

The Anglican Parish of St. Peter, Quamichan

SEASON OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

Officiant: People of God in this place and in all places, once again, we give thanks that you are worshipping with this community and we welcome you to the Anglican church of St. Peter, Quamichan as part of our virtual church family. Once again, today, with many churches across this country and around the world we will share our service of the Liturgy of the word.

Opening Acknowledgement:

Officiant: In this time and place, we gather on the unceded ancestral territories of the Coast Salish people and the Cowichan Tribes.
In this time and place we gather in the name of the living God.
In this time and place we gather with the community of faith around the globe and across the ages
In this time and place we are not alone, but one in Christ
In this time and place Hallowed, expectant, one people in God

All: In this time and place heaven and earth are one. In the name of the Holy and Blessed one, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Third Sunday in Advent – Joy

Invitation:

Officiant: We come to the third week of the season of Advent and gather around a wreath to light candles. The wreath reminds us of the circle of our human community and the lights illuminate the many ways in which we bring ourselves to the Incarnation, God's longed-for presence among us – human and holy, Emmanuel – God with us and God coming to us.

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-3a

Officiant: 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.

Lighting the Candles and Illuminating the Festivities of Joy

Light the first candle

Officiant: We light this candle for the Christmas story that shines hope on our lives.

Light the second candle

Officiant: We light this candle to shine on the places that bring us peace, including this church, and the places and people that need peace this day.

Light the rose candle

Officiant: We light this rose-coloured candle today to remind us to pause on this Gaudete Sunday. It is a reminder to pause in the penitential spirit of Advent. As such, we are called to rejoice with Mary and be joyful as we prepare our hearts and minds for the generosity and festivity of this season and to hold in tenderness and care, for others.

Officiant: Together let us pray:

All: Emmanuel, we celebrate the true joy in so many of our human customs of this season and consecrate them to you. We acknowledge the stress that expectations put upon some of us. We hold tenderly the sadness and depression that longer nights, commercial demands, memories of loss, or simple loneliness bring. Transform the joy that each of us finds into a gift of kindness. Amen.

We now raise our hearts and voices in song as Barry leads us in Hymn #...

Greeting:

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

All: And also with you.

Collect of Purity

Officiant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect of the Day:

Officiant: Let us pray: Almighty God,

All: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Officiant: I invite you to settle your hearts and minds and be attentive as we hear the words of Scripture for today.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

Let us say together the appointed verses of Psalm 126 alternately by the Half Verse

1. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, * **then were we like those who dream.**
2. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * **and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
3. Then they said among the nations, * **“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

4. The Lord has done great things for us, * **and we are glad indeed.**
5. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, * **like the watercourses of the Negev.**
6. Those who sowed with tears * **will reap with songs of joy.**
7. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * **will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Praise to you, God of our salvation. Your generous gifts surpass all that we can ask or imagine. You have delivered us from the exile of sin and restored us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Glory and honour and praise to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Homily

Music for reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us confess our faith as we say,

All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: As I offer this bidding, God hear our prayer, I invite you to respond,
Come, O Lord, and save us.

Confession and Absolution

Leader: Dear friends in Christ, let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept

Leader: Most Merciful God,

All: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus**

Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

All: And also with you.

We now raise our hearts and voices in song as Barry leads us in Hymn #...

The Lords Prayer:

Officiant: 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 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 forever. Amen.

Officiant: Give thanks for all God's goodness

All: God's love shall last forever.

Officiant: Generous and faithful God,

All: May the nourishment we have received during our time together, enable us to enrich the lives of others wherever we may go. Whether the future be dark or bright, the road be smooth or rough, whether our cares are light or heavy, our song be strong or weak, keep our hearts warm and our hands open, our lives ever embracing and ever embraced by your love. Amen.

Blessing

Officiant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Leader: Alleluia - Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.