ST. ANNE'S STEVESTON
ANGLICAN CHURCH

10:00 am

December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent

Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (CP #89) *verses 5-6*

Land Acknowledgement

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are on. We give thanks to the Coast Salish peoples, the first people of this land. Creator let us be of good mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

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

Almighty God, **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.**

Sung Gloria: "Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo" (CP #376)

The Collect

God of glory and compassion,
at your touch the wilderness blossoms.
Grant perseverance and patience to all who long for your Son's return,
so that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom.
We ask this through Christ whose day draws near. Amen.

Children's Reflection: The Jessie Tree

Lighting the Advent Wreath

A candle burns, the sign of our faith.
God of the Baptising One, come to us again this Advent.
May we have a faith that renews our lives.
May we live in the light of your promises.

Children's Song: "All the Earth Is Waiting" (VU #5) *verse 3*

The First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 *(Susan Parsons)*

Canticle 18: "The Magnificat" by Marty Haugen *(see video screens)*

The Second Reading: James 5:7-10 *(Beverley Unsworth)*

Gradual Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (CP #117)

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 *(Brigitte Solomon)*

The Sermon: *The Rev. Marnie Peterson*

"Silence & Stillness for Prayer & Reflection"

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith using the declaration of Hildegard of Bingen:
Spirit of God, Life and life-giver.
Root of all life, Enlivening Wind,
washing away sin, anointing each wound.
You are True life, alive with Light, worthy of praise,
Awakening the heart from death to new life.

Prayers of Intercession *(Cliff Caprani)*

Confession and Absolution

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

~ Silence and stillness ~

Most merciful God,
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.

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: The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" (CP #106)

— The Celebration of the Eucharist —

Prayer Over the Gifts

God of abundance, **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

May God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**
Let us give thanks to God our Creator. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he come to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: *(CP #732)*

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

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring us the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sung Lord's Prayer *by Gordon Light*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as in heav'n. 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Communion Anthem: "Come, Share with God" (VU #469) *verses 1, 2, 1*

Come to the banquet for now all is ready.
These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

If you require a gluten free wafer, please only extend one hand. If you do not feel comfortable drinking from the cup, please just acknowledge it and let it pass. We ask that you refrain from intincting or dipping your wafer.

Communion Hymn: "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour" (CP #84)

Prayer After Communion

God for whom we wait, **in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

The Doxology

Glory to God, 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.

Sung Blessing

The Closing Hymn: "Tell Out My Soul" (CP #362)

The Dismissal: Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Flowers in Worship

Today's display was provided by Jean Burgess in remembrance and celebration of Caroline Burgess's birthday.

Advent Supper Church: One more on December 18 at 5:30 pm

The format includes a simple supper, some conversation and eucharist and all in the context of a liturgy at the table.

Blue Christmas Service: December 18 @ 7 pm

For those who find the holiday season difficult.

Opportunities to gather, worship, and celebrate abound during the season of Advent & Christmas at St. Anne's and in our faith community. Visit our website to learn about everything going on and please contact us if you need more information!

ST. ANNE'S STEVESTON
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Christmas
2025

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 pm - Pick Up Pageant
7 pm - Eucharist
10 pm - Candlelight Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am - Eucharist

DECEMBER 28

10 am - Lessons & Carols

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ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Archbishop ⁂ The Most Reverend John Stephens

Rector ⁂ The Reverend Marnie Peterson

Music Director ⁂ Jonathan Der

We gather and worship on the ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.