

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE LIVE AND WORSHIP ON THE UNCEDED TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE KWIKWETLEM FIRST NATION, WHICH LIES WITHIN THE SHARED TERRITORIES OF THE TSLEIL-WAUTUTH, KATZIE, MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH AND STÓ:LŌ NATIONS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CARED FOR THIS LAND SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL AS WE SEEK TO JOURNEY TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL RECONCILIATION.

Liturgy: Bread of Life (With One Voice, Setting 5)

Please note that all page references to liturgical pieces are to the blue *With One Voice* hymnal.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Welcome & Announcements & Land Acknowledgement

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

C: **we confess that we have failed to walk in your ways.**

**We look to ourselves for the security
only you can provide.**

**We are convinced that peace
is only achievable through strength,
and so are reluctant to abandon ways of war.**

**We judge your faithfulness by how you answer our prayers,
and become impatient when those answers
don't come.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to trust in your promises.**

Help us to live in harmony with our neighbours.

**And strengthen our hope that we may be ready
to receive you according to your timing.**

Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace.
Let the good news open you to welcome the Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ELW # 242 – Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
the love of God,
and the comfort of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

C: And also with you.

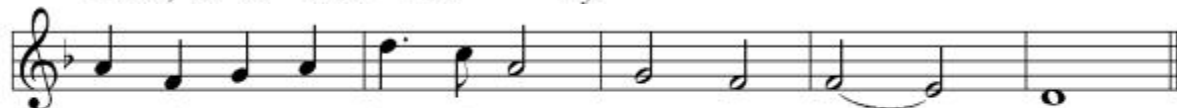
Kyrie p.28



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓢ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Ⓢ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓢ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Glory to God p.29



Ⓢ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



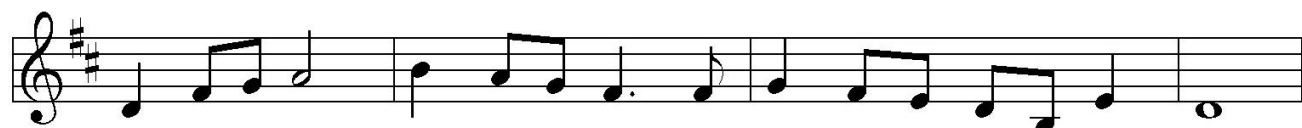
Ⓐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



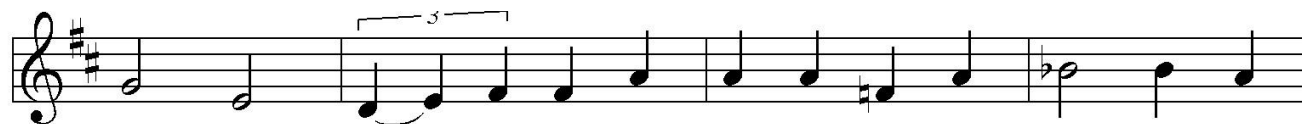
Ⓢ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



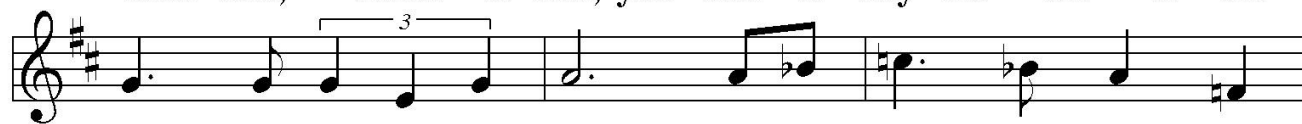
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



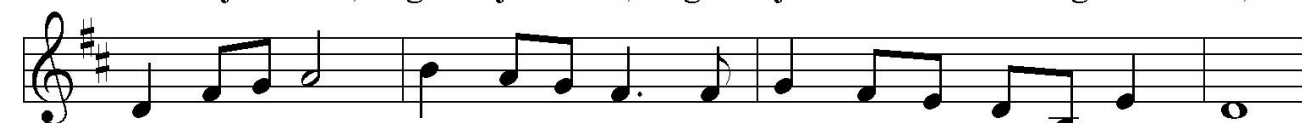
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



III Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



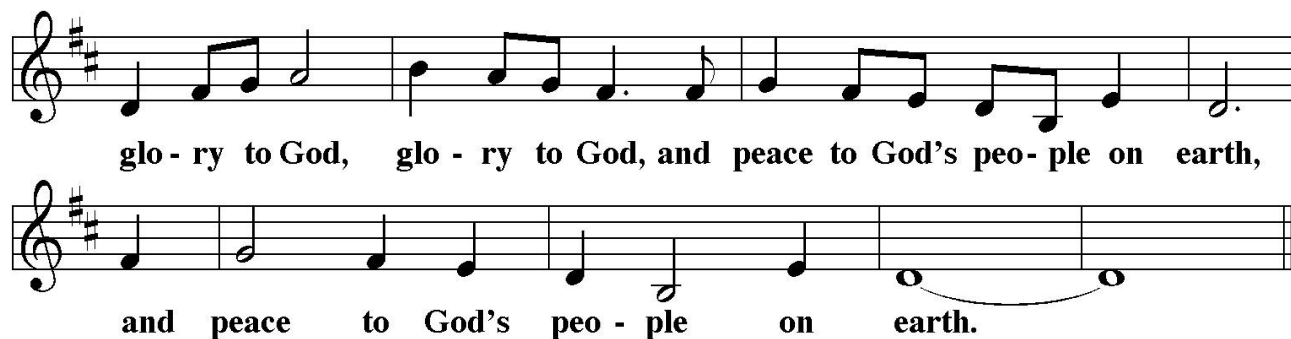
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



III Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Special Musical Performance – Peter Schuler - Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Children's Time and Lighting of the Advent Wreath ELW # 253 – He Came Down

All sing the third and fourth verses while the Candles are being lit.

3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional. Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; Arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949. Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., Agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted and streamed under OneLicense #A-710776.

Special Music – Duet by Lydia & Nathaniel Inoue-Zwicker – Jingle Bells

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts

to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Refrain: 
Let your face shine up - on us, and we shall be saved.

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: **Refrain**

L: O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: **Refrain**

L: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: **Refrain**

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation p.31



L: The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Special Musical Performance – Yvon and Michelle – O Holy Night

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Joseph Was Troubled (Tune: TFF #152 – Have Thine Own Way)

1. Jo - seph was trou - bled by what he knew!
2. Jo - seph was sleep - ing; that night he dreamed.
3. Hear - ing that mes - sage, Jo - seph o - beyed,
4. God, when our trou - bles seem far too great,

Mar - y was preg - nant; what should he do?
Noth - ing was real - ly as it had seemed.
see - ing a new path God's love had made.
help us to lis - ten, won - der and wait;

He wan - ted jus - tice— not to cause shame.
“Don’t be a - fraid— make Mar - y your wife.
He stood by Mar - y, wait - ing that birth,
some - times the world is not as it seems.

He would dis - miss her, plac - ing no blame.
God has a plan for your ba - by’s life.”
see - ing God’s Son there— Sav - ior of earth!
Give us your vis - ion; give us your dreams.

Text: Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *Have Thy Own Way, Lord*. Public Domain.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition, the pastor will say "God of hope" and the congregation will respond "hear our prayer."

Sharing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of peace with those around them, as we recognize the image of God in each other.

Special Music – Choir – Shepherds, Go Tell! By Sally K. Albrecht

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Prayer

Dialogue p.36

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

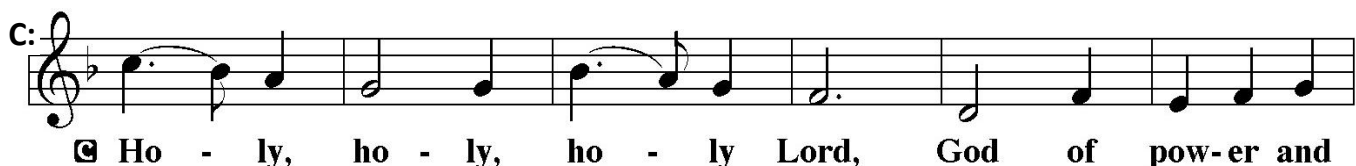
P: Lift up your hearts.

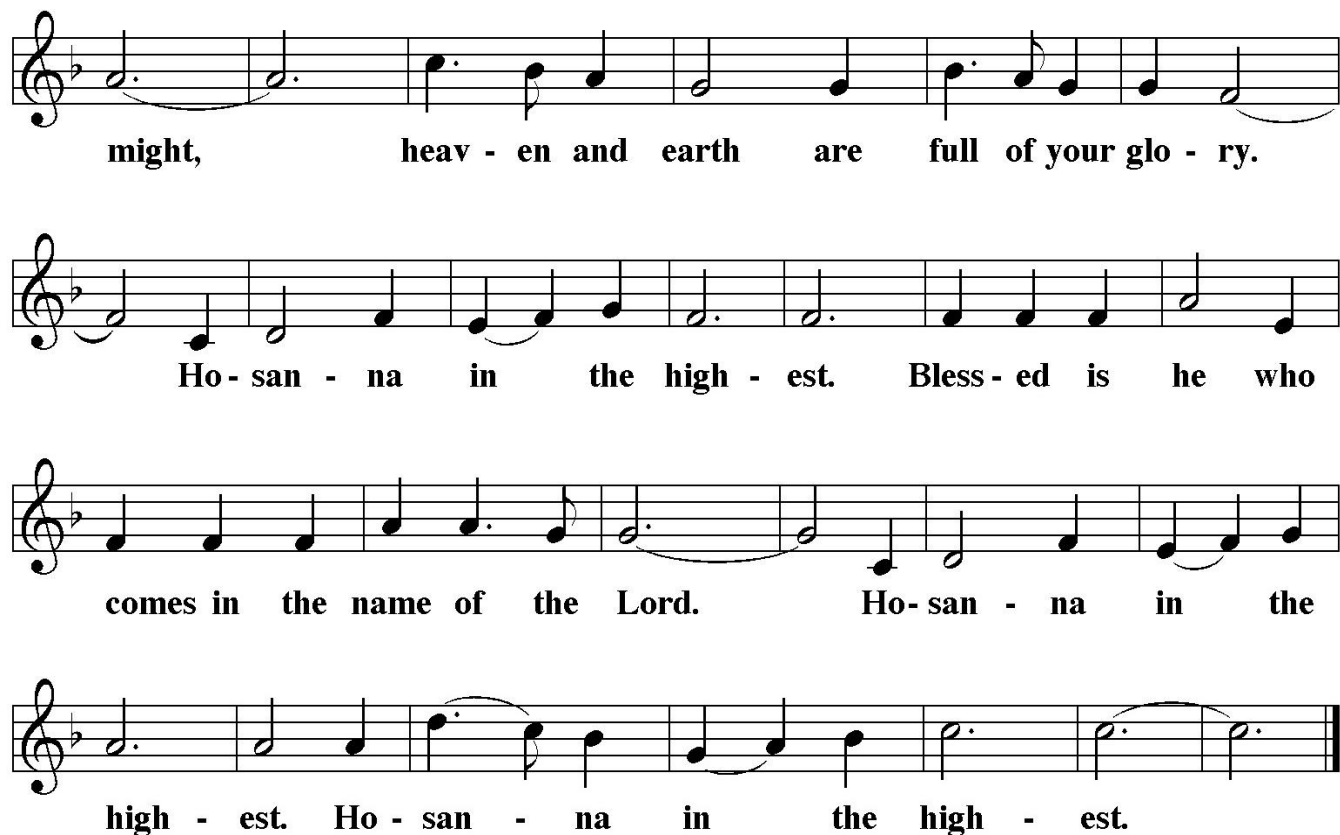
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is our duty and joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

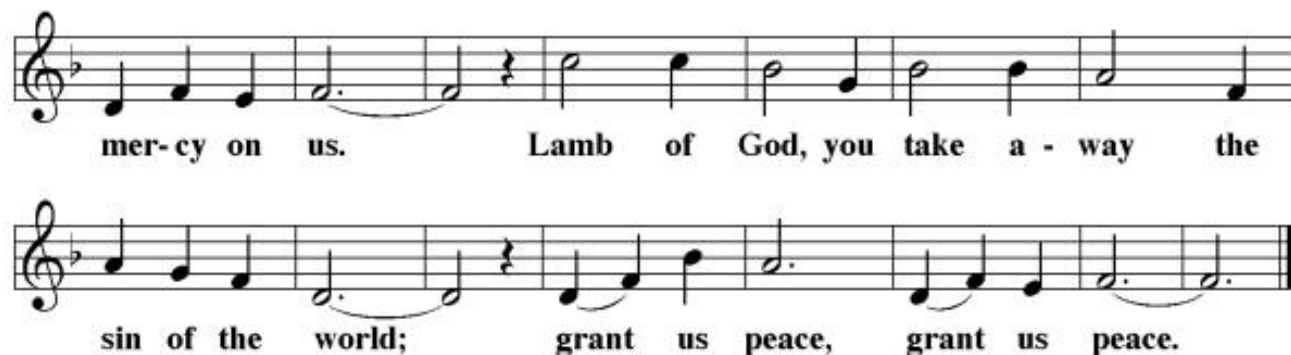
C: Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

Lamb of God p.39



☪ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you give us hope as we wait for you; have



Communion is distributed

Directions for Communion: All are invited to this meal of grace, including children. At the Usher's direction, you are invited to advance to the communion rail through the centre aisle, commune in groups, and exit back to your pews through the window aisles, depositing your used wine/juice vessel in the repository tray at the head of each window aisle. Wine is located in the two outer rings of the tray and the grape juice in the centre. We also have the option of the Common Cup for wine, as well as a gluten-free option for bread. Just note your preference at the time of serving. If you would prefer to receive communion in your pew once all have come forward, please raise your hand and the servers will come to you.

Hymns Sung during Communion

At the Feast By Peter Schuler

Voice

D/F# Em Em CM7 D Em

1. As we come to the table our souls are yearning For a sav - iour, ___ who
2. As we kneel at the table we feel you near us As a-mong us ___ you
3. As we rise from the table in your sal - va-tion Gift of Je - sus, ___ who

D C Bm Am7 G B7/F#

seems so ___ far. In the an - ti - ci - pa - tion of your re - turn - ing
come to ___ dwell In the bread and the wine and the Ho - ly Spi - rit
shines as the day. We will car - ry your light ___ to eve - ry na - tion

Em D G G7 C

God of com - fort, ___ pre - pare our hearts. At the feast ___ in eve-ry
God is with us, ___ Em - man - u - el. At the feast ___ in eve-ry
God of glo - ry, ___ O guide our way. At the feast ___ in eve-ry

D Em7 D/F# G G7 C

sea - son ___ We come bro - ken, ___ we go re - stored.
sea - son ___ We are fed by ___ your liv - ing word. May we al - ways ___ live eve-ry
sea - son ___ Saved by grace ___ and not re - ward.



ELW # 487 What Feast of Love

W&P 36 Emmanuel (Sung 3 times)

Emmanuel Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel

CCLI Song # 12949 - Bob McGee. Text and music © 1976 C. A. Music. For use solely with the SongSelect ® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com, Printed and streamed under CCLI License #2050320

ELW #262 Wait For the Lord (Chant)

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer

Special Musical Performance – Nikolaj Hansen & Lily Yen - Trumpet Love Letter by Ryota Ishikawa

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

L: May God who comes among us,
 Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
 grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
 and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song ELW # 257 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

From Sundaysandseasons.com.
Copyright © 2025 Augsburg
Fortress. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
December 21, 2025

To open hyperlinks, right-click your mouse while on the link and select *Open Hyperlink or Control-Click*

Flowers are placed on the altar by the Startin family, in loving memory of Alan, beloved husband, father, brother in Christ and servant of God.

Today after Service – Silent Auction: After Worship today Ruth Roberts will be hosting a silent auction. All proceeds from the sale will go to help pay off our flooring.

Christmas Services

We will gather to celebrate the good news of our Saviour's birth with the following services over the Christmas season:

December 24 Christmas Eve:	4 pm	Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service
	10 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
December 25th Christmas Day:	11 am	Service of Celebration with Holy Communion
December 28th: First Sunday of Christmas	10:30 am	Service of Favourite Christmas Carols by request
January 4th: Second Sunday of Christmas	10:30 am	Epiphany of Our Lord Service with Holy Communion followed by a special fellowship time including a potluck of leftover Christmas baking!

GROUPS ON BREAK IN DECEMBER

Sunday School: Now on break, **resuming Sunday, January 11, 2026.**

Sunday Morning Hybrid Bible Study: Last gathering on December 21, **resuming on January 4, 2026.**

Woodworking & Crafters group: Now on break, **resuming Tuesday, January 6, 2026.**

Prayer Group over Zoom: Now on break, **resuming Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 1:30 pm.**

Happy Hour: Now on break, **resuming Thursday, January 29, 2026.**

Prayers for the Bondi Beach Tragedy: The ELCIC is horrified and saddened to learn about the attack against a Jewish community during their Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia. Together with The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), they condemn this violent attack, unequivocally reject antisemitism, and grieve with those mourning their loved ones and with those injured. Perhaps the prayer printed that follows may guide your own prayers during this time.

Blanket Exercise at Como Lake United: Como Lake United Church will be hosting the *Blanket Exercise* on **Saturday morning, January 17 and Sunday afternoon, January 25.** They are holding open six spots for registrants from our congregation for each day. The Blanket Exercise is a powerful way of engaging in education around the history of Settler/Indigenous relations in Canada. Several of us have experienced it in different forums and have been affected deeply. Please see the poster that follows for further information. Sign up on the sign-up sheet to secure a spot on your preferred day.

Sunday, January 4th: If you have any leftover Christmas Baking to contribute to our “Leftover Christmas Baking Potluck”, please bring it with you next Sunday to be put out during our coffee hour for an extended time of fellowship and feasting.

ELCIC & Anglican Bishops Write to Prime Minister Carney about Gaza: Read it [here](#).

Note from BC Synod Bishop Kathy Martin: See the message that follows.

2026 LWF Peace Messengers Training: If you are an ELCIC member between the ages of 18 and 30 years, consider applying for the LWF Peace Messengers Training offered by Lutheran World Federation to empower and equip young people to act as peace multipliers and create more peaceful and just societies. For more information click [here](#).

Give Gifts from the Heart this Christmas! Canadian Lutheran World Relief’s new Gifts from the Heart catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It’s full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God’s love with the world! Pick up a copy on the Usher’s Table, or you can shop online [here](#) or at clwr.org/GFTH.

Christmas Food Drive: The Christmas Tree is up in the Sanctuary, so you can place your non-perishable food donations directly under the tree or in the bin in the Narthex to help restock the shelves of the SHARE Food Bank. Our food drive collection goes until Epiphany (January 6th). Know that whatever you can provide is greatly appreciated by those in our community who find themselves food insecure during this time of year. See the suggestion list above the bin for their most urgent requests.

CHRISTMAS RESOURCES:

- **CLWR’s Gifts from the Heart Catalogue:** Available now on the Ushers Table or click [here](#) for online orders.
- **Wintersong & Requiem:** St. Paul’s in Maple Ridge is hosting a concert by the Maple Ridge Choral Society featuring the Canadian premiere of Heather Sorenson’s *Requiem* on **Sunday, December 21, 2025** at 2:30 pm & 7 pm. See the poster that follows for all the details.
- **Preparing for Christmas with Prayer:** Pr. Bruce Ehlert (ELCIC, Saskatchewan Synod) prepares daily prayers during Advent. [You can subscribe to his prayer emails here.](#)
- **Christmas Messages:** Messages from the [World Council of Churches](#) and the [Lutheran World Federation](#)

‘Every Square Foot Counts’ - Educational Opportunities for Congregations:

- How can our church buildings be welcoming, secure, and life-giving for all who enter? This month’s blog, **“Safe by Design: Caring for Our Church Buildings and Community,”** introduces CPTED principles and shows how thoughtful design supports hospitality, stewardship & community well-being. Read post [here](#).

ELCJHL Appeal: The ELCIC is launching an appeal to support the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Our goal is to raise \$50,000. To read a letter about the appeal from National Bishop Susan Johnson, National Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer and Eastern Synod Bishop Carla Blakley, please click [here](#).

ignYte Return it Express Account: You’re invited to support our ignYte Youth Ministry with your recyclables. See the instructions on the bulletin board.



Downstairs Daycare: Green Apple Daycare has spaces available for ages 3 – 5 years old. Please contact us at greenappledaycare@hotmail.com or 604 –318 –3417 for information and to set up a tour. Or visit their [website](#).

WIDER CHURCH NEWS:

- **9th LWF International Seminar for Lay Leaders:** The 9th International Lay Leaders Seminar in Wittenberg and Geneva from 7th to 15th May 2026. You can find the invitation [here](#). If you are interested, please email the synod office (BCSynod@ELCIC.ca) **before 10 am on December 30, 2025** to receive a nomination form.
- **Invitation to join ELCIC Task Forces:** The ELCIC is seeking passionate, committed members from across Canada to join one of three task forces shaping our church's ongoing work in justice, inclusion, and faithful witness. For more information see the most recent congregational newsletter.
- **ELCIC Volunteer Opportunities:- Ecumenical Justice Committees:** The ELCIC is seeking representatives for two ecumenical committees: Project Ploughshares Management Board & The Commission on Justice and Peace of the Canadian Council of Churches. For more information, please contact Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop at pgehrs@elcic.ca.

COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE & CREATION CARE:

- **Justice Updates:** The following are updates on some significant issues of our time:
 - [16 Days: United in the Fight Against Digital violence](#)
 - [Anglicans and Lutherans Reaffirm Support for Refugees](#)
 - [A Decade of Strengthening Communities Through a Rights-Based Approach](#)
- **Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory Calculator:** The ELCIC has developed a Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory Calculator for congregations to assist faith communities in monitoring GHG emissions. To learn more contact Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop at pgehrs@elcic.ca.



Cantata

"NIGHT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE"
composed by Pepper Choplin

On December 21, 2025 at 10:30 am
Trinity Lutheran Church and COS
presents "Night of the Father's Love"
a Christmas mosaic that combines
fragments of the familiar with a unique
perspective in word and music. This
Cantata skillfully guides the listener
through the Christmas story, as though
hearing it again for the first time, in
an intriguing array of musical styles
including energetic Celtic, simple folk
melody, and the lush imagery of a
ballad. We hope you can join us.

December 21, 2025 at 10:30 am | Trinity Lutheran Church | 11040 River Road, Delta V4C 2S2

Image by Jeff Jacobs from Pixabay

CHRISTMAS SHOW 2025

The Return to Bethlehem

*Hosted by
Trinity Lutheran Church*

&

Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church



Worship Service - 10:30 Am

Grand Show Opening - 11:30 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church Choir Performance - 1:30 PM

Children's Christmas Play - 3 PM

Step into a recreated Bethlehem village with traditional style tents and displays reflecting life at the time of Jesus' birth.

Experience a day that brings the Nativity story to life!

December 21, 2025

11040 River Rd, Delta, BC V4C 4V2

Food & Drinks Available
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

This Week At Church (Note 1)

This Sunday Bible Study at 9:30 am (Zoom or in-person)
Fourth Sunday in Advent worship service with Holy Communion at 10:30 am
(view it here)

Wednesday *Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service* at 4 pm
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion at 10 pm

Thursday *Christmas Day Celebration Service* with Holy Communion at 11 am

Next Sunday *First Sunday in Christmas* worship service with 'Favourite Carols by Request'
and Holy Communion at 10:30 am (view it here)

Note: Most events are in-person events except those noted "on Zoom" or "Online". The links to these online events are accessible through our website [here](#). Our Sunday morning worship service is offered in-person, live-streamed and via on-line recording posted to our website shortly after the service is over, unless otherwise noted.

Last Week at Church

<u>Financial Information for:</u>	<u>December 14th</u>
Total Offerings:	\$ 899.00
General	\$ 693.00
<u>Designated Gifts:</u>	
- Property Fund	\$ 106.00
- Jason Wood Fund	\$ 100.00

A gentle reminder that in consideration of those who have severe sensitivities and allergies, the church has been designated a fragrance-free zone. Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

A message from Bishop Larry Kockendorfer

The ELCIC is horrified and saddened to learn about the attack against a Jewish community during their Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia. Together with The Lutheran World Federation LWF, we condemn this violent attack, unequivocally reject antisemitism, and grieve with those mourning their loved ones and with those injured.

As the LWF has named in its recent statement, "During this sacred season, as Jewish communities worldwide observe Hanukkah and Christians prepare for Christmas, we are reminded that both traditions call us to gather as communities, kindle lights in the darkness, and work for peace."

We offer the following prayer to guide you in your own prayers for God's presence and peace in the aftermath of this tragedy:

*God most mighty, God most merciful,
our sacred stories tell us that you help and save your people.*

You are our hope: console all who mourn.

You are our healer: restore all who are injured.

You are our shelter: embrace all who are fearful.

*You are our peace: guide all in the way of building peace built on justice,
equality, and recognition of every human life as sacred.*

*You are our strength: empower us to stand in solidarity as we work together
to turn hearts away from violence.*

*God most mighty, God most merciful,
during this sacred season, we kindle lights in the darkness,
seeking to reflect more boldly your peace and love. Amen.*

- ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



British Columbia Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Upcoming Sabbatical

A Message from Bishop Kathy

For the past few months, I have been sharing in meetings that I will be taking a sabbatical in the new year. I wanted to ensure this is also communicated more widely and well in advance, so that anyone who may need to connect with me personally or professionally has time to do so before the end of the year.

This sabbatical was originally intended to begin the Monday following the BC Synod Convention in 2021. My election that weekend changed those plans, and despite my best efforts to reschedule in the years since, the timing never quite aligned—until now. Synod Council has graciously approved new dates, and I will begin my time away on **January 1**, with a return anticipated in **mid to late May**, depending on what work may need my attention during that period.

There are several significant projects taking place over the coming month that will require a few weeks of my focused time before I step away. During the sabbatical itself, leadership will be shared by a dedicated team: **Rev. Matthew Senf**, who will serve as my commissary; **Rev. Elina Singh**, **Rev. Eric Krushel**, and **Rev. Aneeta Saroop**. They will be well supported by our excellent office administration team, **Rachel Genge** and **Durga Pandithurai**, as well as Synod Council Treasurer **Jerry Nieman**. Pastor Elina and Pastor Eric will take the lead on matters related to call processes. A common email address will be in place for the leadership team to ensure clear communication, and the office will ensure that inquiries are directed appropriately.

I am deeply grateful for this time that has been granted—for reflection, study, prayer, continued cardiac rehabilitation, time with family and friends, and yes... for rest. Thank you for your encouragement and support of this season of renewal. Please be in touch before the end of the year if there is something you hope to connect about before January.

With great thanksgiving

Blessings to you all in this season of Advent joy!

Bishop Kathy Martin

Blanket Exercise Workshop

Cecelia Reekie is a proud member of the Haisla First Nation. She believes deeply in the power of personal storytelling to raise awareness and foster understanding of Indigenous cultures and the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Speaking from the heart, Cecelia thoughtfully weaves together her diverse life experiences to create meaningful and engaging cultural workshops. She currently serves as a Cultural Presenter with the Langley School District, where she shares her knowledge and perspectives with students, educators, and the wider community.

Join us for this special Blanket Exercise Workshop with facilitator, Cecelia Reekie.

There are currently two dates available, and seating is limited.

Como Lake United Church
535 Marmont Street, Coquitlam

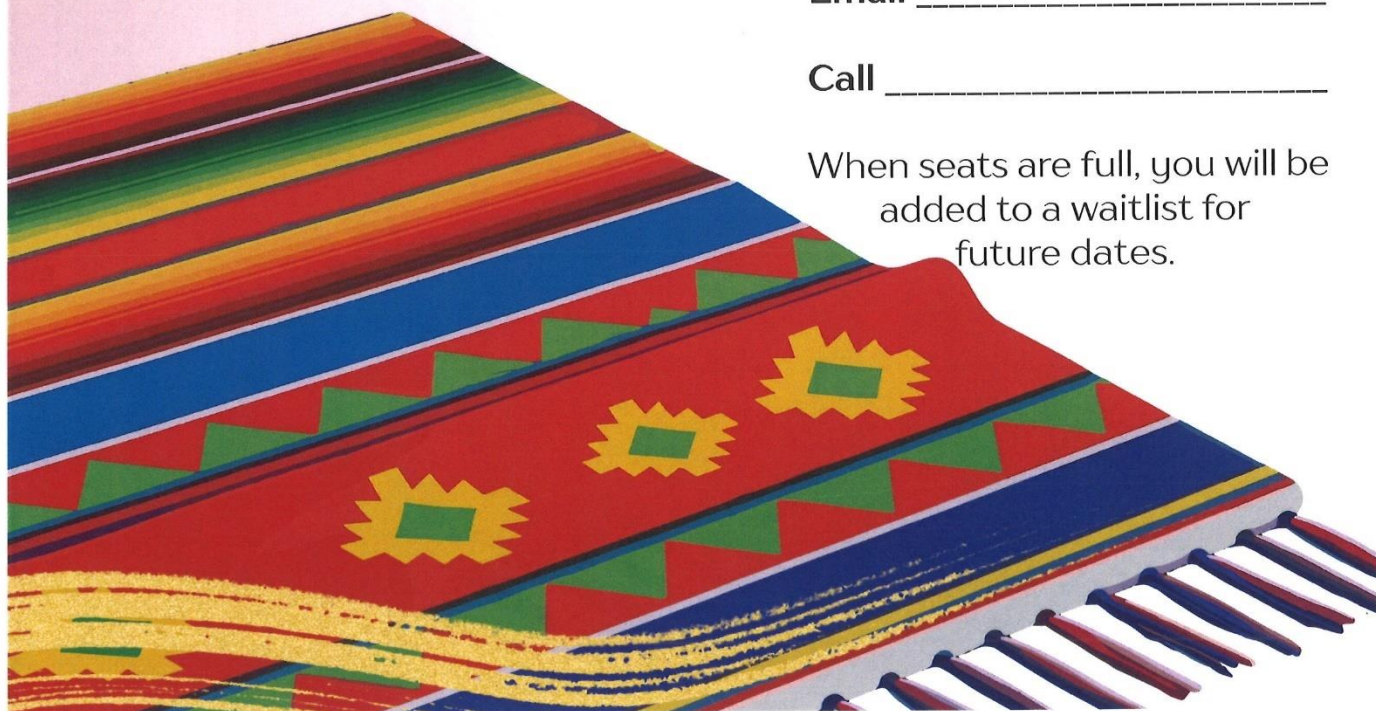
January 17, 2026 at 10 am
January 25, 2026 at 1 pm

To RSVP contact:

Email _____

Call _____

When seats are full, you will be added to a waitlist for future dates.



Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

We welcome you to worship today. It is our prayer that you sense the joy that is present in Jesus Christ. God loves and values each of you without conditions attached. We bring our joys and needs before God, trusting in God's presence.

1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 2P6

Phone: 604-936-2939

goodshepherd@telus.net www.gslcc.ca

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube
@GSLCoquitlam

Pastor Eric Krushel Cell: 604-220-5450
Office: 604-936-2939

General Office Hours				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00

We always recommend phoning before stopping by, as time may change .



Good Shepherd
Website

