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We acknowledge that we are situated on the territorial and ancestral land of the Semiahmoo First Nation.



Sunday, December 14th, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

SERVICE OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In Christ we are a caring community seeking and welcoming others to join us on our faith journey.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN 91 BESANÇON



All remain standing. The presiding celebrant greets the community.

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with you all.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God,

All to you all hearts are open, all desires known,

and from you no secrets are hidden.

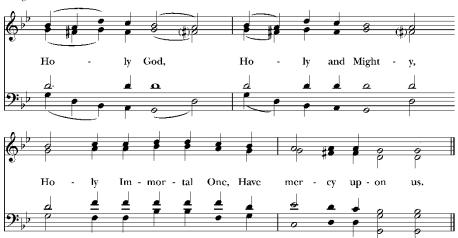
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy

Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name: through Christ our lord. Amen.

TRISAGION

Sung three times by all.



COLLECT OF THE DAY

The celebrant shall say,

Let us pray.

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Isaiah

Isaiah 35:1-10

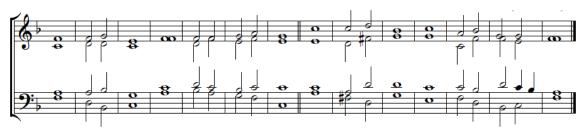
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon

shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God

MAGNIFICAT

James Turle (1802-1882)



 $M^{Y\,SOUL\,doth \mid magnify \cdot the \mid Lord:} \\ \text{and my spirit hath re} \mid \text{joiced} \cdot \text{in} \mid God \, my \mid Saviour.}$

For | he hath · re | garded :

the | lowli · ness | of his | handmaiden.

For be | hold, from | henceforth:

all gene | rations · shall | call me | blessèd.

For he that is mighty hath | magni · fied | me:

and | holy | is his | Name.

And his mercy is on | them that | fear him:

throughout | all | gene | rations.

He hath showed | strength · with his | arm :

he hath scattered the proud in the imagin | ation | of their | hearts.

He hath put down the mighty | from their | seat :

and hath ex | alted · the | humble · and | meek.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, and | to the | Son :

and | to the | Holy | Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be :
world without | **end.** | **A** | men.

SECOND READING

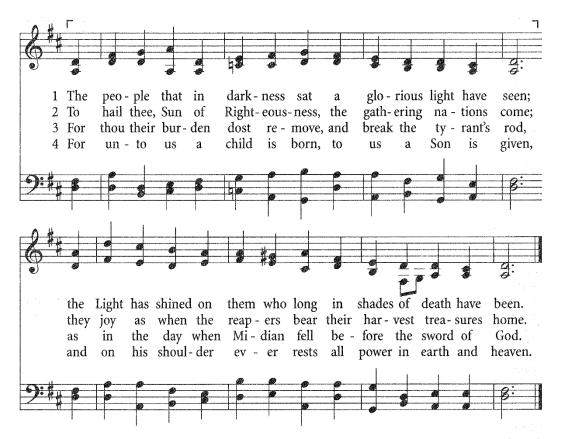
A reading from the letter of James

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God**

HYMN 156 DUNDEE



- 5 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the everlasting Lord, the Wonderful, the Counsellor, the God by all adored.
- 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray, and make us thine alone, who with the Father ever art and Holy Spirit one.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON The Rev. Paul Richards

NICENE CREED BAS 188

All stand

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of Allall 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

All stand or kneel, as able.

Leader In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. We pray for Shane our Primate, John our Archbishop and Metropolitan, and for our own clergy. On our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the archdeacon, of Lougheed, St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge, St. Hildegard's Sanctuary at St. Faith, Vancouver. And we pray for the bishop, clergy and people of our companion Diocese of the Northern Philippines and our partner parishes, St. Michael the Archangel, Guina-ang, St. Joseph Church, Mainit, and Holy Trinity Mission, Dalican. For all bishops, clergy, and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith; let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For good weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those we remember in our parish this morning: the Peter Sephton, Patricia Sephton, Herb Smart, Elaine Smart, Rebecca Soberon-Blake; for those who travel by land, water, or air; for the sick and the suffering, including Azhar Joseph, and all those on our parish prayer list; and for those you remember silently or aloud; for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died. For the faithful departed in our memorial book Doreen Donaghy, Gregory Cameron, Elizabeth Morden, Norma Godsell, Muriel Fitzsimmons, Ron Legeer, Leonard Jupp, Oenwen Clark, Edgar Shaw, Sheila Carmichael, June Letendre; Janet Bates, Frank Cumblidge, William Ballard, Noel Pearce, Doris Gethen, and for those you remember silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord.

The leader continues

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BAS 191

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant 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.**

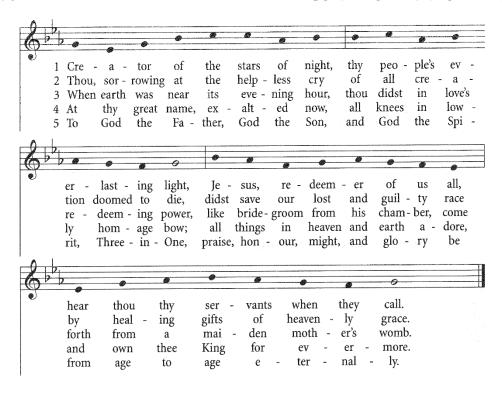
THE PEACE BAS 192

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

OFFERTORY



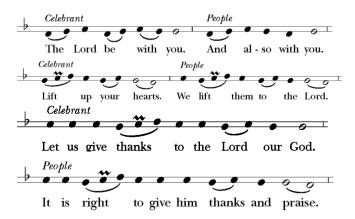
DOXOLOGY TALLIS CANON

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All remain standing. The celebrant says.

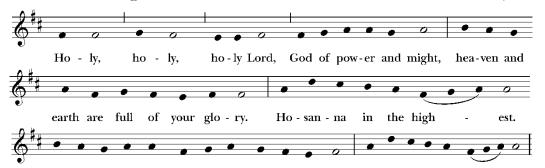
God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.



David Hurd (b. 1950)



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est. The celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

The celebrant continues

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**People

People

Celebrant People

e - ver A-men.

The celebrant continues.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

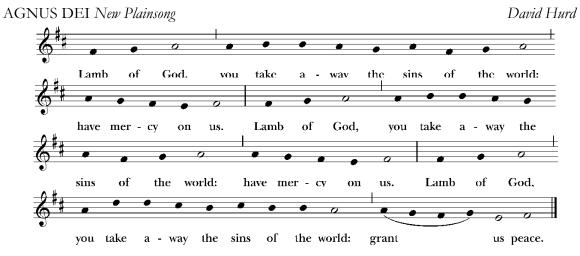
BAS 211

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Celebrant God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.



THE COMMUNION BAS 213

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion.

The gifts of God for the People of God

People Thanks be to God.

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please receive the bread by holding out your hands. To receive the wine, please gently guide the chalice to your lips, or simply touch the base of the chalice if you prefer not to drink from it. Please note that intinction (dipping the wafer in the wine) is not permitted in our diocese. All are welcome to receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, you may indicate that desire by crossing your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please ask a sides person to have Communion brought to you.

HYMN 485 LOVE DIVINE



- 5 Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
- 6 changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

ANTHEM: O Come, Divine Messiah

Words: Simon-Joseph Pellegrin (1663-1745) Tune: Venez, Divine Messe (French Noël, 16th c)

O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away. Dear Saviour, haste!

Refrain

Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O com, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

O Christ, whom nations sigh for, whom priest and prophet long foretold, come, break the captives' fetters, redeem the long-lost fold.

Dear Saviour, haste! Refrain

You come in peace and meekness and lowly will your cradle be; all clothed in human weakness shall we your Godhead see.

Dear Saviour, haste! Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand or kneel, as able.

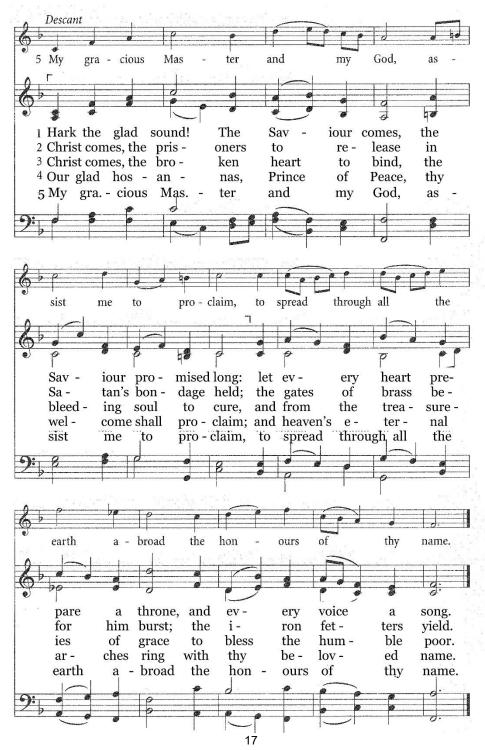
Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Glory to God,

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, For ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS All are seated.

HYMN 98 RICHMOND



All remain standing.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest dismisses the people, all respond.

All Thanks be to God.

All remain standing for the retiring procession.

POSTLUDE

PARISH PRAYER LIST: For health, wellness, support, and comfort:

Azhar, John, Elaine, Priscilla, Oakley, Paul, Hayley, Peter, Lynne, Sherrill, Alexandra, Anthony, Catherine, Nora, Bill, Susan, Tricia, Jacob, Alison, Stephanie

CelebrantThe Rev. Joseph DirbasPreacherThe Rev. Paul Richards

ServerKaryn EislerMusic DirectorMaria GolasOrganistUlo Valdma

Greeters Alan & Jennifer Whike Welcome Richard Hampson-Thorpe

First Reader Audrey Mistiades
Second Reader Erin Hallenburg
Prayers of the People
Livestream Guild Kevin Dietrich

Coffee Set-up Karen Archer & Elizabeth Gaines
Coffee Clean-up Barb Dickson & Judy Belanger
Altar Guild Helen Brown & Lesley McKnight

Flowers at the altar this week are given to the Glory of God by Audrey Mistiades in loving memory of her Mum's birthday.

Please join us for coffee and tea in Griffiths Hall. If you are joining us for the first time, please ask for directions.

Angel Tree:

Thank you to all who participated in the Angel Tree for Christmas. Your gifts will make Christmas that much brighter for families in need.

Advent Soup Lunch and Book Study - Continues December 17

We'll gather at **noon** for a soup lunch followed by a study of Watler Brueggemann's *Names for the Messiah*. Our advent program is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and learning. If you would like to make soup and/or supply rolls for the lunch, please sign up in the office.

Friday Movie Matinee - December 19 at 2:00 pm

Movie time at Holy Trinity! Come to see the Christmas Classic, "Miracle on 34th Street" 1947...In the Library... Christmas Popcorn...Bring a friend & share the miracles of the Season, all together... Hohoho....

Women's Group

All are invited to join the women's group. We meet on **Mondays at 10:30 a.m.** in the library. We hope to see you there.

Men's Group

We will meet at the Ocean Promenade Hotel on **Friday, December 19 at noon**. From more information, contact Henry Lazar.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study continues with the Gospel of John. On Tuesday, December 16 we will read and discuss John chapter 6. We meet in the library on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join us. The only prerequisites are an open heart and an open mind.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. - Family Service, Pageant, and Holy Communion

7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with Choir

10:00 p.m. - Solemn "Midnight Mass"

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship with us today. We are a joyful, inclusive service-oriented community. Our church building is a sacred space and a house of prayer for all. Our parish is composed of people from infants to grandparents, from cradle Anglicans to seekers, and we pride ourselves in being a place where a diverse range of opinions are held and respected. While we are a varied group, we strive to be unified as the Body of Christ.

We centre ourselves around our baptismal vow to, "strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being." Our community also extends far beyond our pews as we seek to feed, clothe, and support people who are in need.

We pray you will feel at home here, no matter your reason for joining us. We welcome you with open arms regardless of your race, age, culture, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, previous religious affiliation, or socioeconomic status. All are welcome at The Church of the Holy Trinity, and we hope to see you back here soon! Please feel free to contact us.

The Rev. Joseph Dirbas, Rector - <u>jdirbas@holytrinitywhiterock.ca</u> Church office - <u>office@holytrinitywhiterock.ca</u>

Holy Trinity Newsletter

Sign up now there are two ways: let Bonnie know and we'll add you to the list or sign up online. Visit https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/H4PSlh4 or simply scan the QR code.



Check out our Website – holytrinitywhiterock.ca Like Us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/holytrinitywhiterock

Source for the Eucharistic Prayer and Prayer after Communion: Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (200



