

St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday December 20th, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation

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Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.
And again.*

We light the candle of Peace

Advent Prayer

Holy One,

We thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of peace on earth. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle – even when we aren't sure that goodwill among us can be found, ignite the flame of peace within us, that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out. Amen.

The Gathering of the Community

Leader

Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;

All

show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader

Will you not give us life again,

All

so that your people may rejoice in you?

Leader

Show us your mercy, O God,

All

and grant us your salvation.

Leader

Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name!

All

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Leader

Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

All

**Most merciful God,
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.**

Leader Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

All And also with you.

Act of Praise: Heavenly Message

CP # 269

Heavenly message, brought by an angel,
Coming to lift the hopes of the earth;
Bringing to Mary humble and lowly,
God's invitation to give the Christ birth.
Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
Blessed are you , and blessed your son;
He will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.

Mary replied to Gabriel's message,
"I am the servant, maid of the Lord.
Let it be done just as you have spoken.
My soul rejoices in God's saving word."
Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
Blessed are you , and blessed your son;
He will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.

In the beginning, when God had spoken,
Through God's own Word all things came to be;
Now by that Word, embodied through Mary,

God's glory blazes, that our eyes may see.
Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
Blessed are you , and blessed your son;
He will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.

Text: Paul Gibson

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The Collect of the Day

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome your Christ into our midst. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make

for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Canticle 18, BAS (Luke 1:47-55)

BAS p.86

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers,

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Gradual Hymn: Wait for the Lord

CP #94

Wait for the Lord

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and time signature. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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, favoured 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 favour

with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 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." 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.

Sermon

The Apostle's Creed

Leader Let us confess our faith as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin
Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

The Prayers of the People

Offertory Hymn: Lo, How A Rose

CP #117

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 Savior,
When half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

We invite you to make a gift to support the ministry of St. John the Divine. St. John's accepts e-transfers, online donations through the website and mailed cheques. To learn more, go to

squamishanglicanchurch.ca/pages/donatetostjohn-the-divine-squamish

Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour 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 forever. Amen

Leader Glory to God
All **whose power, working in us,**
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power
of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

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St. John the Divine Prayers for December 20th, 2020

The Church

St. John the Apostle, Port Moody - The Reverend Vivian Lam,
The Reverend Anne Anchor, The Reverend Lilian Elliot
St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge - The Reverend Laurel Dahill
St. John the Divine, Squamish - The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr
St. John, Shaughnessy - The Reverend John Stephens (Bishop Coadjutor-Elect),
The Reverend Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz,

Immediate Prayer Requests

Ed, Rob, Edie, Jessica, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women's Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.

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Rector's Reflection

As part of Advent this year I am participating in #Adventword, an online calendar to help us prepare for Christmas. Each day of Advent is given a word, and there is an option to sign up to receive a daily email. There is also an option to engage by posting a photo every day. This is what I am doing! You can see my daily pictures and reflections on our [Facebook page](#) (it will also be updated periodically on the website).

Here is my picture and reflection from Monday December 14th.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

This is a ghost pipe, a plant that does not produce chlorophyll and does not photosynthesize, hence the lack of green. It is parasitic, so instead of using the sun's energy to produce sugars it taps into the surrounding underground fungal-root networks. They usually only spring up above ground occasionally and under certain conditions. I often see them after a good rain. When they are underground, however, they are still alive and doing important work, it's just not yet their time or season for flowering.

I need to remember that rest is important work, too. There is a season and a time for it. O God, rest is one of the things that you do; help us to be more like you in that. [#rest #adventword](#)

