

St. Paul's Cathedral

The Anglican Church of Canada

Kamloops, British Columbia

Christmas Eve 4:00 pm
December 24, 2023



Welcome to St. Paul's Cathedral. Our worship service is contained in this bulletin. Hymns for the service are in the blue hymnbook: Common Praise. During the pageant you will find the carols printed on the insert. The receiving of Communion is open to all who feel drawn to Christ. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of the Bread and Wine, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest. Communion of one kind is full communion.

Today's service originates from the traditional territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc – Kamloops & Area First Nation. We acknowledge their care for and working of the land prior to contact with Europeans. As Canadian Anglicans, we continue to work toward healing and reconciliation and a new experience of sharing the land together.

Dean: The Very Reverend Dr. Kyle Norman; Music: Pat Rustand; Hymn Leader: Alison Rustand; Greeters: Cathy Shether, Lynn Snook, Ken Munro, Bob Shouldice; Servers: Rodney Jackson, Joan Lukow; Lay Administrators: Shirley Henderson, Elaine Parkes; Videographer: Doro Obogare; Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator: Melissa Green

Prelude Canon de Noel, by Johann Pachelbel, *arranged by Joseph Martin, copyright 1997, Malcolm Music , Division of Shawnee Press.*

Welcome & Lighting the Advent Wreath

Opening Words

Someone is shouting:

Get ready for God.

Someone is whispering:

Get ready for God.

Someone is singing:

Get ready for God.

God is coming soon.

Tonight we are excited

Bless us with wonder.

Tonight we are expectant

Bless us with gladness.

Tonight we are on tiptoe

Bless us with new birth.

When the world began

God said yes.

When Jesus came

God said yes.

When we were born

God said yes.

God said yes to life and loving.

Hymn: O Come, Little Children

CP 127

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jesus is born in Bethlehem!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus is born in our hearts!

We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to all on whom his favour rests.**

Loving God, on this holy night we gather –
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

**May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:**

**for to us is born a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord.**

**Glory and praise to you forever!
Amen.**

Scripture is Read: Isaiah 9:2-7

Christmas Pageant: “God With Us”

All children are welcome to take part in the Christmas Pageant!

Reflection: The Very Reverend Kyle Norman

Prayers of the People

Christ be in our eyes and in our looking,

Help us to see the world and respond faithfully to your call.
Guide us in caring for others and responding to the needs
around us. May we be open to seeing the wonder and awe in our
midst.

Christ be in our ears and in our listening,

Help us to hear you in the rustle of the leaves, in the soft falling
snow, in the sounds of laughter and tears and in the moments of
silence. May we be open to your voice and share your love with
the world.

Christ be in our hands and in our making,

Help us to do good: to create, to serve, to play, to help and to
make a difference. May our times of creating be grounding and
filled with learning and service.

Christ be in our minds and in our understanding,

Help our minds to always be on you and help us to learn and grow in love for you. May we be in the world as your hands and feet.

Christ be in our hearts and in our caring,

We pray for those who are sick, lonely, have no home or shelter, who are hungry, and who are sad this night. We pray for those who have died and for whom we miss. We pray for the places in our world where there is danger, fear and unrest. We name out loud or in the silence of our hearts those who need our prayers. ... May all feel your comfort and healing love on this night as we celebrate your birth.

Christ be with us, with our neighbours and in our loving.

We pray for all those who we love: for our family and our friends. For those close to us tonight and for those far away.

Loving God we give you thanks for the holy story of Jesus' birth that these children have shared with us and for all that they teach us. We give to you these our prayers and thanksgivings both spoken and held in our hearts. **Amen.**

The Peace

God's peace be with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn Silent Night CP119

Prayer over the Gifts

We give you thanks, Holy One,
for the world of wonder you have made;
Receive our gifts of tenderness and love,
gratitude and praise,
and use them for your glory;
in the name of Jesus Christ,
the child of Bethlehem, we pray. **Amen.**

Eucharistic prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer.

He is your living Word,
Through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh of the Virgin Mary
and shared our human nature.
He lived and died as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

In fulfillment of your will
he stretched out his hand in suffering,
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;
and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,
and to give up his life on the cross,
that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.
By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of
your name.

**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.**

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
took bread, and gave you thanks,
saying, "Take, and eat:
this is my body which is given for you."
In the same way he took the cup, saying,
"This is my blood which is shed for you.
When you do this, you do it memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we offer you this bread and this cup,
giving thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
Upon the offering of your holy Church.
Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries,
filling them with the Holy Spirit,
and confirming their faith in the truth,
that together we may praise you and give you glory
through your servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy
Spirit, in the holy Church
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**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.**

Fraction Sentence

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

(all are welcome)

Communion Hymns: Angels We Have Heard on High, arranged
by Jay Rouse, *copyright 2017 Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of 5he
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Still, Still, Still, arranged by Mark Hayes, *Copyright 2006, Lorenz
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Prayer after Communion

God of promise,
from ancient times you have sustained your people.
With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the
birth of Jesus. With shepherds and angels, lead us to praise the
holy Child of Bethlehem.
**May we who have knelt at the manger
always have room to hold within ourselves
the Christmas Child. Amen.**

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: O Come all ye faithful

CP 118

Dismissal

Go forth to sing and bless God's name.
Glory to God in the highest!
**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.
Alleluia! Praise the Lord.**

Postlude: O, How Joyfully, with Joy to the World, arranged by Cindy Berry, copyright 3013 by Alfred Music.

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Many thanks to all the parents, young adults and youth who helped to organize the Pageant.

A **big** thank you to all the children and teens for participating in this year's sharing of the story and to all who gathered here tonight to be part of the sacred story!

Blessings for a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024.

Merry Christmas! We hope that you find yourself comfortable and at home here. This will be an interactive service and we expect that there will be the sounds and movements of children throughout: laughter, tears, whispers, (and whispers that are a bit louder), wandering feet... this is all part of the sacred song of this evening! This is part of the creative chaos that welcomes baby Jesus this night! So, relax and know that we welcome you with open arms.

If you require a restroom during the service, there is one with a change-table accessible through the archway at the front of the church on the right side. There are also restrooms downstairs. Ask a greeter at the back and they'd be happy to direct you.

At St. Paul's Cathedral we value children and families as an important part of our community and offer ongoing programming which is open to all. Program Offerings:

Children's Sunday School during the 10am Sunday Services

Youth Group for grades 4-12 – scheduled gatherings each month

Friday Family Food and Fun is a ministry focused on outreach to young families. This monthly event consists of a simple diner, songs, games, crafts and a story.

You do not have to be a member of St. Paul's to participate in one or all of these programs. For more information, or to be added to the email list please contact Melissa Green at stpaulscathedralyouth@gmail.com.