
10:00 am

December 29, 2024 – Lessons & Carols for Christmas



Land Acknowledgement

Opening Bidding

My friends in Christ, in this season, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let it be our delight to hear the message of the angels again and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us join with the song of angels and saints and make this place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the Christ Child, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry, and those among us who find that there is no room for them at the inn.

Let us remember the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, and pray for the oppressed, refugees, the isolated, and those on the edges of our society.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved.

And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church, that we may be a sign that God's rule on earth has already begun.

With joy in our hearts, let us hear again the story of the birth of Christ, and join with Mary and Joseph, with shepherds and wise men, and with all our forebears in faith in offering our worship.

Carol: "See Amid the Winter's Snow" (CP #148)

The First Lesson: 1 Genesis 2:4-9, 15-25 (*Beverley Unsworth*)

Prayer

Creating God, you call us to live in harmony with nature, with one another, and with you. Now fix our eyes upon the one in whom your purpose for our world has been revealed, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11 (*Penny Batchelor*)

Prayer

God of freedom, give the strength of hope to those who suffer oppression in body, mind, or human dignity. Let them hear the vanguard of your coming grace, and give them the wholeness you intend for all your children. We ask this in the name of your Servant, Jesus Christ, the sign of your presence and the pioneer of our salvation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Carol: "There's A Voice in the Wilderness" (CP #106)

The Third Lesson: Luke 1:5-25 (*Amanda Hansen*)

Prayer

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 (*David Batchelor*)

Prayer

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Carol: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (CP #143)

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:39-56 (*Mary Koehler*)

Prayer

Almighty God, who looked with favour on your servant Mary, and called her to be the mother of your Son, nurture in us the humility and gentleness that found favour in your sight, that with her we may proclaim the greatness of your name and find the mercy you show to those who fear you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-20 (*Susan Parsons*)

Prayer

O Holy One, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Carol: “Shepherds in the Fields Abiding” (CP #135)

The Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-18 (*Vicky Erickson*)

Prayer

Eternal Wisdom, creating, ordering, and saving, we give you thanks that we have seen you in the selfless love of Jesus Christ. Now reign within our minds and hearts, and mobilize our will, that by your power and through our hands this world may be re-made to be the garden and the city of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Carol: “Silent Night” (CP #119)

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace: The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

You are invited to greet those around you with an offering of peace.

— *The Celebration of the Eucharist* —

Prayer Over the Gifts

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your incarnate Word, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

May God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: (*CP #735*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring us the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sung Lord's Prayer *by Gordon Light*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name; your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as in heav'n. 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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

Communion Anthem: "O Lamb of God"

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us your peace.

Come to the banquet for now all is ready.

These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

If you require a gluten free wafer, please only extend one hand. If you do not feel comfortable drinking from the cup, please just acknowledge it and let it pass.

We ask that you refrain from intincting or dipping your wafer.

Communion Hymn: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (CP #125)

Prayer after Communion

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, so that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

The Doxology

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.

Sung Blessing

The Closing Hymn: "Good Christians All Rejoice" (CP #153)

The Dismissal: Go in peace, share the good news. Thanks be to God.

Announcements

January book study: The Good Book

After spending several weeks digging into scripture with our study The Path, I would like to suggest that we take a little break.

I am going to spend the month of January reading, The Good Book by Peter Gnomes. In this book, the author tackles several difficult topics and attempts to give us some context for what we find in the Bible.

Then we will have a conversation about it on Wednesday, January 29th at our usual times: 11am in person and 7pm online.

You can order this book on online or through your local book store.

St. Anne's Sandwich Ministry

St. Anne's has had an ongoing relationship with the Richmond School District and the Richmond Food Bank to make and provide 100s of sandwiches to local schools to offer nutrition to students who might be hungry. Sandwiches are made in the church kitchen Monday-Friday.

Children & Youth at St. Anne's

We offer Godly Play, a Montessori based program, for children on Sunday mornings during the 10 am worship services. All children of all ages are invited.

We co-host both a monthly Jr and Sr youth group with Gilmore Park and South Arm United Churches. Please see our website for more information.

Faith & Families is a community ecumenical monthly program that gathers children, youth and their adults together for a time of spiritual exploration of craft time. All are welcome!

You can find all of this information & more
on our website @





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Follow us on Facebook: [stannessteveston](https://www.facebook.com/stannessteveston)

Bishop  The Right Reverend John Stephens

Rector  The Reverend Marnie Peterson

Music Director  Jonathan Der

*We gather and worship on the ancestral and unceded territories
of the Coast Salish Peoples.*