



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2009

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A Service of Lessons and Hymns

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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

PRESERVICE MUSIC

*What is This Lovely Fragrance?
My Lord, What a Morning*

Paul Manz
Arr. Robert A. Hobby

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

#253 "He Came Down" (sing 2x)

*Children enter in procession and gather at the Creche
Four candles on the Advent wreath are lit during the singing of the Hymn*

DIALOGUE

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!
I will hear what the Lord God has to say—
a voice that speaks for peace.
Peace for all faithful people
and those who turn to God in their hearts.
Help is near for those who fear God,
that God's glory may dwell in our land.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!

Dear friends throughout the BC Synod:

I am pleased to announce that Christ and Augustana congregations have successfully undertaken the final steps for incorporating Spirit of Life Lutheran Church. The required meetings were held simultaneously on Sunday, December 6, at the facility of Christ Lutheran Church, Vancouver. The congregations authorized their directors to approve a new constitution and bylaws, and complete all necessary steps. Just over 98% of the combined membership voted in favour of the motion to incorporate. We concluded the meetings with the singing of the Doxology.

Legal counsel was on hand to supervise and witness the proceedings. Counsel will now take the requisite legal steps to register the new society with BC's Registrar of Companies, and apply for charitable status registration with the federal government. The congregation expects the provincial Registrar to issue the Certificate of Incorporation on December 30.

As soon as possible, we will forward a copy of the Certificate to the Synod Office, and a hardcopy of the Constitution and Bylaws signed by the directors, together with our request to be received as a member congregation of the BC Synod. We want to be included on the roster of congregations so that we may participate fully in our shared mission and governance.

On behalf of these merging congregations, I thank Bishop Gerhard Preibisch and Assistant to the Bishop Greg Mohr for their leadership, facilitation, and guidance. Of course, there is still much to be done on the administrative front, but we leaders derive great satisfaction from these accomplishments.

Alleluia!

Rev. Clifford Reinhardt
Pastor, Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, Vancouver

Mary Murphy Demers

Mary was born in Sligo, Ireland and studied piano and harp at the Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, winning scholarships to London and New York. Her professional career started in Ireland, performing at Bunratty Castle and for distinguished audiences in the U.K. and internationally. Moving to Canada, she began to compose, recorded five solo albums finding time to create and organize a number of one woman shows. More recently she has been contributing to the ministry of music at her home church in Agassiz, BC.

Mary's connection with FLC began in February when she and Mary Clark were given permission to use our facilities to set up and rehearse their musical adaptation of "Under the Hawthorn Tree". Her contribution to our worship today and hopefully on future occasions is a gesture of appreciation and gratitude.

We are still accepting donations to the **Annual Sock/Underwear Drive**. Please leave donations (new only please) in the basket at the narthex designated for this purpose.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

January 3

Joint Epiphany/Los Reyes Service with
St. Thomas Anglican
10:00 am at St. Thomas

Potluck Lunch after service
(we are expected to bring food too)

The worship leaders sign up sheet for **January** is posted on the narthex bulletin board.

If you would like to serve God and our community by assisting in our Sunday worship, please sign up on any Sunday/s of your choice.
Thank you.

The office will be closed from December 24th, 2008, at noon, until January 4th, 2010.

SALUTATION

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near!
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Everlasting One, through the ages you have sent your promise to your people in many ways, through many voices. But in these last days, your Son has come to bring it among us in person. Through your Spirit, prepare our hearts to recognize him in his many forms, and to receive him as our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 40:28-31
Hymn #257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vv. 1-2, 7)

Second Reading Isaiah 9:2-7
Hymn #247 "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"
v. 1 – solo; v. 2 – 4 – All

Third Reading Isaiah 11:1-3; 6-9
Hymn #245 "Creator of the Stars of Night"
vv. 1-2 – Cantors; vv. 3-5 – All

Fourth Reading Isaiah 35:3-4a, 5-10
Hymn #280 "Midnight Stars Make Bright the Night"

Fifth Reading Isaiah 42:5-9
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Harp & voice solo)

Sixth Reading Luke 1:46-55
A paraphrase of the reading will be spoken by the children
Hymn #251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"
v. 1 – children; vv. 2-3 – All

An Advent Meditation
Hymn #265 "The Angel Gabriel"

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Rise Up Shepherd and Follow* arr. Jack Schraeder

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Our world stumbles blindly toward chaos—

come and be our Wisdom.

What we imagine to be strength is really weakness—

come and be our mighty Lord.

We yearn for a standard to look up to—

come and be our Root of Jesse.

We languish in prisons of body, mind and spirit—

come and be our Key of David

The darkness grows thick around us—

come and be our Light of day.

We are scattered, lacking a sure leader—

come and be our King of Peace.

We need to know that God is with us—

come and be our Emmanuel, that we may rejoice in you.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary, for you share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying and all who suffer, especially. . .

The names of all in need are spoken aloud or in silence.

The silence is broken with: Heal them and us, O Comforter--

come to console and restore all with your healing presence.

Blessed are you, Son of God, you dwell among us as the Word made flesh—

**come and reveal yourself to us today in word and song, in sight and hearing,
that we, with all your saints, may bear witness to your light
in heaven and on earth.**

The prayers conclude by singing

Hymn #852 “Golden Breaks the Dawn” v. 1 – cantor; vv. 2-3 – All

LORD’S PRAYER

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 your 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 forever. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from your path.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christchild.

And may the Eternal One, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #290 “Go, Tell It On The Mountain”

DISMISSAL Go in peace to share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Wachet Auf*

Paul Manz

Announcements

Thanks to the children of the Sunday School for enriching our worship this morning with the gifts of their enthusiasm and their voices offered to Christchild. A great big “thank you” to our teachers: Dawna M., Cheryl C., Donna D. and Ursula N. who have done so much to make Sunday School a time of joy, of learning and of incredible energy.

Special thanks, too, to the musicians who, through singing and playing, delighted our ears and deepened our thanks to the Holy One who has made this marvellous occasion possible. Finally, our gratitude goes to Jeanette P., our Minister of Music, for all the time, effort and skill spent in arranging for the wide range of music and players as well as sharing her own considerable talents at the organ and piano.

This Week

Thursday

Carol & Candlelight, 7:30 pm
(Christmas Lessons and Carols)

Friday

Christmas Day Eucharist
10:30 am

Next Sunday

First Sunday After Christmas, 10:30 am

