

Advent/Christmas Schedule

- December 6** Second Advent, 10:30 am
Makinen Baptism
- December 13** Third Advent, 10:30 am
- December 15** Christmas Tree Decorating, 7:00 pm
- December 22** Fourth Advent, 10:30 am
(Advent Lessons and Hymn Service)
Potluck Dessert, after service
- December 24** Candlelight Service, 7:30 pm
(Christmas Lessons and Carols)
- December 25** Christmas Day Eucharist, 10:30 am
- December 27** First Sunday After Christmas, 10:30 am
- January 3** Joint Epiphany Service with St. Thomas
Anglican, **10:00 am at St. Thomas**

Homestay

To those of you who are interested in hosting Japanese students from UBC, please contact the church office at 604 435-6020. About 7 students are waiting for families to welcome them in their homes, individually (or couple), during the Christmas break to help them practice their English while school is not in session.



Those interested in joining
our congregation next
Sunday, December 6, are
asked to speak with
Pastor Hergy
as soon as possible.

Annual Sock & Underwear Drive

We are accepting donations to the
Annual Sock/Underwear Drive.
Please leave donations (**new** only
please) in the basket at the narthex
designated for this purpose.
All items will be given to
Collingwood Neighbourhood House
for distribution to those living
on the streets.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2009**

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Holy Communion, Setting I

Worshippers may wish to light a votive candle in memory of a loved one or for meditation. This may be done at any time before or during the liturgy except during community prayers, readings or homily. Since the number of candles is limited and to avoid mishaps, parents and caregivers are asked to be attentive when allowing children to light one.

INTRODUCTION

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Our Lord's contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Saviour of the Nations, Come
Wachet Auf

Johann Buttstedt
J.S. Bach

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP *"Creator of the Stars of Night"* (Cantors)
The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit during the singing

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS p. 94

GATHERING HYMN #248 *"People Look East"* (v. 3 - unaccompanied)

GREETING AND KYRIE p. 98

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

SENDING

BLESSING (*Threefold Blessing*)

p. 115

SENDING HYMN #263 *"Saviour of the Nations, Come"*
(v. 3 - women; v. 4 - men; v. 5 - organ)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Barbara Harbach

Announcements

This Week

Monday
Confirmation, 7:00 pm

Thursday
Choir, 7:30 pm

Sunday
Sunday School, 9:15 am
Worship, 10:30 am



The Rite of Healing

Throughout the season of advent, we are adding a rite of healing to morning worship. During the distribution, we will have four people available to anoint worshippers with a cross of oil and offer a prayer of healing on their behalf.



While not everyone will wish to take advantage of this ritual, opportunity is given to those who desire the healing ministry of the church. Thus, if you are struggling with any kind of illness or brokenness of the body or spirit (whether due to grief, loss, fear or dis-ease), you are encourage to seek the power, strength, peace and care offered by the Holy Spirit, through laying on of hands and prayers of the members of the body of Christ.

God of life, the generations rise and pass away before you. As we remember the lives of all your saints, *especially...* inspire us by their witness and support us by their communion as we continue in your word that will not pass away. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Alert and on guard for the coming of the Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting all things to your never-failing love in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *All Earth is Hopeful*

David Cherwien

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*All rise*)

p. 107

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*The three-fold exchange is sung unaccompanied*)

“**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**”

p. 108

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Prayer over the gifts)

p. 110

FRACTION The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

“**LAMB OF GOD**”

p. 112



It is Christ himself who invites all the baptized members of God's family — and all our guests — to come to his table where he gives his body and blood, along with the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation under the forms of bread and wine. During Advent, the wafer is received in the open palm. All may drink from the first (common) cup or, instinct (dip) the wafer into the second (pouring) cup. Those who desire prayer and anointing for the healing of any illness or brokenness in mind, body or spirit are invited to receive these blessings after communing

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

#244 “**Rejoice, Rejoice Believers**”

Ave Maris Stella

Healey Willan

“**NOW, LORD, YOU LET YOUR SERVANT**”

p. 113

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*All rise*)

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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.” *Response after reading:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1–10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

Refrain:



¹To ¹you, O LORD,

I lift ¹up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ¹put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹over me.

³Let none who look to you be ¹put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ¹who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths. **R**

⁵Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all ¹the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹sion and love,
for they are from ¹everlasting. **R**

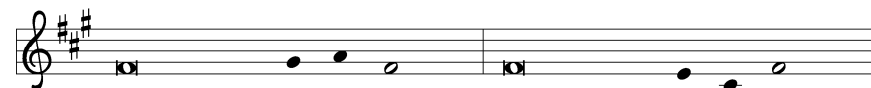
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- ¹ness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up- ¹right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ¹in your way.

⁹You lead the low- ¹ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast ¹love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your ¹testimonies. **R**

Tone:



SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

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. *Response after reading:* **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM “*Bethlehem Winds*”

Joseph Martin

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “*Let Your Steadfast Love*” (*Sing before and after reading*) p. 103

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25–36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

Response after announcement: **Glory to you, O God.**

²⁵There 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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

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

³⁴Be 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, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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."

Response to conclusion of reading: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection to follow*)

HYMN #438 “*My Lord, What a Morning*”

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 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 FAITHFUL

Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one. *A brief silence.*

God of promise, your intention for the world is peace, justice, and righteousness. Keep this hopeful vision in our hearts, and strengthen us toward its fulfillment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of righteousness, you call your people to live out your ways in the world. Give to the church your spirit of compassion and love, and increase our love for one another and for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, you know the fears and terrors we face. Be the strength of the weak, the addicted, the anxious, and those immobilized by fear or illness of any kind, *especially...* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of restoration, by your hand the heavens and the earth and all their inhabitants are continually being fashioned. As outer space and ocean depths continue to be explored, strengthen us to care for your creation and steward its resources faithfully. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, your word is a constant lamp for our feet and a light to our path. Lead this congregation in your ways, keep us mindful of the needy and forgotten, and strengthen our service to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**