

Fourth Sunday of Advent



***Sunday, December 21, 2025
10:30 Service of Holy Eucharist***

“Glorifying God as Agents of His Reconciliation”

Sentence: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Luke 3.4.6

Hymn #245 - O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel, shall come to thee o Israel!

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe

O come, O come Thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou dayspring, come, and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Welcome

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Oz: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Leader: God's work of salvation is wrapped in mystery,
Since His choice to come and dwell among us goes beyond
human possibility.

People: The angel reminds us with Mary “That there is nothing impossible for God!”

Leader: We are invited through scripture to receive the word of God as Mary did, in gentleness of heart and spirit; In willing acceptance of His work and promise.

People: We receive you God, Let it be unto us according to Your Word.

We light the first candle of Advent to remind us to keep awake and be ready.

We light the second candle of Advent to remind us to repent and to be open to God's new work among us.

We light the third candle of Advent to remind us to believe in Jesus the Light of the World.

We light the fourth candle of Advent to remind us that God is with us!

ALL: (sung)

Refrain

Shine on us O God Most Faithful
Guide our path through gloom of night
Bear within us wisdom's glory
Come to us O Christ the light
God of Promise, God of Comfort
Turn our longing into sight

#4 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mary was your willing partner,
to complete redemption's plan;
birthed in her your divine Word
fully God and fully man.
God most humble, God most gracious
like her we're at Love's command

Refrain

Shine on us O God Most Faithful

Guide our path through gloom of night
Bear within us wisdom's glory
Come to us O Christ the light
God of Promise, God of Comfort
Turn our longing into sight

Hymn: Gabriel's Message

Music: Basque traditional

Text: trans. Sabine Baring-Gould

The angel Gabriel from Heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
All hail, said he, thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
To me be as it pleases God, she said,
My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name.
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world
Will ever say—
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Please be seated.

Moment of silence to collect our hearts and minds in prayer.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Rev. Oz:

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,
now fill us with your grace,
that we in all things may embrace your will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen

CHILDREN'S TALK

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE READINGS

First Reading – Isaiah 7:10-16

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

¹⁰ Then the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask for a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; make *it* deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I put the Lord to the test!” ¹³ Then he said, “Listen now, house of David! Is it too trivial a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows *enough* to refuse evil and choose good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows *enough* to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be abandoned.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3. Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4. O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6. You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7. Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16. Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17. And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
18. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading – Romans 1:1-17

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

1. Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles in behalf of His name,⁶ among whom you also are *the* called of Jesus Christ;

⁷ to all who are beloved of God in Rome,
called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The Gospel – Matthew 1:18-25

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Saint Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah was as follows:
when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,
before they came together she was found to be pregnant
by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, since he
was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her,
planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had
thought this over, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared
to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not
be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has
been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will
give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins.” ²² Now all
this took place so that what was spoken by the Lord
through the prophet would be fulfilled: ²³ “Behold, the
virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they shall
name Him Immanuel,” which translated means, “God
with us.” ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as
the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as
his wife, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a
Son; and he named Him Jesus.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE SERMON – The Reverend Oz Lorentzen

After the sermon, silence is kept for a moment of reflection.

Please stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Leader: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

People: We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please kneel or sit to pray.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION Invitation to Confession

Silence is kept for a moment of reflection.

Rev. Oz: Most merciful God,
All: we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Rev. Oz: Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Rev. Oz: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory

Hymn: Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?

REFRAIN

My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you
Work great things in me
And your mercy will last from the Depths
Of the past to the end of the age to be
Your very name puts the proud to shame
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might

Put the strong to flight
For the world is about to turn **[REFRAIN]**

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your
Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never ears
There are tables spread, ev'ry
Mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn **[REFRAIN]**

Though the nations rage from age to age
We remember
Who holds us fast
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing
grasp
This saving word that out forebears
Heard is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be
Crushed by God
Who is turning the world around **[REFRAIN]**

Please be seated.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Rev. Oz: Gracious God,
by the power of the Spirit
who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Oz: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Rev. Oz: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Rev. Oz: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Rev. Oz: Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh,
and opened to us the way of salvation.
Now we watch for the day when he will come again
in power and great triumph to judge this world,
that we, without shame or fear,
may rejoice to behold his appearing.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn
to proclaim the glory of your name.

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

God of power and might.

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Rev. Oz: We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, “Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them
and said, “Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Rev. Oz: and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;

presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

Rev. Oz: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

People: 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.

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 for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Rev. Oz “God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.”

People: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the lamb!

THE COMMUNION

Rev. Oz: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

If you would like prayer during this time, the Prayer Ministry is available by the font.

In Anglican churches, everyone who is baptized is welcome to come and receive communion. You may kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion. If you are unable to come to the altar rail, please notify the sides people and they will alert the Communion Servers to come to you. If you would like to come forward for a blessing instead of communion, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion is an important part of our worship. Please use this time to prayerfully prepare yourself for communion and to reflect on Jesus' gift after you have received communion. You may find singing the Communion Hymns helpful. Please refrain from talking during this time.

‘Options at the altar rail: the common cup to your left, bread and wine mingled together to the right.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
by Charles Wesley

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever;
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Lo, How a Rose 'Er Blooming

by Michael Praetorius, tr. Theodore Baker

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story
Proclaimed by angels bright,

How Christ, the Lord of glory
Was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped
And in the manger found Him,
As angel heralds said.

This flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe,
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know;
Bring us at length we pray,
To the bright courts of Heaven,
And to the endless day!

Please stand and sing.

Post Communion Song

By Your Hand You Feed your People
text: Susan Briehl and Marty Haugen

By your hand you feed your people,
food of angels, heaven's bread.
For these gifts we did not labor,
by your grace we have been fed.

REFRAIN

Christ's own body, blessed and broken,
cup o'er flowing, life out-poured,
given as a living token of a world redeemed, restored.

In this meal, we taste your sweetness,
bread for hunger, wine for peace.
Holy word and holy wisdom,
satisfy our deepest needs. **[REFRAIN]**

Send us now with faith and courage,
to the hungry lost bereaved.
In our living and our dying,
we become what we receive. **[REFRAIN]**

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Oz:

Faithful God,
in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.
May we, like the Virgin Mary,
be obedient to your will.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People: Amen.

Rev. Oz: Glory to God,

**People: whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

Joy to the World

by Isaac Watts

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

DISMISSAL

Leader: As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen

Prayers of the People – December 21, 2025

James wrote, “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16b)

This week we pray especially for:

OUR CHURCH

The Most Reverend Gregory Kerr-Wilson, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of the Northern Lights &

Archbishop of the Anglican Diocese of Calgary

The Right Reverend Shane Parker, Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada

The Right Reverend Leopold Friday, Bishop of our Companion Diocese of the Windward Islands

The Most Reverend Sarah Mullally, Archbishop (elect) of Canterbury

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Anglican Church of Burundi

In our Diocese

St. Mark, Innisfail, The Rev. Gordon Pontifex
Ministry Development

In our Sister Diocese of the Windward Islands

Grace Church, Riviere Doree with St. Paul and Christ-the-King on St. Lucia

The Rev. Dr. Eleanor Glasgow-Layne, Priest in Charge

In the Anglican Church of Canada

The Rt. Rev. Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, and the staff of Indigenous Ministries; the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples; Dawn Maracle, Indigenous Justice Animator

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the National Bishop, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Peter Wall, Assistant to the National Bishop for Worship

The Moravian Church

The Rev. Sue Keonig, Director, and team of Northern Province Racial Justice and Healing

OUR KING AND ALL IN AUTHORITY

King Charles III; Prime Minister, Mark Carney; Premier Danielle Smith, Mayor Linnsie Clark; Councillor Chris

Hellman; Base Commander CFB Suffield, Lt.-Col. Joe E. Andrechek

OUR CITY CHURCHES

St. Peter Lutheran, Shane Hein

OUR PROVINCE

CMHA Alberta Division. Community Mental Health Association in Alberta.

New Story is a non-profit organization that helps indigenous women become self-sufficient within the support of a strong Christian community.

OUR WORLD

The country of Somalia and the International Rescue Committee.

OUR PARISH

St. Barnabas Church with The Reverend Oz Lorentzen and his family – Delynne, Soren & Laec

Franz & Francesca Jonker, Franz Jr. & Dagmara Jonker, Peggy & Kevin Kelly

Compassion Canada & Teguh in Indonesia, Jerusha in Ghana

The GriefShare Program

The Saturday Meal Program

The Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN NEED*

Anne and Ric; Colleen and Philip; Betty Lou; John and Grace; Carol & Family; Kathryn & Family; Laura and their families

If you or anyone you know would like prayer, call the Office at (403) 526-7713.

ST. BARNABAS ANGLICAN CHURCH



Our Mission is Glorifying God as Agents of His Reconciliation.

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself - and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."
2 Corinthians 5:19

Rector: The Reverend Dr. Oz Lorentzen

Email: rev.oz@stbmh.ca

Secretary: Twyla Yasinchuk

Email: office@stbmh.ca

Rector's Warden: Elaine Snyder; People's Warden: Gordon Nott

Parish Council Members: Lionel Brideson, Roger Jaeger, Munden Coates, Warren Sandham, & Scott Raible.



www.stbmh.ca



635 - 4th Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 0L1



St. Barnabas
Medicine Hat



(403) 526-7713
(403) 526-3725



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office@stbmh.ca

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We give thanks for the service of these people this morning:

Celebrant

Reverend Oz Lorentzen

Lay Reader

John Fedoruk

Prayers of the People

Kathy Exner

Music

Carolyn Sholz

Reader(s)

Lea Roe & Perumal Mohanraj

Greeters

Darcee & Sai Wong

Bread/Wine Presenters

Val Trotter & Sharon Hogg

Sound Board

Alan Deans

Lock-up

Steve Gloin

Offering Counters

Steve Gloin, Mickey Todd &

Altar Guild

Darcee Wong

Snow Removal

Shirley and Peggy

Steve Gloin