



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich  
St. Mary Church      St. Stephen Church  
*Faith - Family - Friendship*



ANGLICAN DIOCESE  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Welcome To  
PARISH OF CENTRAL SAANICH  
St. Stephen Church**



**JANUARY 5, 2025 - EPIPHANY**

*We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional  
lands of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish peoples*

**St. Mary's Service:**

Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m.

**St. Stephen's Service:**

Sunday Service: 11:15 a.m.

Continue to monitor our website - [ParishCS.ca](http://ParishCS.ca)

**The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Incumbent**  
**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie, Honorary Assistant**

Associated Clergy: The Ven. Bob Baillie  
The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane  
The Rev. Paul Schumacher,  
The Rev. Gil Shoosmith, deacon



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

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## **HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Diocese of Islands and Inlets Liturgy** (*V. I. Liturgy*)

*The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding & Preaching*

A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors.

The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

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Prelude - *Joanne Lambert*

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

**Gathering Song: *As with Gladness Men of Old*** (CP #160)

**As of gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare  
at that cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with joyful song,  
raising voices pure and strong,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly king.**

**In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light:  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
alleluias to our king.**

**The Gathering of the Community**

**Lon:** 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.**

Lon: In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the  
W̱SÁNEĆ and Coast Salish Peoples.

**All: From many places and Peoples we come to this house  
in prayer.**

Jackie: In this time and place we are not alone for we meet in the  
presence of the living God.

**All: For we meet in the presence of the living God.**

Lon: In this time and place we are not alone for the Risen Jesus  
stands in our midst.

**All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.**

Jackie: In this time and space we are not alone for the wind of the  
Spirit moves in and through us.

**All: The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.**

Lon: In this time and space we are not alone for we gather with  
the whole company of heaven. In this time and in this space  
heaven and earth are one.

**All: In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.**

Jackie: In this time and place together, one People in Jesus Christ.

**All: In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*Glory to God on High CP (#365)*

**Glory to God on high,  
and peace to all on earth.  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
our heavenly King.  
We give you praise,  
almighty God and Father blessed  
in glory bright.**

**Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
the Father's only son,  
The sacrificial Lamb,  
who saves the world from sin,  
have mercy Lord.  
Beside the Father's hand enthroned,  
now hear our prayer.**

**You only are the Lord.  
You only are most high.  
You only are the holy one,  
Lord Jesus Christ.  
And now you reign**

**with Father and with Spirit one  
in glorious light.**

**Centering Stillness:**

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

**The Prayer of the Day: Almighty and everliving god, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 2006 alt.*

**The Readings**

Greg Robinson: A reading from the Book of Isaiah

**Isaiah 60:1-6 NRSV**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.  
Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 BAS** – Greg Robinson

*I Give the king your justice, O God, \* and your righteousness to the king's son;*

2 That he may rule your people righteously \* **and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \* **and the little hills bring righteousness.**

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \* **he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \* **from one generation to another.**

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \* **like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \* **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \* **and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

11 All kings shall bow down before him, \* **and all the nations do him service.**

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \* **and the oppressed who has no helper.**

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \* **he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \* **and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

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.**

Lynda Clifford : A reading from the First Book of Ephesians

### **Ephesians 3:1-12 NRSV**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,<sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,<sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.<sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:<sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.<sup>8</sup> Although I am

the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in<sup>[d]</sup> God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual: *The First Noel* (CP#139)**

**The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Refrain:*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

**They lookèd up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. (*Refrain*)**

**And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. (*Refrain*)**

Lon: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Lon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

**Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Lon: The Gospel of Christ.

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

*The First Noel (CP #139 con't.)*

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.**

*Refrain:*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

**Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there, in his presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense (*Refrain*)**

**Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
Who has made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with his blood salvation bought. (*Refrain*)**

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

**The Apostle's Creed:**

**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.

### **The Prayers of the People – Greg Robinson**

#### **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**

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 Hymn: All Poor Ones and Humble (CP #152)**

**All poor ones and humble,  
all lame ones who stumble.  
Come haste ye, and be not afraid.  
For Jesus, our treasure,  
whose love passes measure,  
in lowly poor manger is laid.**

Though wise men who found him  
laid rich gifts around him,  
yet oxen they gave him their hay.  
And Jesus in beauty  
accepted their duty  
contented in manger he lay.

*Refrain:*

Then haste we to show him  
the praises we owe him;  
our service he ne'er can despise.  
Whose love still is able  
to show us that stable  
where softly in manger he lies.

The Christ child will lead us  
The good Shepherd feed us,  
And with us abide till his day.  
Then hatred he'll banish,  
Then sorrow will vanish,  
And death and despair flee away.  
And he shall reign ever,  
And nothing shall sever  
From us the great love of our King.  
His peace and his pity  
Shall bless his fair city;  
His praises we ever shall sing. *Refrain*

**Prayer over the Gifts:** Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

*(Eucharist Prayer B)*

Presider: God is here

**People: The Spirit is with us.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

**People: We lift them to God.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

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

Presider: Holy and eternal One, in whom we live and move and have our being. You are our origin and our fulfillment; we praise and thank you for drawing us to this sacred meal. From the ocean of your primal love, you fashioned the marvel of creation, and beauty of human life.

From this land of towering forests and mist laden coastlines, you humble us and affirm the sacred gift of all creation, calling us to care for everything given and received.

**All: Glory to you, source of all life**

Presider: From the earliest days the peoples of these islands and inlets learned their dependence on your provision, salmon and deer, song and ceremony, dance and painted cedar, hallowed these sacred relationships with all life.

**All: Glory to you, source of all life**

Presider: In Jesus Christ, you came into our world to reveal your glory, reconcile all peoples to yourself, and make all things new in him. Now, gathered from many places, and joining with the saints of every time and place, we raise our thankful voices in songs of unending praise, saying

**Sanctus & Benedictus** – *music, Land of Rest, American traditional tune*

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

Presider: Blessed are you, most holy One: For on the night before he died Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to all gathered, and said: “Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup, gave you thanks, and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.”

**All: “Behold, I am with you to the end of the age”.**

Therefore, God of all creation, we lift this Bread of Life, and this Cup of Salvation. Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts, and upon us, that we may know Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and follow him in lives of selfless service and courageous love.

**All: Glory to you, source of all life**

In the fullness of time reconcile all things in Christ, and bring us to that heavenly table, where every tear will be

wiped away and we will feast anew. Blessing, praise and thanksgiving be to you, Holy and Eternal One, Undivided Trinity, One God, now and forever.

**All: Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*sung*)

**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.** *Gordon Light*

**Breaking of the Bread:**

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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.*

Instrumental music during Communion

**Prayer after Communion:** God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Doxology**

Presider: Glory to God

**All: whose love, 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: *We Three Kings***

**We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,**

field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

Dismissal:

Leader: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

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*Please join us for coffee and conversation in the parish hall*

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**READINGS – JANUARY 12, 2025**

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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**WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST AND BIBLE STUDY** – will resume on  
January 8<sup>th</sup>. The service begins at 10:00 a.m. and Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.

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**ST. STEPHEN'S 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – For those who have requested Envelopes, they are available on the table in the Narthex. If you wish to use this method of giving please speak with Lynda Clifford or call the office at 250-652-1611 to make arrangements.

**PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATIONS** – If you would like to initiate giving through automatic debit or credit card, or adjust the amount of your current offering, please speak with Lynda.

**DONATING THROUGH THE WEBSITE** - 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 specify (this is most helpful for bookkeeping purposes) where your donation should be applied.* May be used for Outreach donations as well.

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**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. There will be a combined service at St. Mary at 10:00 a.m. followed by light refreshments and the meeting. Please bring finger foods to share. Please begin preparing your reports for submission to Leslie ([stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca](mailto:stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca)) by January 30<sup>th</sup>. We will continue with a condensed version of the Annual Report. Forward-looking reports are eagerly anticipated from:

The Incumbent

The Wardens

Outreach

Cemetery Report, 2024 Financial statements & draft 2025 budget

2024 Church Financial Statements and 2025 draft budgets

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## INTERCESSIONS

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for the Church in Wales. In the Anglican Church of Canada we pray for Archbishop Anne, our Acting Primate. We give thanks to Lynne McNaughton for her service as Metropolitan of The Province of B.C and Yukon and we pray for the upcoming election for a new Metropolitan in January. We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for Anna, our bishop; for Christ Church, Alert Bay.

**Regional Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for the Parish of Salt Spring Island and the people of the parish and neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of Central Saanich United Church.

**Our Parish Clergy:** Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul, Gil and all who minister.

**In our Parish:** We pray for Gil & Cheryl Shoemsmith and for Jill, Ian, Daniel and Matty Stuart and for their families.

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

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

**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, Cassidy

**In the greater community:** 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.

## 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.*



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