

Church of the Advent

Anglican Christian Witness on Victoria's Westshore

510 Mt View Avenue, Victoria BC V9B 2B1 | 250-474-3031 | Fax 250-474-4097

www.colwoodanglican.ca | office@colwoodanglican.ca | rector@colwoodanglican.ca

***Together in Christ we seek to love God
and to love and serve all others***

The Right Rev Dr. Logan McMenamie, Bishop

The Rev Sandra Hounsell-Drover

Rev Paul Schumacher, Deacon

December 24, 2017

CHORAL CHRISTMAS MASS



Christmas Day Service 10:30

Sunday Services are at 8:30 a.m. (Traditional Rite)

10:00 a.m.(Contemporary)

Celtic Eucharist and Gospel Discussion Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

If you are a newcomer, please identify yourself to the Sidespersons or priest so we can welcome you and tell you about our church.

We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast and Straits Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.

The Rev Sandra Hounsell-Drover preaches and presides tonight.

10:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE

*Liturgical Assistant - **Mike Armstrong***

*Crucifer – **Peter Hounsell-Drover***

*Sides People – **Lydia & John French & Lorne & Sheila Dearsley***

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Choral Prelude music by the Parish Choir

~Prepare to Receive Him, from the Christmas Oratorio BWV 248 by J. S. Bach

~A La Nanita Nana, Traditional Spanish Carol, arr. By R. E. Schram

Opening Sentence: I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Opening Hymn: **CP 123 Once in Royal David's City**

Verse 1 – Solo Mary Wills - soprano

(All) He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.

With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high, when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.

WELCOME

The Advent Wreath

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Where the Promise Shines:

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan Music by Bob Moore
Setting by Joel Raney

Christmas Eve - The Promise of Arrival – Tim Hamblin

Responsive Litany

*congregation reads the bold text

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!

Tonight, we long to worship the newborn king.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!

Tonight, we long to hear the good news proclaimed by the angels.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!

Tonight, we long to receive the promise foretold.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!

Candle Lighting

Tonight we light all the candles. The **first candle** ignites the thrill of hope in the hearts of weary people. The **second candle** shines peace that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world. The **third candle** expresses the joy of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The **fourth candle** shines with grace and new life in God's unconditional love. Tonight, we light the **Christ candle** in celebration of our Messiah's birth. As God's promises continue to shine, we echo the words shared through the ages – Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!

Congregation response song:

Lead us on, lead us on – to a morning where the promise shines.

Lead us on, lead us on – to a morning where the promise shines.

To a morning where the promise shines.

Closing Prayer...

Gracious God, **in the wonder of this night we hear the Christmas proclamation. The cry of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," has become "Joy to the World!" Like the shepherds on that starry night when in a**

moment of majestic humility, may we now come to worship Christ the newborn king. Amen.

Collect of the Day: Eternal God,
this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus
Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)

Carolyn Hamar

Psalm 96: Today Is Born Our Saviour

Refrain *congregation

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Verse 1 Choir:

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all you lands.

Sing to the Lord; bless his name. **Refrain**

Verse 2 Choir:

Announce his salvation, day after day.

Tell his glory among the nations;

Among all the peoples, his wondrous deeds. **Refrain**

Verse 3 Choir:

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;

let the sea and what fills it resound;

let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!

Then shall all the trees of the forest exult. **Refrain**

Verse 4 Choir:

They shall exult before the Lord, for he comes;

for he comes to rule the earth. He shall rule the world with justice and

the peoples with his constancy. **Refrain.**

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Second Reading **Titus (2:11-14)**

Lydia French

Gospel Hymn: **CP 122 In the Bleak Midwinter**

Vss 1 & 2 before the Gospel Vss 3 & 4 after the Gospel

Gospel: **Luke 2:1-14**

Rev Paul Schumacher

The Lord be with You. **And Also with you!**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (2:1-14)

Sermon:

The Rev Sandra Hounsell-Drover

Prayers of the People –

Sheila Dearsley

Refrain: **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth.**

The Peace -

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn: **CP 148 See Amid the Winter's Snow**

Prayer over the gifts – Source of light and gladness, **accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever. Amen**

Eucharist Prayer #3

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Sanctus – (Sussex Carol) from Carol Mass arr. By Rupert Lang.

The musical score is for the Sanctus (Sussex Carol) from the Carol Mass, arranged by Rupert Lang. It is written in G major and 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 52. The score is in treble clef and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Introduction Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Glo - ry to You, O Lord most high. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!" The score includes dynamic markings such as *All f*, *mf*, *rit.*, *ff*, and *molto rit.* The title "Sussex Carol" is written in the top right corner.

Communion Distributors: Linda & Bill Van Sickle & Sheila Dearsley

During Communion: Kathy Middleton, soprano: *The Virgin's Slumber Song* by Max Reger op. 76 no. 52

**Parish Choir: *Star of Wonder Christmas Star* by Gene Grier & David Bryant
Nativity Carol by Francis Patrick O'Brien**

Prayer after communion: Father of all, **tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CP 119 Silent Night

candle lighting hymn

COMMISSIONING

Go now with joy in your hearts and peace in your mind.
Go now, looking into each other's eyes as you would the eyes of the baby Jesus. Go now with gifts received from God, and gifts of love for one another. **We Go in Peace. Thanks be to God.**

Commissioning Hymn: CP 118 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*A Very Merry
And
Blessed Christmas
To You
And your Family*

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

First Reading A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading A reading from the letter to Titus (2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel:

The Lord be with You.

And Also with you!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (2:1-14)

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. 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. 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 he 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!