



St Hilda's By-the-Sea Anglican Church

Open Doors · Open Hearts · Open Minds

December 24, 2018 7:00 pm Family Eucharist



Christmas Eve Family Pageant

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Clarence Li
Music: Katherine Hume
Pageant: Bev Dall & Sunday School Team
Lay Admin: Amelia Foster

Sacristan: Barbara Carver
Greeters/Ushers: Carol and Ted Eades
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



Holy Eucharist of the Nativity of Christ

Prelude

Announcements

♪ **O Come All Ye Faithful**.....CP 118 (vs 1, 3, 4)

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the king of angels;

Refrain: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:.....*Refrain*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

Celebrant Grace to you and peace from God,
creator, redeemer, and loving spirit, giver of all gifts.

PEOPLE God is with us, here we find new life.

Celebrant The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

PEOPLE God came among us. God has become one of us.

Collect of Christmas

Celebrant Together let us pray:

**ALL 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. Amen.**





Christmas Pageant

All are seated for the pageant and singing of carols.

♪ 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.

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.

♪ O Little Town of Bethlehem CP 120

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

♪ Away in a Manger CP 126 (vs 1)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Away and in danger, no hope of a bed,
the refugee children, no tears left to shed
look up at the night sky for someone to know
that refugee children have no place to go.

Come close, little children, we hold out our hand
in rescue and welcome to shores of our land -
in touching, in healing your fear and your pain,
with dreams for your future when peace comes again.

 **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo;

Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore n bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

During the singing of Silent Night, the light from the Christ Candle will be passed to light the congregation's tapers. Please tip the UNLIT candle to light it so wax doesn't drip.

 **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.

Tapers are extinguished. Children leave to go to the Parish Hall for refreshments.

HomilyThe Rev. Clarence Li

Prayers of the People

Please stand, sit or kneel according to your praying custom. You are also welcome to name your loved one(s) aloud or silently in your heart.

The Sharing of the Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

ALL **And also with you.**

You are invited to greet those around you in the name of Christ.

The Offertory

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

During the hymn, all children (toddlers to be accompanied by caregivers) are invited to join the priest up around the crib and the Altar in preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Star-Child



1 Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God, love Child,
2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,
3 Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years, sad child,
4 Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more, wise child,
5 Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign, down - to -



Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod:
used child no one wants to know:
lost child, sto - ry told in tears: This year, this year let the day ar -
faith child know - ing joy in store:
earth Child, Star of stars that shine:



rive when Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

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.**

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

Celebrant Christ be with you.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts!

PEOPLE **We lift them up!**

Celebrant Let us give thanks.

PEOPLE **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Creator of light, Bearer of life, Source of love,
your ancient love stirs within us.
The sacred reveals itself for us everywhere:
in the rhythm of the oceans, in the magnificence of the stars,
in the beauty of all beings.
Let us give thanks.

PEOPLE **Yes! Let us give thanks.**

Celebrant We give thanks that Jesus includes children, boys and girls;
includes adults of all sorts and types,

PEOPLE **those of every colour and personality.**

Celebrant We give thanks for the angels in our lives,

PEOPLE **who bring us good news and help us.**

Celebrant We give thanks for the shepherds in our lives,

PEOPLE **the people who work hard and look after our needs.**

Celebrant We give thanks for our families who love us;
and we pray for people who are sad
or missing people they love this Christmas time.

PEOPLE **Help us to help them.**

Celebrant We give thanks for the way
that Mary and Joseph and Jesus lived on earth.

PEOPLE **They revealed that God calls us on
to a life greater than we have ever known
or could have imagined.**

Celebrant And so we add our praises to those of the faithful
of every time and place,
joining with the whole of creation in the eternal hymn:

ALL **Holy, holy, holy, God of power and vulnerability.
All the universe is full of the glory of the power of love.
Blessed are those who walk this good earth
in the name of all that is holy.
Hosanna! Hosanna all creation sings!**

Celebrant Around a simple table, near the end of his life,
Jesus celebrated supper with his friends,
(people who were much like us)
Jesus took some bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:
“This represents a new promise or covenant of love.
Eat this in remembrance of me.”
And also after supper, he took the cup saying:
“This is the cup of new life also,
drink this in remembrance of me.”
Spirit of all, bless these elements,
this bread and this fruit of the vine, gifts of the earth,
ALL **That as we eat and drink together in this feast for all,
we may be drawn to you
and nourished for the journey of life. Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Celebrant Gathering our prayers into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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**

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.

Ushers will direct you to form a line in the center aisle. Wine is served on the left side of the priest; grape juice on the right. Gluten-free wafers are available - please inform the priest. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, you are welcome to come forward and place your hands across your chest. After receiving communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles.

♪ **What Child is This**..... CP 137

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Piano Duet *Joshua Eriksson & Jon Eriksson*

Prayer After Communion

Celebrant Radiant God,

**ALL with our eyes we have seen your salvation,
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace.
May your Word take flesh in us,
so that we may be your holy people,
revealing your glory made know to us
in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

Closing Blessing

Celebrant A boy has been born for us.

**PEOPLE A child has been given to us.
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**

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.

PEOPLE Amen.

🎵 **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** CP 138

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the ever lasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!*Refrain*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth....*Refrain*

Dismissal

PEOPLE Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Tonight’s liturgy has been compiled from various sources, including:

- Collect from *Common Worship: Additional Collects* (2004)
- Prayer after Communion from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) alt.
- Eucharistic prayer adapted by David Moul from An Advent Wreath Liturgy of Remembrance: 2015 Christmas Eve Service, St. Andrew’s on the Terrace, Wellington, NZ

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- *Away in a Manger* vs 2,3 by Shirley Erena Murray

Christmas Season at St. Hilda's

- Monday December 24 Christmas Eve**
10 pm Contemplative Candlelight Eucharist
- Tuesday December 25 Christmas Day**
10 am Holy Eucharist
- Sunday December 30 First Sunday after Christmas**
10 am Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols
- Saturday January 5 Sing and Stand with Land Defenders**
7 - 9 pm with Rev. Emilie Smith & Patti Powell
- Sunday January 6 Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**
8:30 & 10 am Eucharist

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



St. Hilda's By the Sea Anglican Church

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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.