

**Welcome to
St. Luke Cedar Hill**

Advent 4

December 22, 2024 – 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist



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We acknowledge that we gather with respect on the traditional territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples, known in our day as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, the traditional custodians of these lands. We are grateful for their hospitality.

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Art on the Front Page:

Cover photo designed by Sharon McMillan

Prelude (*please be seated*)

Welcome and Introduction (*The Rev. Daniel Fournier*)

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath

Please stand as you are able.

Priest: People of God: prepare!
God, above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.
Maranatha!

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Priest: God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth.
Maranatha!

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Priest: God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made.
Maranatha!

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Priest: We are God's children,
we seek the coming Christ.
Maranatha!

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

The fourth candle is lit.

Opening Hymn:

CP 98 Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes
(tune: Richmond)

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Invitation to Confession

Priest: These two short days before Christmas remind us
of God's powerful promises on the brink of fulfillment.
We are not the only ones waiting
and wondering what is yet to come,
especially in these uneasy times.
We have the perspective of history
on how earlier promises bore fruit,
as well as our own yearnings.
Do we believe that there are promises
still to be fulfilled, and if so,
how do we demonstrate that?
As we prepare to listen intently
to these foundational stories of our faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept.

Confession

**All: Almighty God,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.**

Priest: Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation,
Jesus the Promised One.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

Bell Choir: *What Child is This?* Arr. Sharon McMillan;
conductor: Muriel Ali

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: MICAH 5: 2-5a

Reader: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7

**Response: *Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.***

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. **(Response)**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink. **(Response)**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. **(Response)**

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10: 5-10

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn: CP 363 My Soul Proclaims Your Glory, Lord
(tune: Duke Street)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 1: 39-45 (46-55)

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the gospel:

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily: The Rev. Daniel Fournier

Anthem: *The Angel Gabriel* by P. Manz

Please stand as you are able.

The Apostles' Creed

Priest: Let us together profess the faith of our baptisms as we say:

All: 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.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Sitting, standing or kneeling, as is your custom.

God of Zechariah and Elizabeth and John,
God of Mary and Joseph and Our Lord Jesus Christ,
through all generations you have been faithful to us.

Thank you, O God,
for all the faithful saints we have known in our lives.
Their trust in you gives us hope
whenever our own faith wavers.
May we be faithful in this generation
as others have been before us,
so that our ministry and mission in Jesus' name
will be renewed,
engaging the world in refreshing, respectful ways.

We pray today for those struggling
with loss and discouragement this season:
for those who have lost someone dear;
for those who cannot find meaningful work;
and all for whom challenge and change
make the future uncertain.

(Keep a time of silence)

Embrace them with your compassion
and strength to persevere,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for those
for who are facing sickness and death and for those
who have given up on themselves
and on the goodness of others.

(Keep a time of silence)

Embrace them with your compassion
and strength to persevere,

All: Hear our prayer.

We remember those
who face conflict in their homes or their homelands,
who wonder or fear what tomorrow may bring.

(Keep a time of silence)

Embrace them with your compassion
and strength to persevere,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for the creation that has suffered
from fire, storm and earthquake this year,
and for the lives disrupted by drought and despair.

(Keep a time of silence)

Embrace them with your compassion
and strength to persevere,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray today for those who have ask this community
to prayer for them... *(Names)*.

(Keep a time of silence)

Embrace them with your compassion
and strength to persevere,

All: Hear our prayer.

God of all life and each life,
as we move towards a new year,
let us have a strong sense of your presence
as we celebrate Christ's birth.

With the tenderness of your Spirit, lighten our burdens,
and show us new possibilities for our own lives
and for the ministries we take up in Jesus' name,

(Keep a time of silence)

Embrace them with your compassion
and strength to persevere,

All: Hear our prayer.

All these prayers we offer with grateful hearts.

All: Amen.

The Peace *(Please stand as you are able.)*

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

All: And also with you.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: CP 362 Tell Out, My Soul

(tune: Woodlands)

The Preparation of the Table

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest: Gracious God,
by the power of the Spirit
who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

[The Book of Alternative Prayer, The Anglican Church of Canada, 1985. Eucharistic Prayer 3]

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Priest: 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.

(From Common Praise # 719):

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

Congregation may sit or kneel at this time.

Priest: 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."

All: Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

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.

All: **Amen.** (*Sung 3 times - From Common Praise # 721*)

The Lord's Prayer (*Please stand as you are able.*)

Priest: In the words that our Saviour taught us, we pray:

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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread (*Setting: Land of Rest*)

**All: O Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us, Lamb of God,
and grant us your peace.**

The Giving of Communion

Priest: The table of bread and wine is now ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus,
and all who love him.
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.
It is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate.
So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a while;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come.
It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please follow the directions of the sidespeople as the congregation is invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine.

If you would prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing. Crossing your hands over your chest will signal the priest to give you a blessing instead.

NOTE: *Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

Please remain seated as we sing the hymns during communion.

Hymns during Communion:

CP 117 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
(tune: Es Ist Ein Ros)

CP 588 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

(tune: O-So-So)

Prayer after Communion *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Priest: Faithful God,
in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.
May we, like the Virgin Mary,
be obedient to your will.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Amen.

Priest: 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,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

Announcements *(Please be seated.)*

Benediction *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Priest: Go, now, in the blessing of God's promise
and in the assurance that our expectant joy
will find its fulfillment in the God
who was, who is, and who will be with us always.
The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you
now and ever more.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: CP 97 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

(tune: Tantum Ergo)

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to all who assisted with today's service.

IN THE WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN PRAYER CYCLE, we pray for The Church of the Province of Uganda - The Most Revd Stephen Kaziimba – Primate. **In the Anglican-Lutheran-Moravian Cycle of Prayer, we pray for** The Rt. Rev. Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, and the staff of Indigenous Ministries; the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples; and Dawn Maracle, Indigenous Justice Animator (Anglican); **for** Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the National Bishop, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and Peter Wall, Assistant to the National Bishop for Worship (Lutheran); **and for** The Rev. Melissa Johnson, president of the Eastern District Executive Board of the Moravian Church Northern Province. (Moravian). **In our Diocesan Prayer Cycle, we pray for** Anna, our Bishop, and for Chaplains and Chaplaincies. **We also pray for** Lutheran Church of the Cross and Pastor Lyndon, **and for** Diocese of Yukon and Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame. **This Advent and at Christmas, we pray for** the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, for its staff, volunteers, and the people it helps through the World of Gifts Programs including gifts such as buying goats for families in Kenya, who are food insecure and with little or no income.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS
December 22nd – December 29th
(New Items, *Revised Items)**

****Please stay to help decorate the Christmas Tree today after the 10 am service.** Let's work together to prepare the Sanctuary for the Christmas season. **We will have Coffee Time in the church this Sunday**, so that we can enjoy coffee and tea while we decorate the Christmas Tree.

***Longest Night Service – Tonight, December 22nd, 7 pm –** This time of year can be **difficult** for many people because of loss or changes in our lives. **This service of light in the midst of darkness is an opportunity to come and enter gently into a quiet holy time, and is open to everyone.** You are welcome to invite a friend to come and share with you in this service of remembrance and hope.

****The Church Office will be closed December 25th to 27th, December 31st, and January 1st.** The Church Office will be open on December 23rd, December 24th, December 30th, and January 2nd and 3rd.

“Help Wanted” for Sunday Morning Coffee Times including baking, set up, and clean up. Volunteers have a choice to just set up or clean up or both. Baking is always welcome and thoroughly enjoyed at Coffee Time. Our Coffee Times after the 10 am services have become very popular and we can only continue if we have enough volunteers. **If you can help, please email Heather Simpson, Rector's Warden (hsimpson@stlukecedarhill.ca) or chat with her on Sunday.** Dates needed now are the **Sundays in January.**

Planning Christmas activities with visiting family and friends? Keep in mind our **special Christmas services at St. Luke's – Christmas Eve: Child-friendly service at 4 pm** with Christingle oranges for the children; **7 pm Family Communion service** with candles, carols, soloists, instrumentalists, and a choir. **Christmas Day: 10:00 am Family Communion**

Service. All are welcome at all of these services. **Please note that there will not be a 10 pm service on Christmas Eve this year.**

Invitation Cards are Available at the Back of the Church – Please use the invitation card to **invite a friend or neighbour to the special services through Advent and over Christmas.** Or post the card on your fridge to remind you of the services over Christmas. Invitation cards for the Christingle service and Longest Night Service are also on the back table.

****The Service for the First Sunday after Christmas (December 29th) will be a Service of the Word at 10 am.** There will **not be an 8 am service this Sunday.**

****The Next Fantastic Friday will be on January 3rd, 2025** – It will be an **Epiphany Party in the Hall** starting at 4:30 pm. The evening will include Fantastic Friday crafts and the Epiphany tradition of chalking the church door. Everyone welcome!

***On Sunday January 5th, we will celebrate the Feast of Epiphany.** The 10 am service will be an Epiphany Lessons and Carols Service with **special music.**

****Our January Reflections, our Sunday service at dusk, will be on Sunday, January 12th at 4:30 pm** – The January Reflections will feature **Flutist, Dr. Mary Byrne.** When paired with inspirational readings, we hope that this Reflections will bring a sense of light and peace to all who attend.

2025 Contributor Boxes – If you haven't picked up your box of envelopes yet, **please pick up your box at the back of the church.** If you donate only via the PAR or by e-transfer, or just a couple of times a year, we didn't order a box for you this year.

Pre-Authorized Remittance Program (PAR) – A number of people noted on their givings cards that they would like to increase their PAR or start using PAR. To make a change or start using PAR, please send an e-mail to St. Luke's Givings e-

mail (givings@stlukecedarhill.ca) and include the following information as noted. **To make a change to PAR**, include your envelope #, the date you would like the change to happen (eg January 1, 2025 or February 1, 2025, etc.), and the amount of the change. The PAR comes out of one's account on the 20th of the month but changes have to be sent in prior to the 10th of the month. **To start using PAR**, send an e-mail to St. Luke's Givings e-mail (givings@stlukecedarhill.ca) and a form to enrol will be sent to you. The Treasurer will follow up with everyone who indicated that they would like to change their PAR amount or start PAR in case they have any questions.

***Christmas Stocking Project** – We have chosen a World of Gifts Project through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund as our Christmas Stocking Project. **We started our Christmas Stocking Project on the first Sunday of Advent, and it will continue to Christmas Day.** Our project will be buying goats for families in Kenya who are food insecure and have little or no income. You are invited **to drop your gold coins (Loonies or Toonies) into the Christmas stocking at the back of the church or to put a special donation into the collection plate labelled "Goats Project"**. Money designated in the collection or collected in the stocking from now to Christmas Day will be sent to the PWRDF to buy goats for families in Kenya. **Thank you for your donations to date totalling \$145 - 1½ goats! Let's see how many more goats we can buy.**

***Thank you for your Continued Donations in your Special Purpose Envelopes towards Buildings Expenses – Donations to date since September 1st now total \$6,612.75.** This year, we have spent around \$20,000 more on our buildings than we had budgeted. Please see the list at the **News page of St. Luke's website**. If you are able to make an additional donation in your Special Purpose Envelope (above your regular donations) to help cover these unexpected expenses, your donation would be greatly appreciated. You can also make a donation in regular envelope, via e-transfer, or

through Canada Helps, noting that this donation is towards building expenses.

The Shelbourne Community Kitchen invites you to join their Donate & Double Your Impact Campaign! From December 1st to 31st, every dollar donated will be matched up to \$15,000. With inflation and rising food costs, the need for food security has never been greater and so far this year The Kitchen has registered more than 300 new participants, including seniors, families, and newcomers for support. This is our community's chance to make twice the difference. Every donation—big or small—will be doubled, amplifying the impact and helping The Kitchen meet the growing demand for support. See more information and a link to make a donation at the **News page of St. Luke's website.**

Welcome To St. Luke Cedar Hill



Thank you for visiting today.
For more information about St. Luke's,
visit St. Luke's website:
<https://www.stlukesvictoria.ca>,
send an e-mail:
admin@stlukecedarhill.ca,
or phone: 250-477-6741.

We hope you will visit again!

Rector: **The Reverend Daniel Fournier**
E-mail: incumbent@stlukecedarhill.ca

For Pastoral Care Needs, please contact the office

Office Phone: 250-477-6741

Office E-mail: admin@stlukecedarhill.ca

Parish Administrator: Neil Patterson

Music Director: Susanne Reul-Zastre

Rector's Warden: Heather Simpson

E-mail: hsimpson@stlukecedarhill.ca

People's Warden: Brenda Morgan

E-mail: bmorgan@stlukecedarhill.ca

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 29th, 2024

1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3: 12-17

Luke 2: 41-52

FLOWERS

Flowers at St. Luke's are coordinated by Ann Séguin.