



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**3rd Sunday of Advent**      December 13, 2020  
Worship 11:00 A.M.

Presiding Minister  
Musician

Rev. Diana Edis  
Larissa Goruk

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page: [St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranPrinceRupert). You do not have to have a Facebook account to access that worship. You may also access this worship service on our You Tube channel as soon as it is uploaded at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY5N1JmPn41\\_R5\\_Xahok\\_w?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY5N1JmPn41_R5_Xahok_w?view_as=subscriber)

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*Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. "Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.*

### Weekly Prayer Petitions

**Local:** Pentecostal Tabernacle

**Synod Parishes:** Chetwynd Shared Ministry in Chetwynd; Christ Lutheran in Chilliwack – Rev. Dean Andersen

**Anglican/Lutheran Joint Prayers:** The General Secretary & the staff of the General Secretary's Office; Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator/ Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the National Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation, and the staff of Communications; Kyle Giesbrecht. Director of Finance and Administration and the staff of Finance & Administration.

### Discipleship Opportunities

1. The Pastor will be Public by Zoom every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30AM. You may call in from your home or cell phone to 1-778-907-2071 without the need for a computer or you can join by computer, tablet, or smart phone by either clicking the link below or by typing it into your browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222984486?pwd=OHFicWZySkR1dHNpeklqMzU4RIJWUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 2298 4486

Password: 263906

2. We have initiated a task force to plan and implement a safe return to in-person worship. For the foreseeable future we remain online only but we are making plans for that one day when we can be together again!

3. We are going caroling! I know that is kinda strange in this time of Covid-19 but we have been asked by the staff for a command performance at the Acropolis Manor. We will not enter the facility! We will be standing outside on the covered patio with lots of space between each other and the residents. Our plan is to meet there on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM and staff will guide us to the places we will sing. We will be singing at least twice, maybe three times if we can also sing for the folks at the Summit.

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*\* Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.*

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*Announcements*

*Confession and Forgiveness*

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

**Silence is kept for reflection.**

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
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L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**  
 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

*Prayer of the Day*

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Light One Candle*

## No. 240, vs. 3



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
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Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

**let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

Our first reading is from Isaiah, beginning at the 61<sup>st</sup> chapter

61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L: The word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

We read Psalm 126 responsively: (*pastor reads the light print, congregation reads the bold*)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, ten were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Our second reading is from 1 Thessalonians beginning at the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter

5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L: The word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -

lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Mark, beginning at the 1st chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

1:1-8

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

Rev. Diana Edis



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,  
 2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for  
 3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from  
 4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the  
 5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the  
 war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and  
 death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that  
 north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can  
 pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.  
 scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.  
 we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.  
 kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.  
 new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.  
 Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925  
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## Confession of Faith

## Apostles' Creed

Pg 105

**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 power of 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**

*Prayers of Intercession:* (petition end: Hear us, O God.

(petition response: **Your mercy is great.**)

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Offering*

*Offerings may be mailed to the church or placed in our mailbox. You can send e-transfers to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca. You may also give electronically through CanadaHelps.*

*We can be found there at St.Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.*

*Offering Prayer*

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

**Amen.**

*Lord's Prayer*

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit across time and space, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Using whatever version of that prayer comforts you, we pray...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*Benediction*

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever.

**Amen.**

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**