



**VESPERS  
(Evening Prayer)  
Second Thursday in Advent**

**2024 Dec 12**

As members of a parish in the Diocese of New Westminster, we acknowledge that we are gathered from a variety of locations within the traditional and unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish people, including but not limited to, the halq'-emylém speaking Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Musqueam, Tseil-watuth, and Tsawwassen nations.

# Pray Without Ceasing

The Anglican Church of Canada



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# The Invitation

*Presider*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of light and darkness, to you be glory and praise for ever. As evening falls, you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. May your word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path so that we may behold your coming among us. Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness and free our tongues to sing your praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

# The Preparation

*Presider*

O God, make speed to save us,  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

From the rising of the Sun to its setting  
**your glory is proclaimed in all the world.**

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.**  
**Amen.**

# Act of Praise

## Spinning Blue Planet

Words and Music by Ian Macdonald

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### *Presider or Cantor*

This is the moment, Creation's first glance, light plays with darkness, and chaos with Dance, Spirit with matter forms heaven, forms earth, Creation continues, God's breath gives dust birth!

(Chorus) On a spinning blue planet, third place from the sun, here words are spoken, here words are done. Alive in the struggles, the laughter, the peace, the Creator is singing and never will cease.

This is the calling, Creation's first fire, to journey in search of God's deepest desire. Smashing the idols of privilege and wrong, in exodus freedom our spirits belong. (Chorus)

This earth-bound journey, Creation's first song, from Genesis gardens to sad Babylons, lost in the rhythms of power, of pride, seeking the music only mercy provides. (Chorus)

This is the Mystery, how life becomes whole! Bread broken body; Wine poured out soul! Come seed your lives, grow like grapes, grow like grain, the vine will connect you, Love's rising again. (Chorus)

# The Psalm

Psalm 145: 1 - 4, 8 - 13

## *Psalmist*

I will exalt you, O God my King, \*  
**and bless your name for ever and ever.**

Every day will I bless you \*  
**and praise your name for ever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
**there is no end to his greatness.**

One generation shall praise your works to another \*  
**and shall declare your power.**

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

The Lord is loving to everyone \*  
**and his compassion is over all his works.**

All your works praise you, O Lord, \*  
**and your faithful servants bless you.**

## The Psalm (Cont'd)

They make known the glory of your kingdom \*  
**and speak of your power;**

That the peoples may know of your power \*  
**and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; \*  
**your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for  
ever. Amen.**

# The Reading

## Matthew 11: 7 - 15

### *Reader*

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A Prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,  
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women, no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Let anyone with ears listen!



# The Responsory

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation: in your word is my hope.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be held in awe.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence, so that we may behold your power and glory.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

# The Canticle

*“The Song of Mary” (Luke 1: 46-55)*

*Presider:*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in  
God my Saviour, \*

**for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is  
your name.**

You have mercy on those who fear you, \*

**from generation to generation.**

You have shown strength with your arm \*

**and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

casting down the mighty from their thrones \*

**and lifting up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things \*

**and sent the rich away empty.**

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, \*

**to remember the promise of mercy,**

the promise made to our ancestors, \*

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

# The Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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 Litany

## *Presider*

Watchful at all times, let us pray to God for strength to stand with confidence. God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Establish righteousness in the nations.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick, and raise up all who have fallen.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Shine the light of Christ on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be your witnesses in the world.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

# Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

## *Presider*

God of Hope, you raised up John the baptizer as a herald who calls us to conversion. As we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ, we pray to you for the needs of the church and the world, responding to the bidding “God of joy and love” with **“Hear our Prayers”**.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Diocese of Kollam-Kottarakkara, Church of South India, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Oommen George. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers**.

In the Lutheran, Anglican, Moravian cycle, we pray for Archbishop Anne Germond, Acting Primate, ACC; National Bishop Susan Johnson, ELCIC; and Rev. David Bennett, President, Provincial Elders’ Conference of the Northern Province of the MCA. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers**.

In our Diocese, we pray for St. John the Apostle, Port Moody, Rev. Vivian Lam, Rev. Anne Anchor, Rev. Miranada Sutherland; St. Michael, Surrey, Ven. Luisito Engnan; the Deanery of Sea to Sky, Rev. Cameron Gutjar. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers**.

## Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

In our companion diocese, we pray for Bishop Benny and the people of Northern Philippines and for our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Lubon. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our local community, we give thanks for all who give time, talent, and treasure to the building up of God's kingdom through HTC and for the work of the Property Redevelopment Committee in securing a partner to enable us to move forward in the development project to seismically upgrade the cathedral and build a new residential tower with ministry space for the parish. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers.**

Hear our humble prayer, that we may serve you in holiness and faith and give voice to your presence among us until the day of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

# The Collect

*Presider*

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming of your Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

## *Presider*

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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,  
and 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 forever.  
Amen.**



# The Sending Forth

*Deacon (or Presider)*

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Presider*

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching  
and waiting.  
**Amen.**