

ST Catherines
CHURCH



ADVENT 4: AN INNER HOME

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 2020

10 AM FAMILY SERVICE – LIVESTREAM

IMAGE SENT BY BOB PAXTON



President: Rev. Sharon Smith

Music: Siiri Rebane
Heather Peacock
Alison Watt

Readers: Gordon Lee,
Sharon Fedorak,
Tony Dodd,
Elizabeth Barratt

Altar Guild: Bonnie Grundy
Door Décor: Lori Burns
Sound: Susanna Valente

Livestream: Gordon Lee
Armin

Welcome and Intentions: Rev Sharon

Gathering of the Community:

Presider: In this time and place
 We gather on the unceded
 ancestral lands of the Squamish
 and Tsleil-Waututh nations

Opening Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

Opening Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. [Refrain]

Lighting of Altar candles and Advent Candle



Presider: Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,

All: Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,

Presider: Eternal Friend be our support,

All: Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,

Presider: Eternal Mercy, we receive your kindness,

All: That with all our heart and mind and soul and strength. We may seek your face and be brought into your presence; Through the Coming light of Christ. Amen

*Prayer by Alcuin of York- adapted c 735-804
contributed by Bonnie Grundy*

Presider: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Also with you

Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy) :

Kyrie eleison (2x)

Christe eleison (2x)

Kyrie eleison (2x)

Children's Advent Story: Rev. Sharon



Opening Prayer:

(Adapted New Guinea prayer)

Presider: Holy One, this Advent, try the key to our
 heart's door.
 It may have gathered rust.
 If so, this is the time to oil it,

**All: O God, oil the hinges of our heart's
 doors
 that they may swing gently
 and easily to welcome your coming.
 Amen**

Hymn: Wait for the Lord

(Taize)

Wait for the Lord,
Whose day is near
Wait for the Lord
Keep watch, take heart!

THE ANNUNCIATION

Presider: Come humbly, Holy Light,
All: **pierce our lack of generosity and love,
 scattering our dark fear
 of living freely in your way,
 poured out in wanton service.
 Amen**

*A Mothers' Union Day on Magnificat, Durham, England, 1989,
 contributed by Ginger Shaw.*

Reading 1: Luke 1: 26-31; 37-38

Read by Sharon Fedorak

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus... For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying,

People: **Thanks be to God.**



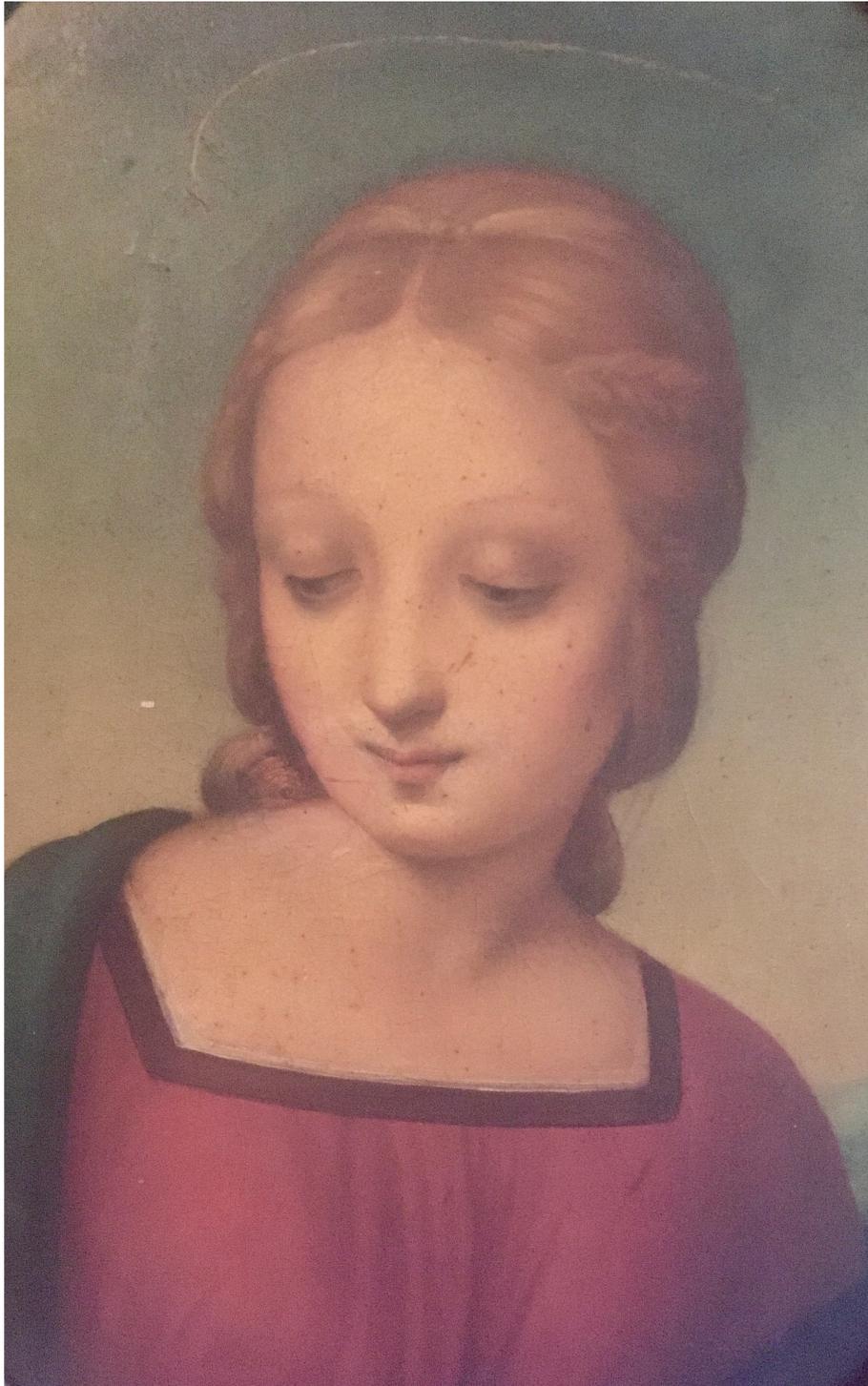
Sonnet of Mary – The Annunciation

(Written by Deborah Foster; Read by Elizabeth Barratt)

Angel fire burns in morning's light
unfurling God's hope in the glowing flame.
Heaven courts a girl, overwhelmed with fright,
just barely calmed by her softly spoken name.
She stands, refusing to flee such Holy love,
amazed to hear that she should bear the Son
of God Most High. She waits, a trembling dove.
Can God and Woman so easily join as one?
In purity and trust, her heart the sacrifice,
The Holy of Holies becomes a woman's womb.
Sin's night is consumed by day's sunrise,
its power broken in cradle and tomb
where Jesus was laid. Through Mary's willing consent
God's passion for Mankind and Creation is fully spent.

Art: Mary

(A painting Vivian McGie's Great Grandmother bought in Italy during her travels)



Hymn 1: The Angel Gabriel

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"How blest among all women you shall be,
Whom ev'ry age will praise continually.
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

THE VISITATION JOURNEY TO ELIZABETH

Presider: Come humbly, Holy Wisdom,
All: **cry through the empty streets
of our pretence to care,
that the face of the poor
will be lifted up,
for holy is your name. Amen**

*A Mothers' Union Day on Magnificat, Durham, England,
1989, contributed by Ginger Shaw.*

Reading 2: Luke 1: 36-37; 39-42; 56

(Read by Gordon Lee)

[And the Angel said to Mary] “And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying,
People: Thanks be to God.



Sonnet of Mary – The Journey to Elizabeth

(Written by Deborah Foster; Read by Tony Dodd)

From her home she steps across the threshold
of Eternity, climbs Judah's hills
for sanctuary. Warm wind arms enfold
her, cherishing. Her Holy Lover wills
her well. She chose the path of no return
in loving Him. Heaven in awestruck silence
attends her way, knowing the powers that churn
against her. Committed she seeks no recompense.
But comfort is given through incarnate means.
One who is ripe with age and child and praise
dispels her storms of doubts, enfleshing dreams,
turning nights of fear into faith-filled days.
Affirmed, confirmed, accepting God's desire,
she rests within the heart of holy fire.

Art: The Visitation

Artist: Dorothy Webster Hawk



Hymn 2: Breath of Heaven

I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy father you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son

I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now
Be with me now

Breath of heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness
For you are holy
Breath of heaven

Hymn 2: Breath of Heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong
Help me be
Help me

Breath of heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness
For you are holy

MARY SINGS THE MAGNIFICAT

Presider: Come humbly, Holy Spirit,
**All: to whisper through the leaves
in the garden of our ignorance,
exposing our blindness
to children dying,
hungry and in pain. Amen**

*A Mothers' Union Day on Magnificat, Durham, England,
1989, contributed by Ginger Shaw.*

Reading 3: Luke 1: 46-55

(Read by Elizabeth Barratt)

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying,

People: Thanks be to God.



Sonnet of Mary – The Magnificat

(Written by Deborah Foster; Read by Sharon Fedorak)

Suddenly the sun bursts through black skies,
a brilliant joy erupting in the storm.
She had laboured, rending time with cries
which echoed God's. Now their hope is born.
Within herself she carried His desire
and shared His heart in her own poverty.
Her people's bondage burned in her like fire.
As Woman she knew the place of low degree.
On Him she waited, willing to obey,
though storms assailed her love for Him with night.
She hoped in Him and He in her. Now day
has come. Fulfillment comes as radiant light.
God and Human in her gestated long.
She knows it now, and sings for all her song.

Art: Madonna of Peace
Artist: Heather Luccock



Hymn 3: Lo How a Rose

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Saviour,
when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendour
the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

THE BIRTH

Presider: Come humbly, Holy Child,
**All: stir in the womb
of our complacency;
shepherd our vision
of the little we need
for abundant living. Amen**

*A Mothers' Union Day on Magnificat, Durham, England,
1989, contributed by Ginger Shaw.*

Reading 4: Luke 2:1-7

(Read by Tony Dodd)

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.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying,

People: Thanks be to God.



Sonnet of Mary – The Birth

(Written by Deborah Foster; Read by Gordon Lee)

God would be born, both in Woman and World.
Constrained by the forces of body and Man,
the rhythm of birth pangs in chaos began.
Fear like a serpent, around her was curled.
In the rabble of Bethlehem, Passion unfurled.
Helpless and powerless, could she understand
the presence of Lover, fulfillment at hand?
On turbulent history the Infant was hurled.
God's Son, propelled from the warmth of her womb,
encountered his life in the stench of a stall,
received by an innkeeper who had no room,
worshipped by shepherds in strange ritual.
Vulnerable Woman God chose to consume,
through her Life, gave His Life, as gift to us all.

Art: Bethlehem Hinter Mauern

Artist: Janina Zang, contributed by Janet Morris



Hymn 4: What Child Is This

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?
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 Christians, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Hymn 4: What Child Is This

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.

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

THE BLESSING

Presider: Come humbly, Holy God,
All: be born into our rejoicing,
Come quickly, humble God,
and reign. Amen

*A Mothers' Union Day on Magnificat, Durham, England,
1989, contributed by Ginger Shaw.*

Reading 5: Luke 2:21-28; 34-38

(Read by Sharon Fedorak)

When the time came for [Mary's] purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord... and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus... Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, as a widow, she never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying,
People: Thanks be to God.



Sonnet of Mary – The Blessing

(Written by Deborah Foster; Read by Elizabeth Barratt)

And did you think, young Mother of Our Lord,
bearing Jesus, life-seed in your womb,
your heart so filled with joy, there seemed no room
for pain, that you would feel a bitter sword
pierce your soul? With sorrow your reward,
did you then pray Magnificats? So soon
you knew, yourself, the thorns which formed His crown.
Motherhood disclosed your path toward
the Father's heart. Before the pangs of birth
which brought God forth, the Son of flesh and blood,
you felt the cataclysmic force of love
which He endured to bring life to our earth.
The sacrifice of praise through pain will flood
our lives with His, as we toward Him move.

Art: Intimacy – Mother and child

Artist: Sharon Smith



Hymn 5: Of Eternal Love Begotten

Of eternal love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

Hymn 5: Of Eternal Love Begotten

This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.

Glory be to God the Son,
Glory to the Holy Spirit
Persons three, yet Godhead one.
Glory be from all creation
While eternal ages, run,
Evermore and evermore.

Presider: As our Saviour taught us,
let us pray in the language of our hearts,
as we say:

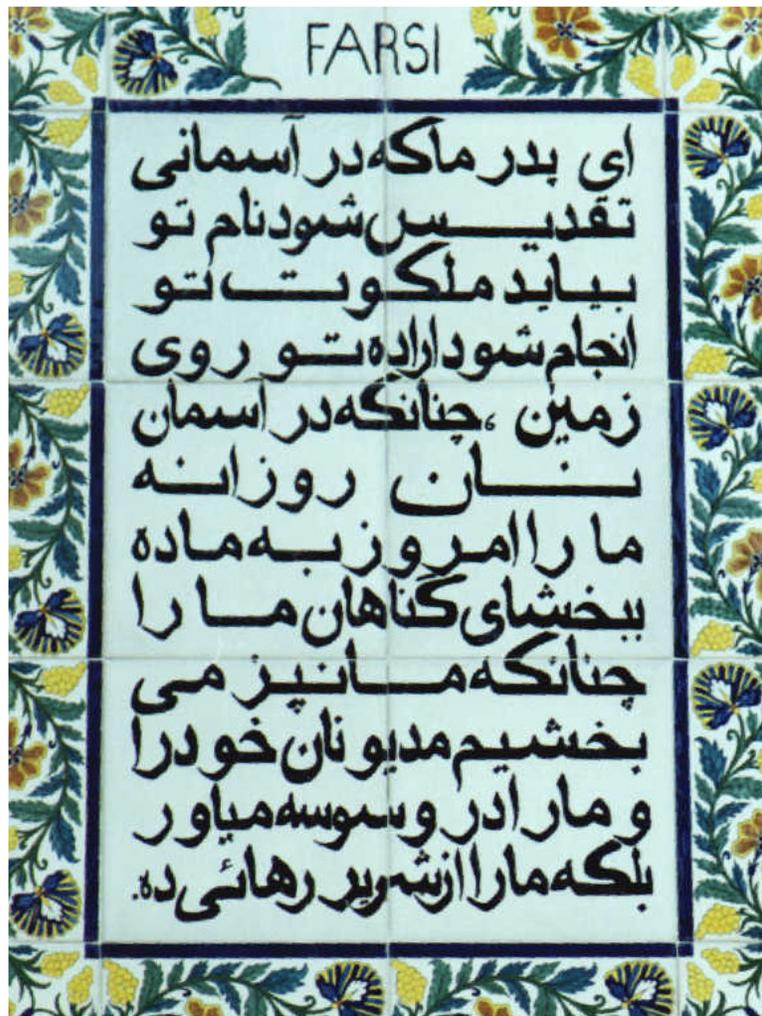
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

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.**



Announcements:

See website for more details:

<https://www.saint-catherines.org>



Service of Light

Monday, December 21, 2020
7:00PM - 8:00PM

Zoom
Winter Solstice



Christmas Pageant 2020

Thursday, December 24, 2020
3:00PM - 3:30PM

Zoom
Come one and come all - An intergenerational event



Christmas Eve Services 2020

Thursday, December 24, 2020

4pm and 6pm

Blessing:

Sun Ai Park, On God's Image, April 1986
(contributed by Ginger Shaw)

Presider: All the broken hearts

All: shall rejoice;

Presider: all those who are heavy laden,
whose eyes are tired
and do not see,

**All: shall be lifted up
to meet with
the motherly healer.**

Presider: The battered souls and bodies

All: shall be healed;

Presider: the hungry

All: shall be fed;

Presider: the imprisoned

All: shall be free;

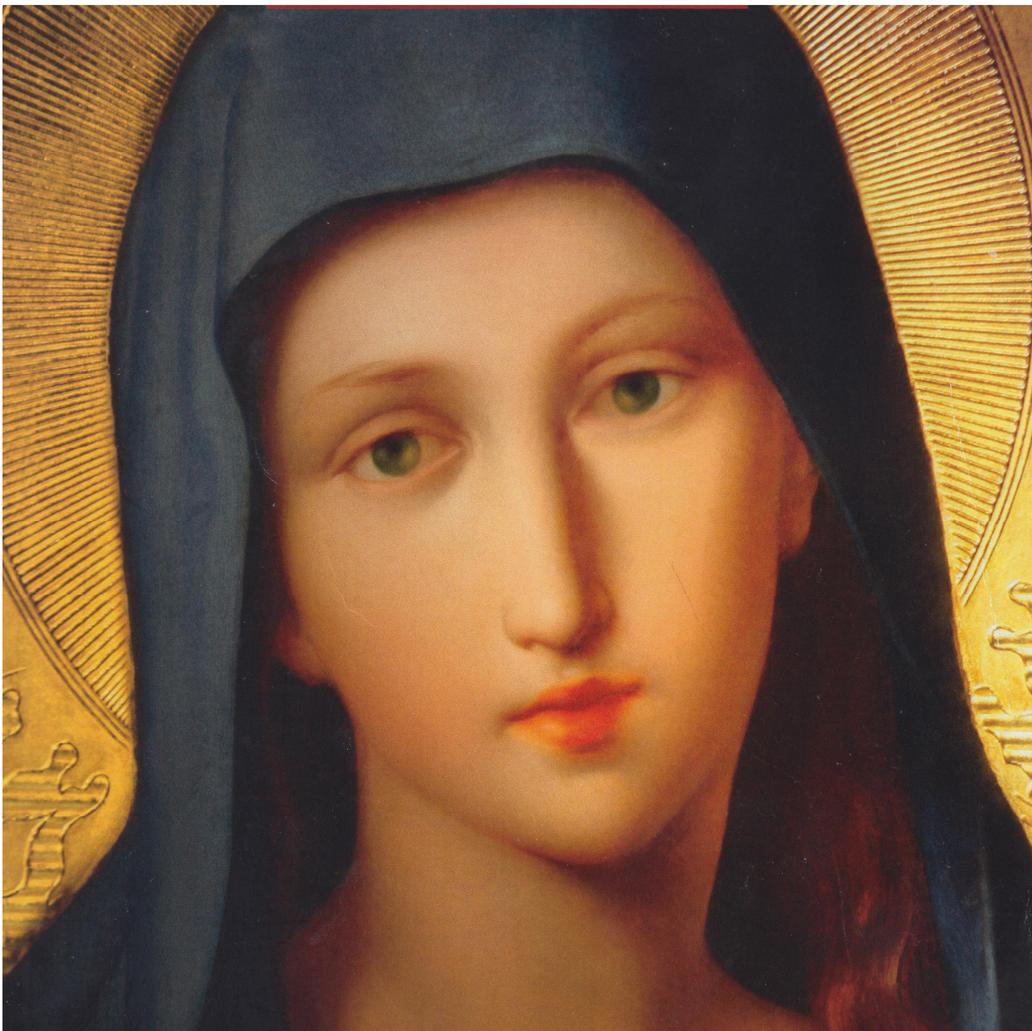
Presider: all her earthly children

**All: shall regain joy
in the reign
of the just and loving one
coming for you
coming for me
in this time
in this world. Amen**

Dismissal

Priest: Let us bless the Lord

People: Thanks to be God



Coffee Time Follows @ Noon – 12:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting by
video: <https://zoom.us/j/93034140745>

Or using your Zoom App by in putting
the Meeting ID:
930 3414 0745

Or by phone: (778) 907 2071, with
the Meeting ID:
930 3414 0745

For assistance:

Please email Natasha at scadmin@shaw.ca

