**Daily Prayer, Wednesday, December 30, 2020**

*Acknowledgement:*

Before our prayer begins, we acknowledge that we are living in the traditional territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples with whom we journey in reconciliation.

*Opening Prayer:*

God who dispels all darkness,

Thank you coming to be with us, bringing light to each one of our lives;

Thank you for coming to live among us, live with us and in us;

God of Light, open our hearts to the mystery of Your love and the invitation of Your

Grace to become a compassionate presence in the world.

Amen.

### *Psalm 96*

**1**O sing to the Lord a new song;
    sing to the Lord, all the earth.
**2**Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
    tell of his salvation from day to day.
**3**Declare his glory among the nations,
    his marvellous works among all the peoples.
**4**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
**6**Honour and majesty are before him;
    strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

**7**Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
    ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
**8**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
    bring an offering, and come into his courts.
**9**Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
    tremble before him, all the earth.

**11**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
    let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
**12**    let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
**13**    before the Lord; for he is coming,
    for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
    and the peoples with his truth.

*Isaiah 60: 1-3, 19-22*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
    and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
**2**See, darkness covers the earth
    and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
    and his glory appears over you.

The sun will no more be your light by day,
    nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
    and your God will be your glory.
**20**Your sun will never set again,
    and your moon will wane no more;
the Lord will be your everlasting light,
    and your days of sorrow will end.
**21**Then all your people will be righteous
    and they will possess the land forever.
They are the shoot I have planted,
    the work of my hands,
    for the display of my splendor.
**22**The least of you will become a thousand,
    the smallest a mighty nation.
I am the Lord;
    in its time I will do this swiftly.”

# *Luke 2:36-40*

**36**There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37**and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202%3A36-40&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25011a)] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. **38**Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**39**When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. **40**And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

*Prayers of Gratitude and Concern*

*The Lord’s Prayer*
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom,

The power and the glory,

For ever and ever, Amen

*Prayer of St Francis*

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.

*Closing Prayer*

Loving God,

Thank you for the witness of Anna

Who remained steadfast and open to the wondrous work of your hand

Open us to the gift of your patience, endurance

And most of all to hope and trust in your infinite love.

May your kingdom come always and ever more

Amen