

### **The Blessing**

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and those whom you love, this day and every day. Amen.

### **Recessional Hymn CP # 119 Silent Night**

### **The Dismissal**



### **Memorial Christmas Flowers**

*The flowers around the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:*

*Percy & Gertrude Lamb  
By Sandra, Jo-Anne & Milburn & families*

*Joanne Morgan  
By Ron & family*

*Harold & Geraldine Willis  
By Suzanne, Tracy & Chris & families*

*Gordon McAllister  
By his wife Suzanne & Anne, Tracy & Chris & families*

*Our parents  
By Peter & Gail Payne*

*Our parents & grandparents  
By Rev. Bonnie & Michael Skerritt*

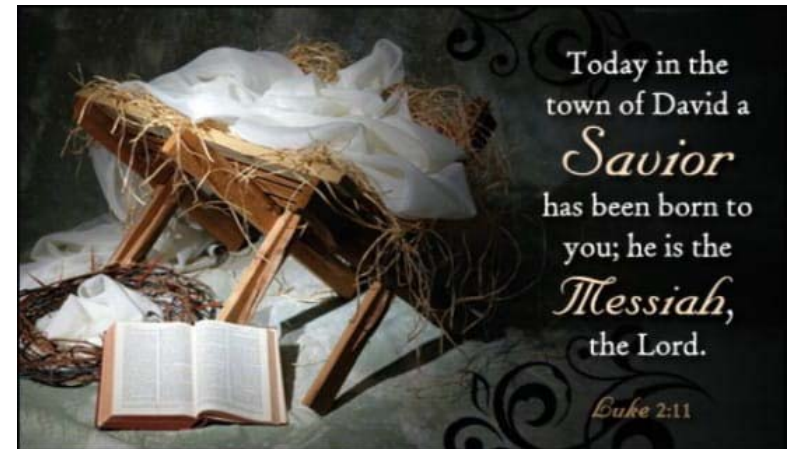
*Ward Clarke  
By Faye, Karen, Marlene, Gary & family*

### **Upcoming Services**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day 10am Holy Communion

**Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>** Christmas 1 10am Morning Prayer with carol sing

**Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>** Epiphany 1 10am Holy Communion



### **St. Paul's Anglican Church December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Christmas Eve Indigenous Acknowledgement**

*We acknowledge that this church is situated upon traditional Indigenous territory. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Creator, let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray in Your name, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. Amen.*

**Incumbent – The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt  
Honorary Assistant – The Rev. Canon Greg Physick  
Music Director – Diane Stecher**

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*Please note that all hymns are taken from  
Common Praise (1998) or are printed in the leaflet  
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### Carol-Sing Prelude

CP# 118 O Come All Ye Faithful, CP# 121 Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, CP# 135 Shepherds in the Field Abiding.

### THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional Hymn CP #154 Joy to the World

### Welcome & Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Candle (Advent Song)

Light the Advent candle, four:

Think of joy for ever more;

Christ Child in a stable born,  
gift of love that Christmas morn.

*Candle, candle, burning bright,  
shining in the cold winter night;  
candle, candle, burning bright,  
fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

**Sentence** I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ The Lord.  
*Luke 2 10,11.*

### The Greeting

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.**

### Glory to God

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,

**All: and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you**

**All: 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.**

### The Breaking of Bread # 6

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

**All: God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life. "**

### Lamb of God (sung)

**All Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world,  
give us your peace, give us your peace.**

### Hymns during Communion

Hymn CP #136 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Hymn CP # 137 What Child is This

Hymn CP # 126 Away in A Manger

### Anthem: The Sussex Carol

### Prayer After Communion

Celebrant: Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

### Doxology

Celebrant: 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.**

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;**

Celebrant: 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.

**People: Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

### **Collect of The Day**

**All: O God our Father, 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**

### **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 62: 6-12.**

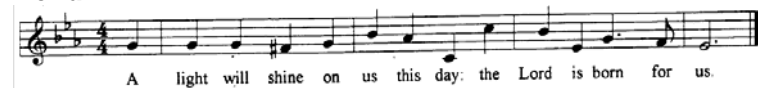
Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,  
I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night  
they shall never be silent.  
You who remind the Lord,  
take no rest,  
and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.  
The Lord has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:  
I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
for which you have laboured;  
but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the Lord,  
and those who gather it shall drink it  
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,  
prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,  
 clear it of stones,  
 lift up an ensign over the peoples.  
 The Lord has proclaimed  
 to the end of the earth:  
 Say to daughter Zion,  
 'See, your salvation comes;  
 his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him.'  
 They shall be called, 'The Holy People,  
 The Redeemed of the Lord';  
 and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,  
 A City Not Forsaken.'  
 Reader: The word of the Lord  
**People: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 97

#### Refrain:



1. The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice;  
 let the multitude of the isles be glad.  
 Clouds and darkness are round about him,  
 righteousness and justice are the foundations of his  
 throne. **Refrain**
2. A fire goes before him  
 and burns up his enemies on every side.  
 His lightnings light up the world;  
 the earth sees it and is afraid. **Refrain**
3. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord,  
 at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.  
 The heavens declare his righteousness,  
 and all the peoples see his glory. **Refrain**
4. Confounded be all who worship carved images  
 and delight in false gods!  
 Bow down before him,  
 all you gods. **Refrain**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### Prayer Over the Gifts

Celebrant: Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the  
 birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and  
 our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who  
 is Lord now and for ever. Amen

### Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven  
 and earth, because in the mystery of the Word  
 made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in  
 our hearts, to give knowledge of salvation in the  
 face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now with  
 angels and archangels and the whole company of  
 heaven, we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of  
 your name.

**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.**

Celebrant: 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.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

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,

**All: 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.

**People: Amen.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

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

**People: And also with you.**

### **Offertory Hymn CP # 140 It came upon a Midnight Clear**

5. Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements, O Lord.  
For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. **Refrain**

6. The Lord loves those who hate evil;  
he preserves the lives of his saints  
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. **Refrain**

7. Light has sprung up for the righteous,  
and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.  
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy Name. **Refrain**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Titus 3 : 4-7**

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

### **Gradual Hymn CP 139 The First Nowell (V1,2)**

#### **The Holy Gospel – Luke 2 : 1-20**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you.**

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

**People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and

family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Gradual Hymn CP # 139 The First Nowell ( 3,4)**

**Homily** Rev. Bonnie Skerritt

**The Nicene Creed**

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all 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.**

**The Prayers of the People: Litany #13**

(In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "Lord, grant us peace.")

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.