

*Please practice Health protocols that make you feel comfortable.
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

HOLY EUCHARIST

Book of Alternative Services

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding

A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors.
With thanks, please mute your cell phones during the service.
The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

Prelude – *Norma Kobald*

Procession accompanied by instrumental music

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Candle of Hope on the Advent Wreath:

The first candle is lit as we sing

A Candle Is Burning - Sandra Dean & James R. Murray (t. CP#126)

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright.
A candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

A short reflection on **Hope** by Ken Pedlow

Gathering Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (CP #89 vss. 1 – 4)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to your tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

The Gathering of the Community

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

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: 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.**

Kyrie – Said 3 times

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

Centering Stillness:

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. (Silence)

The Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Irene Feir: A reading from the book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

Responsive Psalm 25:1-9 BAS – Irene Feir

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; * **let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; * **let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, * **and teach me your paths.**

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, * **for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, * **for they are from everlasting.**

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * **remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; * **therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

8 He guides the humble in doing right * **and teaches his way to the lowly.**

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness * **to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Barb Baillie: A reading from the First Book of Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

Gradual: *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (CP #88)

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

Ian: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Ian: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Ian: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (Con't.)**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

The Apostles' Creed (*said*)

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, 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 the People – *Ian Stuart*

Confession & Absolution:

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy and welcomes sinners and invites them to the table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Presider: 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.

Presider: 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. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand*

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

People: And also with you.

*The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another in a manner that feels safe for you.
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

Offertory: *Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending* (CP #114)

**Lo he comes in clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Now redemption, long expected,
See in solemn pomp appear;
All his saints, on earth rejected,
Thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!**

**Yea, amen let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Hallelujah! come Lord, come!**

Prayer over the Gifts: God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED
(Eucharist Prayer 3)

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Presider: Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
you are the source of light and life for all your creation,
you made us in your own image,
and call us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus & Benedictus (CP #735) - Schubert

**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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: 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;**

Presider: 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 daughters and sons; 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. **Amen.**

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray: *(said)*

The Lord's Prayer:

**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 pow'r and the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Presider: God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**All: Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

Administration of Holy Communion

All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.

*If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing,
please cross your arms over your chest.*

Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Communion: One Bread, One Body (CP#73)

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless**

**And we, though many, throughout the Earth
We are one body in this one Lord**

**Gentile or Jew, servant or free
Woman or man, no more**

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the Earth
We are one body in this one Lord**

**Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all**

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the Earth
We are one body in this one Lord**

**Grain for the fields, scattered and grown.
gathered to one for all**

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the Earth
We are one body in this one Lord**

Prayer after Communion: God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider: 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.

Blessing

Sending Song: *When the King Shall Come Again* (CP #109)

**When the King shall come again
all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign,
life and joy and healing:
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated;**

**this is God's redemption day
longingly awaited.**

**In the desert trees take root
fresh from his creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration.**

**Rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning;
valleys, this is your new birth,
mountains, greet the morning!**

**Strengthen feeble hands and knees,
fainting hearts, be cheerful!**

**God who comes for such as these
seeks and saves the fearful.**

**Deaf ears hear the silent tongues
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes see the lifeless ones
walking, running, leaping.**

**There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean
walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound
all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned,
share in his rejoicing!**

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 8, 2024

Malachi 3:1-4; Canticle 19a; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

WELCOME to Norma Kobald who is providing the music for us again today while Joanne is on vacation.

20th SAANICHTON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS & FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER – Saturday, December 7th – Pancake Breakfast with Santa at St. Mary at 9:00 a.m. By donation.

Thank you to all who are assisting today

Music	Norma Kobald
Readers	Irene Feir, Barb Baillie, Ian Stuart
Liturgical Assistant	Ian Stuart
2nd Chalice	Brett Cane
Sidesperson	Irene Feir
Sound Tech/Bell	Matty Stuart
Coffee Hosts	Judi Clark
Altar Guild	Judi Clark
Flower Guild	Heather Geddes

ADVENT REFLECTIONS – Leslie is still looking for one person to do a two- or three-minute reflection on Love on Sunday, December 22nd. If you would like to volunteer please let Leslie know today. Thank you.

ST. MARY’S OUTREACH – For those who do not have offering envelopes, you may bring your outreach offering in a plain envelope, marked “Outreach for Month of ___” with your name and address and, if applicable, your Electronic Collection Plate number.

Nov.	South Island Centre for Counselling and Training
Dec.	General Outreach

SPECIAL OUTREACH – Deadline Approaching!!

LÁ,ETEN TTE SÓELESTENEN Building Bridges – As our Christmas Outreach to our Tsawout neighbours, we will be collecting monetary donations and bulk-purchasing Gift Cards.

Last year we were able to purchase \$1,650 in gift cards for those experiencing need. While realizing we are all experiencing our own increased food costs, gas prices etc. we are hoping you can help out again, It all helps no matter the amount and is always appreciated by those who receive our gifts. The Fund currently holds \$200.

You may insert your cash or cheque (payable to St. Mary’s Church) into an envelope with your address and/or envelope number. You may use the DONATE Button on the website, choose St. Mary’s Outreach and indicate “Building Bridges” in the Note box. You may also place the envelope on the offering plate or bring it to Leslie in the office by **December 8th**.

ANOTHER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

This year our Parish has chosen to support the Saanich Peninsula Lions Food **12 Days of Christmas Giving Holiday Food Drive**. Starting December 1st, 2024 add the daily item to a reusable bag and once it has been filled with the twelve items deliver it to either St. Mary or St. Stephen as noted below.

Help fill the food bank's shelves with food and hygiene items that we are critically low on with this festive fundraiser.

Step 1 - See the list, check it twice!

Step 2 - Each day add one item to your hamper bag.

Step 3 - On Advent 3, Sunday, December 15th, bring your bag to the service, either St. Mary (narthex) or St. Stephen (Church Hall)

Day 1 - Cereal

Day 2 - Canned Tomatoes

Day 3 - Toothbrushes

Day 4 - School Snacks

Day 5 - Juice

Day 6 - Canned Fruit

Day 7 - Pasta Sauce

Day 8 - Cake / Muffin Mix

Day 9 - Shampoo / Body Wash

Day 10 - Helpers (Instant Potatoes / Hamburger Helper)

Day 11 - Canned Meat

Day 12 - Pancake Mix



**SAANICH
PENINSULA**
LIONS FOOD BANK

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. In the Anglican Church of Canada we pray for Archbishop Anne, our Acting Primate. We also pray for Archbishops Lynne and Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Anna, our bishop; for Trinity & Lutheran, Port Alberni.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the people of the **Parish of St. Michael and All Angels, Royal Oak**, the people of the parish and for the parish and neighborhood. We also pray for the people of the Central Saanich United Church

Our Parish Ministers: Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul and Gil

In our Parish: We pray for Henry Sherwood and for Christine and Greg Robinson and for their families.

For those ill or in need of prayer: Neville & Patricia, Roche, Diana A., Fern & Mark, Ron H., Lynn S.

For Those with Long-Term Needs: Cheryl, Ted, Jillian S., Paul J., Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery, Courtney

For friends beyond the parish: Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Warwick, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Bryan, Karen & family, Drew, Sheila P., Amy, Anna, Betty O., Betty E., Alysha, Sue P., Mike D., Michelle, Rudi, Bishop Geoff Woodcroft

For the Repose of the Soul: of Alison Stewart and for comfort and strength for David, their family and friends.

In the greater community: We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. May we all be called to create communities where all children of God are safe and respected.

We pray for those impacted or endangered by the toxic drug supply crisis and also for their loved ones who are, or have been, impacted.

If you would like to contribute to the operation of our Parish, there are several ways to do so.

- You may place your offering in the collection plate at the church when you attend services. You may use your weekly offering envelope at either church, especially during combined worship services. We will ensure that it gets to the church that is identified on the outside of the envelope.
- There are special “Visitor” envelopes at the back of the church. Please follow the instructions on the front.
- You may enroll in our Pre-Authorized Donation program if you would like to give through automatic debit or credit card. Speak with Lynda Clifford at St. Stephen or Leslie Pedlow at St. Mary.
- You may donate to either congregation on-line by going to the parish website (**ParishCS.ca**) and clicking the “DONATE” tab on the top line. From there follow the instructions, scroll down the menu to select where your donation should be applied. May be used for Outreach donations as well.
- There are secure mail slots in the office doors at St. Mary and St. Stephen for drop off.
- You may send a cheque (made payable to either St. Mary’s Church or payable to St. Stephen’s Church) and mail it to the respective address on the back of the bulletin.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego
His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949
His email: ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

***Note:** Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.*



St. Mary's Anglican Church
1973 Cultra Avenue
Saanichton, B.C. V8M 1L7
Office: 250-652-1611
stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca

St. Stephen's Anglican Church
7921 St. Stephens Road
Saanichton, B.C. V8M 1S2
Office: 250-652-4311
admin@parishcs.ca