

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. **Amen**

BLESSING

May God, for whom nothing is impossible restore you and bless you. May Christ, in whom is the dawning of grace, carry you and gently lead you. May the Spirit, whose song is gladness, fill you with peace and comfort. **Amen**

**SENDING HYMN** (Joy to the World)

267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*Please remain seated for the Postlude*

**Worship Servants**

Worship Assistant	Deacon Brigitte McKenzie
Reader	Andrew Macauley
Greeters	Andrew & Cathy Macauley
Counters	Gerda Anderson & Anne Weicker
Altar Care	Barb Smart & Anita Walper
Musician	Simi Luttrell

**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church, ELCIC**

**A Reconciling In Christ Congregation**

1273 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8V 3L4

Phone: (250) 383-5256

email: [admin@gracelutheranvictoria.ca](mailto:admin@gracelutheranvictoria.ca)

web: [www.gracelutheranvictoria.ca](http://www.gracelutheranvictoria.ca)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/glcvtoria>

You are **CREATED** by God, **LOVED** just as you are and  
we **WELCOME** you

**We are delighted you are here today to share in worship!**  
**Please sign our guest book if you are a visitor.**

*We acknowledge and thank the Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ Peoples,  
also known as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities,  
for allowing us to live, worship, work and play on their ancestral lands*

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**A LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
**December 22 — Pastor Linda Douglas**



Prelude

Announcements

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

In this season of anticipation, our hearts are filled with hope.

**We await God's Promised One, who will make all things new.**

**GATHERING HYMN** (Come Thou Long Expected....) **254**

**ADVENT WREATH LITURGY**

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High."

(First, second, third, and fourth candles are lit)

Blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what the Lord said to her.

**Christ is coming to make all things new! With blessed faith, we prepare him room, and we are opening to Christ, the light of the world.**

**HYMN** (Kindle Advent Candles vs. 4)

*See Insert*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Based on Isaiah 64:1-9)*

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Holy God of Advent, you come near to us, yet we continue to seal our hearts with indifference to a suffering world.

**Tear open our hearts, and make us more compassionate.**

You approach us with bundles of mercy to kindle our hope, but we continue to build our lives with the bricks of bitterness.

**Tear open our anger, so we might become more forgiving.**

You draw near, longing to embrace us, but we fold our arms, closing ourselves off from those all around us.

**Tear open our souls, so we might become children of Advent.**

God, Shaper of our lives: have mercy; Jesus, Word which does not pass away: fill us with your grace;

**Holy Spirit, Giver-of-the-Light-of-peace: Shine through our lives.** *Silence is kept*

Even now, God approaches us, mercy transcending anger, hope overcoming despair, life triumphing over death. This is good news, my friends; this is news of great joy for each of us. Enriched in every grace, blessed with joy and hope, transformed by love, we will live as people of Advent. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

GREETING

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you

**And also with you**

In this moment of worship we embrace Your presence again, O God.

**And we offer You our love.**

In this moment of prayer we proclaim again Your dream for the world, O Saviour.

**And we offer You our resources.**

In this moment of giving we hear Your call again, O Lord.

**And we offer You ourselves.**

Use us – all that we have and all that we are to touch the world with the message of Advent:

**God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us.**

So, we remember Jesus' birth and life, His suffering and victory. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus shared His last meal with His friends; He took the loaf of bread and blessed it, then breaking it, He offered it to them saying:

**This is my body broken for you. Eat this in memory of me.**

After the meal, He took the cup of wine and blessed it, then He offered it to them saying:

**This is my blood shed for you. Drink this in memory of me.**

So, we eat and we drink and we remember.

**With hope and joy in the new life which comes here and now in God's kingdom.**

God of Grace, Come to us again in this meal, and as we share this bread and wine, may we share in Christ's sacrifice; May we offer ourselves to you again, and may we become one with Christ and with each other – a single, unified body.

**Amen**

**HYMN** (Come to the Table)

**481**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND DISTRIBUTION

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and give you eternal life. **Amen**

We believe the Spirit speaks through us  
**so we commit to proclaim the good news of abundant life in the world God loves. Amen**

#### PRAYERS

(God of love .....**Be with your people**)

**Lord's Prayer**

*See Insert*

PEACE and OFFERING *(May be left on the plate at the back)*

The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you**

Let us greet each other as a sign of God's peace, love forgiveness and grace. *(Please share a gesture of peace with those around you)*

**OFFERTORY** ( As the Grains of Wheat)

**465**

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship, and our material resources, wherever they are needed. Amen

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We thank You, Lord God,

**For breaking into our world, our lives and our experience.**

We thank You, O Christ,

**For this meal of remembering, and the stories of love and grace that it tells.**

We thank You, O Spirit,

**For Your Presence and Your challenge for us to become agents of God's compassion.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father God, There is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**(All Earth Is Hopeful)

**266**

#### WORD

Psalm 113

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

**ACCLAMATION** *(Stand)*

**171**

The Holy Gospel according to the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter of Luke

**Glory to you , O Lord**

GOSPEL

Luke 126-56

**GOSPEL HYMN** (My Soul Proclaims Your....)

**251**

Sermon

**SERMON HYMN** (Canticle of the Turning)

**723**

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us confess our faith with these words.

We believe that Jesus took the form of a slave

**so we commit ourselves to serve others.**

We believe that God is love,

**so we commit ourselves to reconciliation.**

We believe Jesus gives us his Spirit,

**so we commit ourselves to his work in the world.**

We believe that God is the light of life,

**so we commit to bearing God's light in our world.**

# The Lord's Prayer

Music: Ralph P. Me

♩ = 80

Our Fa - ther, which art in hea - ven, hall-o - wed be Thy name.

Thy King - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in hea - ven.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread and for - give us our debts

we for - give our debt - ors. And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us

e - vil. For Thine is the King - dom, and

pow - er, and the glo - ry for - ev - er, a - men, for Thine is

Kingdom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry for - ev

er, a - men. A - men! A - men!!

# Kindle Advent Candles

CRANHAM

Elana Keppel Levy, 2024

Gustav Holst, 1906

1. Kin - dle Ad - vent can - dles. Hope will be re - newed. Dreams may fade from

2. Kin - dle Ad - vent can - dles. Peace will be re - stored. Clash - es serve the

3. Kin - dle Ad - vent can - dles. Joy will soon re - bound. Lost in rifts of

4. Kin - dle Ad - vent can - dles. Love en - dures through all. Hate brings flee - ting

5. Kin - dle Ad - vent can - dles. Jes - us lives to - day. Christ, who shaped the

vi - sion: pur - pose un - pur - sued. Though it seems re - lent - less

sche - mers: vic - tims' cries ig - nored. Scars ap - pear a - round us

numb shame, hid - ing from the crowd. Will we find be - long - ing

pow - er. Love's a real curve ball. Cher - ish - ing each oth - er

Cos - mos, joins those born of clay. Oh, that we might hold him

Mis - er - y and loss. God will do a new thing: Swift and soft.

Can they e - ver heal? We must walk a new path: Make peace real.

if they see our face? See, we are God's chil - dren, Claimed in ho - ly grace!

Heav - en comes to earth. Sa - cred trans - for - ma - tion Brings re birth.

Our E - man - nu - el! He is with us al - ways: All shall be well.

