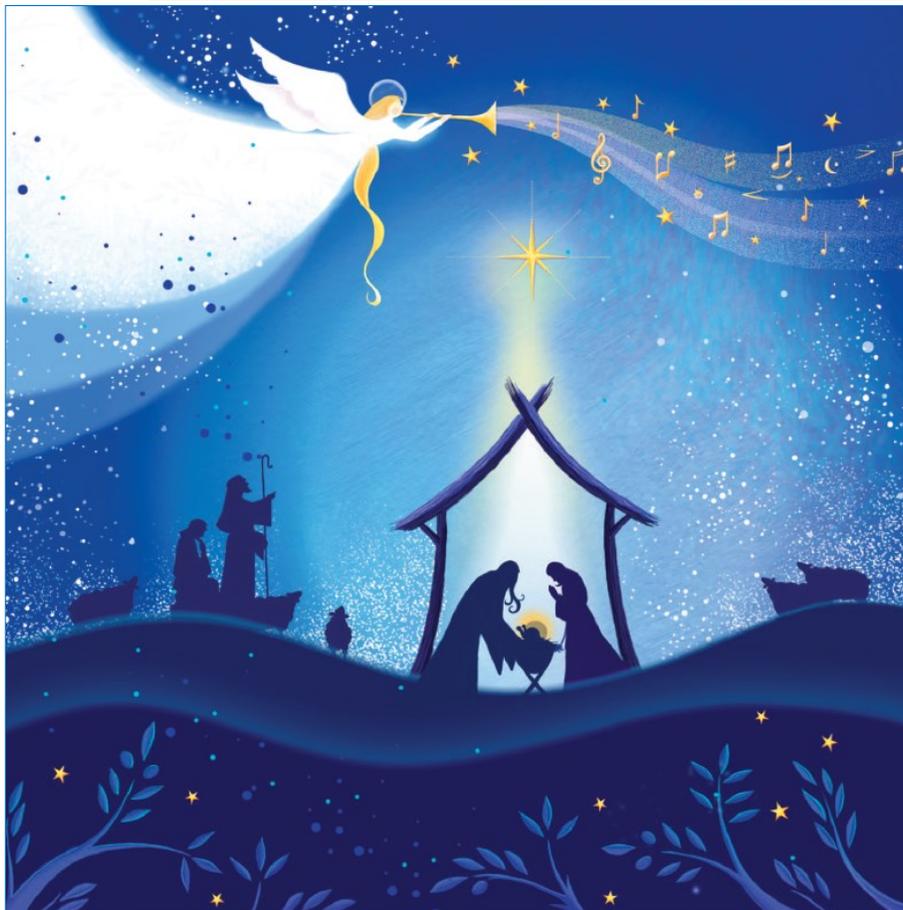




St Hilda's By-the-Sea Anglican

Open Doors · Open Hearts · Open Minds

December 24, 2018 10:00 pm



Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Clarence Li
Music: Katherine Hume & St. Hilda's Choir
Readers: Heather Rankin

Sacristan: Amelia Foster
Greeters/Usher: Eric Paetkau, David Moul
Altar Guild: Liz Miller, Linda Kern



Christmas Message from the Rector

As you gaze into the nativity scene this year, what do you see? And more poignantly, what do we NOT SEE?

St. Hilda's held our first Posada on the windiest day of the year last week. This walking pilgrimage, which originates from Latin America, reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking a welcoming place to give birth to their first child, a child of promise to a bewildered young couple living in a turbulent time. We had about a dozen parishioners, friends, and strangers walking alongside a very pregnant Mary and her betrothed husband Joseph from the Sechelt Shelter to our church. We knocked on the doors of a homeless shelter, a refugee family, a dental office, a motel, a fire hall, a library and crashed a few homes and a Christmas party asking if people had a place for Mary to have her baby.

When we made our way back to the church, we sat down to reflect on the experience. Nick, the Shelter Manager, gave us a reality check that shelter staff have to frequently say no to people seeking a roof over their head because the shelter has been operating in full capacity since Day 1. Others reminded us of the plight of migrants and how unimaginable it is for people who treasure community to leave their community behind in search of a better life. Then we learned to sing the traditional Posada song together, a two-part song alternating between the pilgrims and the innkeepers. The words from the final verse of the innkeepers struck me particularly:

*Is that you, Saint Joseph? And the Virgin, too?
I would have opened sooner if I'd recognized you.*

The nice twist of the Posada highlights our blindness in recognizing who the strangers really are, and, if we had recognized the humanity among them, we too would have recognized their inborn divinity and would have welcomed them. It is in recognizing what we fail to see that we find a home in the heart of God.

Christmas is a season of seeing with new eyes, looking for hope in humble places where we least expect to find them. I pray that you will join me to be attentive to this journey this Christmas. Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year to each one of you.

Clarence



Welcome and Introduction

The lights are dimmed. At the sound of the singing bowl, all rise to sing. Your candle will be lit during the procession. Please pass the light to the next person.

🎵 **Once in Royal David's City** CP 123

Vs 1 - Solo Vs 2 - Choir

Vs 3 - All

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.

Greeting

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem draws us
to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

PEOPLE **Amen**

The Prophecy: Isaiah 9:2-7 *Heather Rankin*

An Advent Wreath Liturgy of Remembrance

🎵 **A Candle is Burning** (tune: *Away in a Manger*)

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

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

cont'd over →

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

We honour Messiah with Christ -candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

During the carol, the Gospel of Christ is being brought to the centre of the congregation. To welcome God's Good News in our midst, please STAND and TURN TO THE READER when the Christmas Story is being read..

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant May God be with you.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

PEOPLE **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the end of the reading:

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Celebrant We have waited with hope
for God to bring justice and righteousness.
We have waited with peace
for God's shalom to be felt.
We have waited with joy,
celebrating what God has already done.
We have waited with love,
awed by how God's love has been shown to us.
Tonight we light the Christ candle to celebrate the light
of God, coming into the world through the birth of Jesus.

Christ candle is lit.

ALL **God of hope and peace, joy and love
from that stable so long ago your light
shines out into every corner of the world.
Help us to sing of the joy of your coming.
Help us to live by your light not only today,
but throughout the whole year,
so that tidings of peace and goodwill to all
will truly transform our world. Amen.**

As the newborn Jesus is being placed in the creche:

Celebrant The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

PEOPLE **And we beheld his glory.**

Celebrant: The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

PEOPLE **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

Gloria

Canon—4 voices

1. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
2. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
3. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
4. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Please extinguish your candle after singing.

Sermon *The Rev. Clarence Li*

Choir Anthem: *Sussex Carol* *Traditional*

Prayers of the People

Leader: God of hope... (*peace, love, joy..*) **Response:** **Hear our prayer.**

The Sharing of the Peace *Please rise as we share the peace of the Lord*

Celebrant The peace of God be always with you.

ALL **And also with you.**

The Offertory

A collection will be taken during the carol. St. Hilda's ministries are solely supported by the generous donations of our members and friends.

🎵 **The First Nowell** **CP 139** (vs. 1-4)

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*

cont'd over →

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 where-ever it went.

Refrain: **Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.**

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Doxology

**Praise God the Source of life and birth
praise God the Word, who came to earth.
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.
All glory, honour to God's Name.**

The Great Thanksgiving

"Eucharist" means "thanksgiving". This is a ritual meal to re-enact the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his friends to remind them of his sacrificial love for humanity and the whole creation. All stand as able.



Celebrant: The Spirit of God be with you. All: And al - so with you.



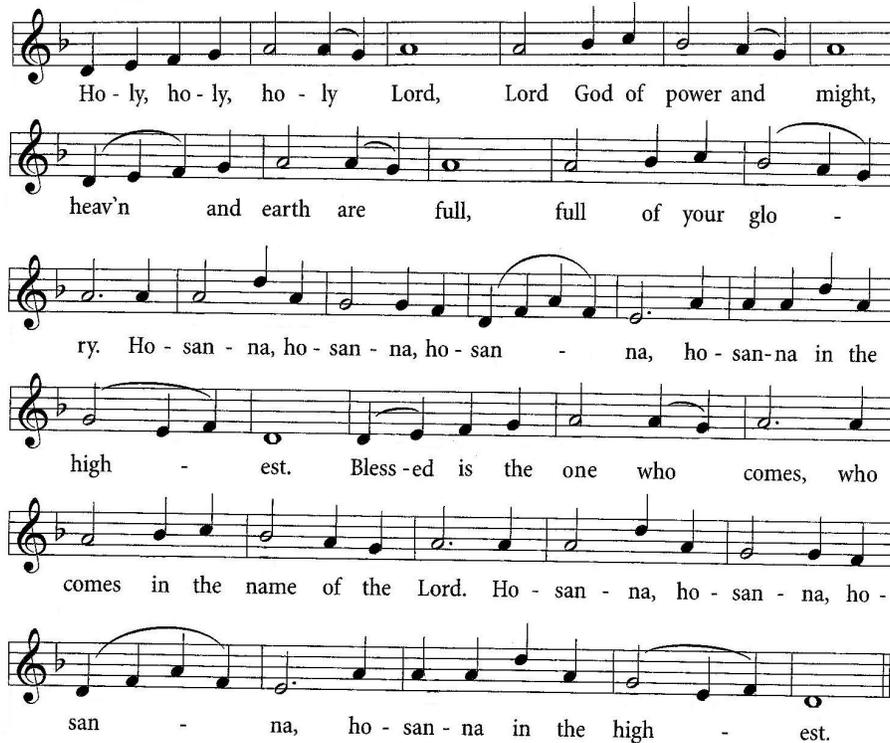
Celebrant: Lift your hearts to heaven All: where Christ in glo-ry reigns.



*Celebrant:
Let us give thanks to God All: It is right to of-fer thanks & praise.*

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
because in the mystery of the Word and Love made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your saving love
in the face Christ Jesus our Lord.
Now with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name, singing:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full, full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes, who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant Loving God, we remember that this baby in the manger
grew up in your loving care,

....Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit,
Feed us with your life, Fire us with your love,
And confront us with your justice.

ALL **Through Christ,**
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
make us one in the body of Christ
with all who share your gifts of love. Amen.

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

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

cont'd over →

**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.**

Invitation to the Table

Share the Gifts

If you know the brokenness of life, its fractures within and its division without, then you have participated in the broken body of Christ and you are invited to share in the breaking of bread.

If you desire to know the love of God that overcomes indifference and despair, if you desire the reconciliation that overcomes estrangement and alienation, then you are invited to share the cup of the new covenant.

Receiving Holy Communion

The bread is received in the open palm. It is usual Anglican practice to drink the wine from the common cup. Wine and unfermented grape juice are served. If you would prefer to receive a gluten-free wafer or grape juice, please inform the person administering the bread or wine when they approach you. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, you are welcome to come forward and place your hands across your chest.

Carols during Communion

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime **CP 146**

'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain: Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song ran loud and high:

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver-pelt.

O children of the forest free, beloved of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:

♪ It Came Upon the Midnight Clear CP 140

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth to all good will
from heaven’s most gracious king!”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we amid our wars hear not the words of peace they bring;
O listen now, and still your strife to ehar the angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the wary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold:
when the new heaven and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

♪ Born in the Night CP130

Born in the night, Mary’s child, a long way from your home:
coming in need, Mary’s child, born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary’s child, your face lift up our way:
light of the world, Mary’s child, dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary’s child, you tell us God is good:
prove it is true, Mary’s child. Go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary’s child, you’re coming soon to reign:
king of the earth, Mary’s child, walk in our streets again.

*Towards the end of the Communion, the light from the Christ Candle
will be passed to light the congregation’s candles.*

Closing Meditation: Shine On, Star of Bethlehem

Celebrant On the Eve of Christmas, Hatred will vanish
On the Eve of Christmas, the Earth will flourish
On the Eve of Christmas, War will be gone
On the Eve of Christmas, Love will be born

Celebrant When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

PEOPLE **It is Christmas.**

Celebrant When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love

PEOPLE **It is Christmas.**

Celebrant When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes

PEOPLE **It is Christmas.**

Celebrant When the spirit of revenge dies in me

PEOPLE **It is Christmas.**

Celebrant When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart

PEOPLE **It is Christmas.**

Celebrant When I am buried in the being of God

PEOPLE **It is Christmas.**

 **Silent Night** **CP 119**

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

A Blessing

Celebrant May we who have been touched by the Word made flesh
be his body for the world, his hands to bring blessing,
his senses to glory in the promise of creation restored;
and the blessing of God,
Life Giver, Pain Bearer, Love Maker
be among you and remain with you always

ALL **Amen.**

Please extinguish your candle.

♪ **Joy to the World** Alternate text by G.P. Haddon

Joy to the world! The Christ is here!
The gift of peace to bring!
Let ev'ry heart a welcome place prepare.
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! The saviour lives!
With song your voice employ;
While fields and floods, rock, plains and hills
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

Christ fills the world with truth and grace,
And asks each life to prove
The glories of God's righteousness
And wonders of God's love, And wonders of God's love,
And wonders, and wonders of God's love!

Postlude



This evening's liturgy has been compiled from various sources, including:

- *A Candle Is Burning* Words: © 1986 Sandra Dean, 1134 Plant Dr., Ottawa, ON K1V 9E8.
- Collect for Christmas (Source: Common Worship Additional Collects (2004))
- Eucharistic Preface from *Book of Alternative Services*
- Eucharistic Prayer adapted from St. John's Rite
- Prayer after Communion (Source: Common Worship Additional Collects (2004))
- Closing Meditation from Sabeel Liberation Theology Centre, Jerusalem.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-721903:

- *Gloria* by Jacques Berthier © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc, agent. All rights reserved.

St. Hilda's By the Sea Anglican Church

5838 Barnacle Street PO Box 302 Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

Phone: 604.885.5019 Fax: 604.885.0759

Email: admin@sthilda.ca Website: www.sthilda.ca

Rector	The Rev Clarence Li	rector@sthilda.ca	993-0399
Deacon	The Ven Bruce Morris		885-4797
Office Administrator	Karen Weatherington		885-5019
Music Director	Katherine Hume	khpiano@telus.net	885-2069
Rector's Warden	Meg Stevens	megstevens@outlook.com	741-4036
People's Warden	Carol Eades		886-9646
Associate Warden	Mike Starr		961-9256
Treasurer	Bob Maxfield		351-2972
Envelope Secretary	Maggie Scott		885-3312

Visit us at www.sthilda.ca or  [facebook.com/sthilda](https://www.facebook.com/sthilda)

St. Hilda's Office will be closed from December 25 -28. Regular hours will resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.



WHO WE ARE

St. Hilda, situated on the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh First Nation, is a member of the Anglican Church of Canada & the worldwide Anglican Communion. As a community, we welcome & celebrate human diversity - including spirituality, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, & abilities. We aim to create a space where people of any faith or none can question & discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter & prayer, lived out through a common commitment to be in solidarity with the poor & marginalized, & to cherish creation.

HOLY COMMUNION

ALL are welcome to come forward and receive communion, the divine life of Jesus which comes to us in gifts of bread and wine. Come as you are. Instructions for people joining this meal for the first time are printed in the bulletin.

ACCESSIBILITY

Parking for people with disabilities is available next to the Meditation Labyrinth. You are welcome to bring your walker or wheelchair into the sanctuary. There are also large print hymnals and bulletins available in the entry.