cross and
Pastor Lyndon, **and for** the Diocese of Kootenay and
Bishop Lynne McNaughton.

Come, Christ Jesus,
be a guest in our hearts and our homes this Christmas.
Enter our lives today with your blessing.
We are grateful for the wonder you bring
into a world so full of anger and criticism.

Draw near to us in friendship and faithfulness,
so that in this season of celebration,
we may know your presence
and can sing with all your people:

Jesus, Emmanuel:

All: we open our hearts to you.

Come, Christ Jesus,
be our guide through the darkening days
and the chill of winter.
Show us the way to wisdom and gratitude.
We are thankful for the kindness we know
in friends and good neighbours,
in warm houses and warm smiles.
Encourage us to reach out
to those who need your embrace and ours,
so that together we may sing of your presence:

Jesus, Emmanuel:

All: we open our hearts to you.

Come, Christ Jesus,
be our hope in the uncertain times
in which we find ourselves.
Touch us with your healing and grace.
We remember before you those we know
and those known to you alone
who are living with loss or illness this season,
those who face depression or discouragement,
and any who will find it hard to be merry this year.

Keep silence for 15-20 seconds.

Shine the light of your courage
and comfort into their lives
so that we may sing together in your love:

Jesus, Emmanuel:

All: we open our hearts to you.

Come, Christ Jesus,
be our king and claim your rightful place in our hearts.
Our world is struggling
and yearning for the justice and mercy you bring.
Draw near to all leaders
and all citizens working for peace and justice.
Encourage honourable action
and co-operation on all sides.
Give hope to people under oppression
and those who live with fear or hunger day by day.
Hasten the day when the world's peoples
will live as neighbours,
reconciled in your truth and freedom
so that all may know the joy we sing:

Jesus, Emmanuel:

All: we open our hearts to you.

In this time – first in silence, we offer our prayers for
those who have asked us to pray for them...

Jesus, Emmanuel:

All: we open our hearts to you.

Good and gracious God,
hear the prayers of your people this day.
Satisfy the longing of our hearts,
bless us with the knowledge of your lasting love for us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All: Amen.

Invitation and Peace (*Please stand as you are able.*)

Priest: The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus
and with all those who love him.
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.
It is the table of communion with the earth
in which Christ became incarnate.

So, come to this table, you who have faith
and you who would like to come to know it more.
You who have been to this sacrament often,
and you who have not been for a long time.
You who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed.
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

As we prepare to come to the table
let us exchange a sign of peace with one another.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: CP 95 O Come, Divine Messiah

(tune: Venez, Divin Messie)

The Preparation of the Table

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest: Gracious God,
by the power of the Spirit
who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Amen

*Please remain standing for the whole Eucharistic Prayer,
as you are able.*

Eucharistic Prayer

[Source: Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000): Eucharistic Prayer A. - The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.]

Priest: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Priest: It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For when he humbled himself
to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed
before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices
with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and singing:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! (x2)
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is the one
coming in the name, the name of our God.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! (x2)**
[From: St. Aidan Setting; John Bell, The Iona Community]

Priest: Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example
and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ
your Son our Lord.

**All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

Ameni, ameni, amen, amen, amen, ameni. (repeat)

[From: Young men; Christ the New Man Parish, Ga-Rankuwa, South Africa; GIA Publications, Inc.]

The Lord's Prayer

Priest: In the words that our Saviour taught us, we pray:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us. (twice)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**

[From: St. Bride Setting; John Bell, The Iona Community]

The Giving of Communion

Priest: God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please follow the directions of the sides-people as the congregation is invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine.

If you would prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing. Crossing your hands over your chest will signal the priest to give you a blessing instead.

NOTE: *Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

Please remain seated as we sing the hymns during communion.

Hymns during Communion:

Holy Jesus Child

arr Patterson

O Ancient Love

(tune: Bedford Abbey)

- O ancient love, processing through the ages;
O hidden love, revealed in human form;**
- O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:
O living Love, within our hearts be born.**
- O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;
O hungry love, that lay within the manger;
O living Love, within our hearts be born.**
- O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow;
O living Love, within our hearts be born.**
- O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;
O boundless love, that rises with the morn;
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness;
O living Love, within our hearts be born.**

Prayer after Communion *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Priest: Faithful God,
in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.
May we, like the Virgin Mary,
be obedient to your will.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Amen.

Priest: Glory to God

**All: 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.**

Announcements *(Please be seated.)*

Blessing *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Priest: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
Go with us now into the world.
We can begin again!
Everything is about to change.
So make everything new. Make us new.
Reveal your glory in our lives
and in the rhythms of our lives,
so that nothing will get in the way of your coming

The blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: CP 131 Love Came Down at Christmas
(tune: Hermitage)

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Thank you to all who assisted with today's service.

In the Anglican-Lutheran-Moravian Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Rt. Rev. Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, and the staff of Indigenous Ministries; the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples; Dawn Maracle, Indigenous Justice Animator (Anglican); **for** Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the National Bishop, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Peter Wall, Assistant to the National Bishop for Worship (Lutheran); **and for** the Rev. Sue Keonig, Director, and team of Northern Province Racial Justice and Healing (Moravian).

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS
December 21st – December 28th
(New Items, *Revised Items)**

****There will not be a Coffee Time after today's service.**

Coffee Times will resume next Sunday, December 28th in the Sequoia Lounge.

***Longest Night Service – Tonight, December 21st at 7 pm**
This time of year can be **difficult** for many people because of loss or changes in our lives. **This service of light in the midst of darkness is an opportunity to come and enter gently into a quiet holy time, and is open to everyone.** You are welcome to invite a friend to come and share with you in this service of remembrance and hope.

***Christmas Services at St. Luke's – Christmas Eve services will be at 4 pm (Christingle service, a child-friendly service with Christingle oranges for the children) and 8 pm (Choral Eucharist) with a pre-service Carol Sing starting at 7:45 pm. Come and sing some of your Christmas favourites before the service starts at 8 pm.** The 8 pm service will also include music by St. Luke's Handbell Choir. **The Christmas Day Service will be a Family Communion Service at 10 am.**

***Invitation Cards are available at the back of the Church –** Please use the invitation card to **invite a friend or neighbour to the special services through Advent and over Christmas.** Or post the card on your fridge to remind you of the services over Christmas. Invitation cards for the Christingle service, 8 pm Christmas Eve Service, and the Longest Night Service are also on the table at the back of the church.

***The church office will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25th and Boxing Day, December 26th.** The office will open on December 29th at 9 am.

****Next Sunday, December 28th, there will be one service at 10 am.** It will be a Service of the Word, led by Sean Tiernay. There will not be an 8 am service next Sunday.

2026 Contributor Boxes are available at the back of the church. If you donate only via the PAR or by e-transfer, or just a couple of times a year, we didn't order a box for you this year. **If you would a box of weekly envelopes, would like monthly envelopes, or find out how to donate via the PAR (Pre-Authorized Givings from your bank account) please talk to the Treasurer, Barb Prescott,** or send an e-mail to givings@stlukecedarhill.ca.

***Donations Towards St. Luke's Grand Piano –** We now have purchased a Baldwin Model R Artist Grand Piano, as approved by Parish Council at our November Council meeting. While this is a wonderful addition to St. Luke's music program and will help make the space very suitable for concerts and recitals, this expenditure was not included when we approved this year's budget at our AGM in February. **So we would greatly appreciate donations towards the \$6,500 which was spent for the piano, its cost (\$6,000) plus the moving costs to bring it to St. Luke's (\$500).** To make a donation, please make a donation in one of your special donation envelopes or via an e-transfer and note that the donation is towards the grand piano. We are hoping to recover the cost of the piano through donations and fundraising. **Thank you for your**

donations to date. So far we have received \$2,645 in donations with more pledged.

Donations for Flowers for Christmas – The Altar Guild invites your **donations for flowers for the Christmas services**. Donations can be made in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special event, or simply as a thanks offering. **Donations can be handed in to the office, or added to the collection plate.** If you would like a tax donation receipt for your donation, please use one of your donation envelopes, and mark "flowers " or Altar Guild on it. Please make cheques payable to St. Luke's. For more information, please contact Ann Séguin.

***Advent Messages from the Bishop** – Bishop Anna is sharing Advent messages each Sunday. Interestingly, she has recorded the messages in St. Luke's Church. **In the Third Sunday of Advent message, Bishop Anna encourages us to listen deeply to Mary's message in the Magnificat** and her hope for a world where the lowly are lifted up as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus in the places we may not expect this Christmas season. This video, and the videos from the first two Sundays of Advent, can be found at the **News page of St. Luke's website.**

The Shelbourne Community Kitchen's Donate and Double Your Impact campaign is back. Between now and December 31st, **the first \$20,000 donated will be matched by an incredible group of supporters**, doubling the impact of every gift. With the strength of bulk purchasing, fresh produce from our gardens, and a powerhouse volunteer team, your contribution stretches even further to support community members. This is one of the most important campaigns of the year for The Kitchen, and they're so grateful for your support **Let's make this holiday season unforgettable by doubling The Kitchen's impact together!** See more information and a link to make a donation are at the **News page of St. Luke's website.**

***Christmas Stocking Project** – As we have done in previous years, we have chosen a World of Gifts Project through Alongside Hope (previously called the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) as our Christmas Stocking Project. **We started our Christmas Stocking Project on the first Sunday in Advent, and it will continue to Christmas Day.** Our project will be buying donkeys for families in Kenya - sorry, no goats on the list this year! You are invited to **drop your gold coins (Loonies or Toonies) into the Christmas stocking at the back of the church or to put a special donation into the collection plate labelled "Donkeys Project"**. Money designated in the collection or collected in the stocking from now to Christmas Day will be sent to Alongside Hope to buy donkeys for families in Africa. Each donkey costs \$160. Thanks for your donations to date. **So far we have received \$200, which will pay for 1¼ donkeys.**

***St. Luke's Players Panto Tickets** – Tickets for St. Luke's Panto, Jack and the Beanstalk, are available now through EventBrite. It will be a traditional panto suitable for ages 3 -103 with singing, dancing, opportunities to join in the fun and lots of laughter. This year some actors are playing instruments. Dates are: Matinees at 2 pm on December 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and January 1. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. See more information at the **Events page of St. Luke's website.**

Sunday Coffee Times – We are pleased that Rebecca Ford is able to do our set up and cleanup for Sunday coffee times. We are paying Rebecca \$50/Sunday to look after coffee times for us, an expense we didn't put into this year's budget. **If you are able to make an extra donation in your envelopes and note that it is for coffee time that would be helpful.** Thank you for your donations to date. **To date, we have received \$745 in donations towards coffee time.**

The next Silver and Sage 55+ Gathering will be Thursday, January 8th from 1:30 – 3:30 pm in the church. The topic will be Sitting is the New Smoking. Susanne Reul-Zastre will lead this session.

Welcome To St. Luke Cedar Hill



Thank you for visiting today.
For more information about St. Luke's,
visit St. Luke's website:
<https://www.stlukesvictoria.ca>,
send an e-mail: admin@stlukecedarhill.ca,
or 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

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Claire White

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY December 28th, 2025

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2: 10-18

Matthew 2: 13-23

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.