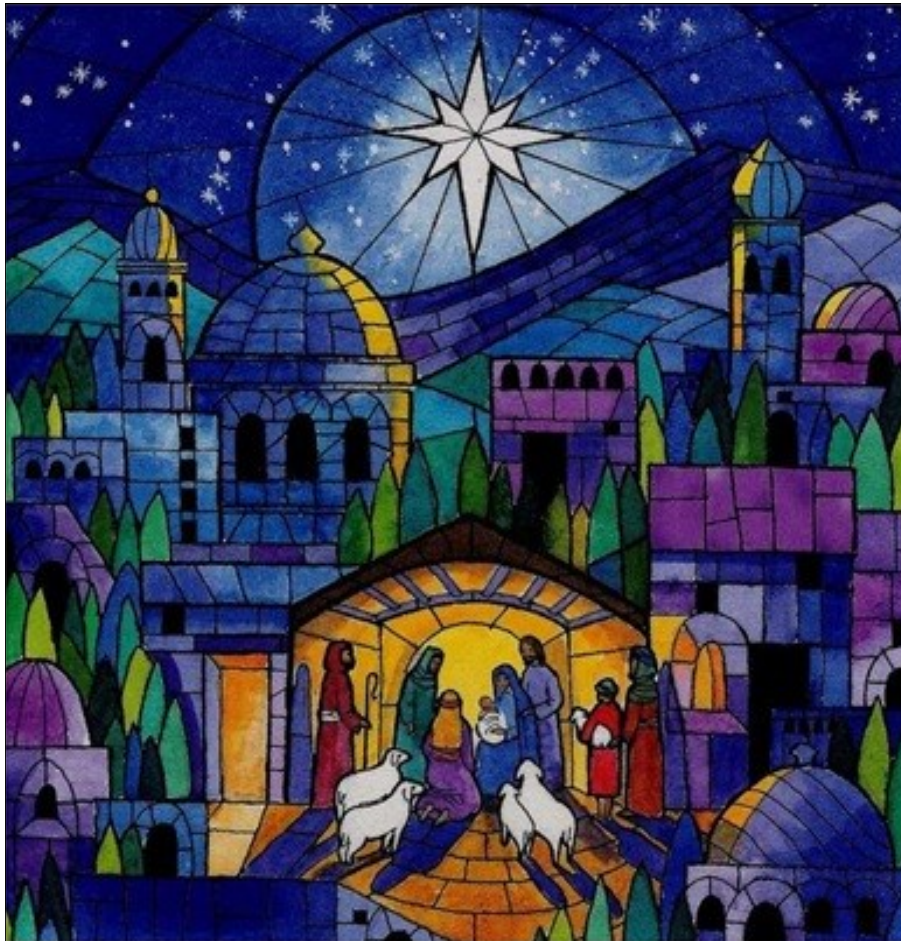




St Hilda's By-the-Sea Anglican

Open Doors · Open Hearts · Open Minds

December 24, 2017 10:00 pm



Christmas Eve Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Clarence Li
Music: Katherine Hume & St. Hilda's Choir
Readers: Jon Eriksson Karen Weatherington, Stephanie Moul, Jill Halliwell,
Prayers: Stephanie Moul
Lay Admin: David & Stephanie Moul

Greeters/Usher: Liz Miller
Altar Guild: Muriel Prior, Win Wright
Altar Flowers: Flowers are given by Jacqueline Allan Gye to the glory of God and with thanks for our clergy at St. Hilda's by the Sea as we are all moved to new possibilities.

Christmas Message from the Rector



*"I won't take no for an answer,"
God began to say
to me*

*when He opened His arms each night
wanting us to
dance.*

The story of the Nativity which Christians and many non-Christians alike gather to commemorate each year is where this dance began. Catherine of Siena, a 14th century mystic who regarded God's heart being "more gentle than the Virgin's first kiss upon the Christ," penned this poem to invite us to re-imagine God as a lover whispering, "Shall we dance?"

Have you ever danced with God? When was your last dance with the One who is the-love-embodied? Have you forgotten the steps and are a bit embarrassed to take God's hand? Perhaps you have never learned. Or are you too broken, too grief-stricken, too scared or too angry to even desire to take the first step?

We discovered earlier this year that our beautiful dance hall — St. Hilda's sanctuary — needs to be rebuilt due to structural issues. Yet our dance this Christmas continues because the dancer "won't take no for an answer." And here you are, joining us yet once again gazing into the starlit manger to savour the longing, intimacy, and excitement of Dancing with the Stars. Could I ask you to take a moment this Christmas to consider supporting St. Hilda's towards the cost of rebuilding our sanctuary where many first and future dances begin?

This Christmas let this peace-child, Jesus, be your Lord of the Dance so that you may dance to your wholeness, dance to a better world, and dance to a joyous hope where all are at home. Merry Christmas!

*Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

Clarence



Welcome and Introduction

The lights are dimmed. At the sound of the singing bowl, all rise to sing. Your tape will be lit during the procession. Please pass the light to the next person.

🎵 **Once in Royal David's City** CP123

Vs 1 - Soloist: Jon Eriksson Vs 2 - Choir

Vs 3 - All

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by;
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.

Greeting

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem draws us
to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

PEOPLE **Amen**

The Prophecy: Isaiah 9:2-7 Jon Eriksson

An Advent Wreath Liturgy of Remembrance

Celebrant: On this holy night we mirror the tradition in a Jewish home to call on the women of the household to light our candles because of their role as nurturers of spirituality at home. We invite the women of this church to lead us into a time of remembrance before the four candles of advent.

Four women shall gather for Advent Lighting Ceremony

🎵 **A Candle is Burning** (tune: *Away in a Manger*)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

cont'd over →

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

We honour Messiah with Christ -candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

During the carol, the Gospel of Christ is being brought to the centre of the congregation. To welcome God's Good News in our midst, please STAND and TURN TO THE READER when the Christmas Story is being read..

Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Celebrant May God be with you.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

PEOPLE **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the end of the reading:

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Celebrant We have waited with hope
for God to bring justice and righteousness.
We have waited with peace
for God's shalom to be felt.
We have waited with joy,
celebrating what God has already done.
We have waited with love,
awed by how God's love has been shown to us.
Tonight we light the Christ candle to celebrate the light
of God, coming into the world through the birth of Jesus.

Christ candle is lit.

ALL **God of hope and peace, joy and love
from that stable so long ago your light
shines out into every corner of the world.
Help us to sing of the joy of your coming.**

**Help us to live by your light not only today,
but throughout the whole year,
so that tidings of peace and goodwill to all
will truly transform our world. Amen.**

As the newborn Jesus is being placed in the creche:

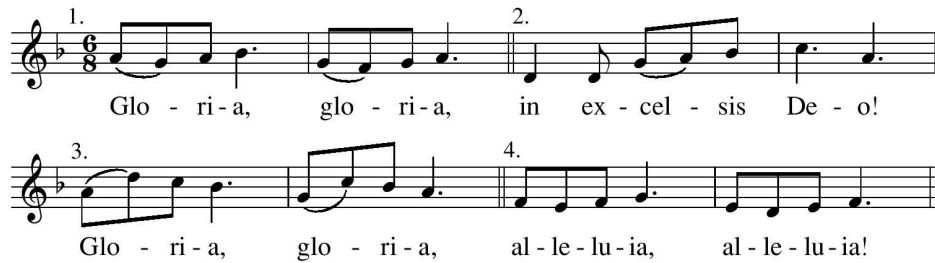
Celebrant The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

PEOPLE **And we beheld his glory.**

Celebrant The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

PEOPLE **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

Gloria (canon - 4 voices)



1. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
2. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Sermon..... *The Rev. Clarence Li*

Choir Anthem: *Star Child* by Shirley Erena Murray

Prayers of the People

Leader: In the gentleness of this night,

Response: **We open our hearts to you**

The Sharing of the Peace *Please rise as we share the peace of the Lord*

Celebrant The peace of God be always with you.

ALL **And also with you.**

The Offertory

A collection will be taken during the carol. St. Hilda's ministries are solely supported by the generous donations of our members and friends.

🎵 The First Nowell **CP 139 (vs. 1-4)**

The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: **Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

cont'd over →

They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain: **Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.**

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star where-ever it went. *Refrain*


This star drew nigh to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant prays...

The Great Thanksgiving

"Eucharist" means "thanksgiving". This is a ritual meal to re-enact the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his friends to remind them of his sacrificial love for humanity and the whole creation. All stand as able.

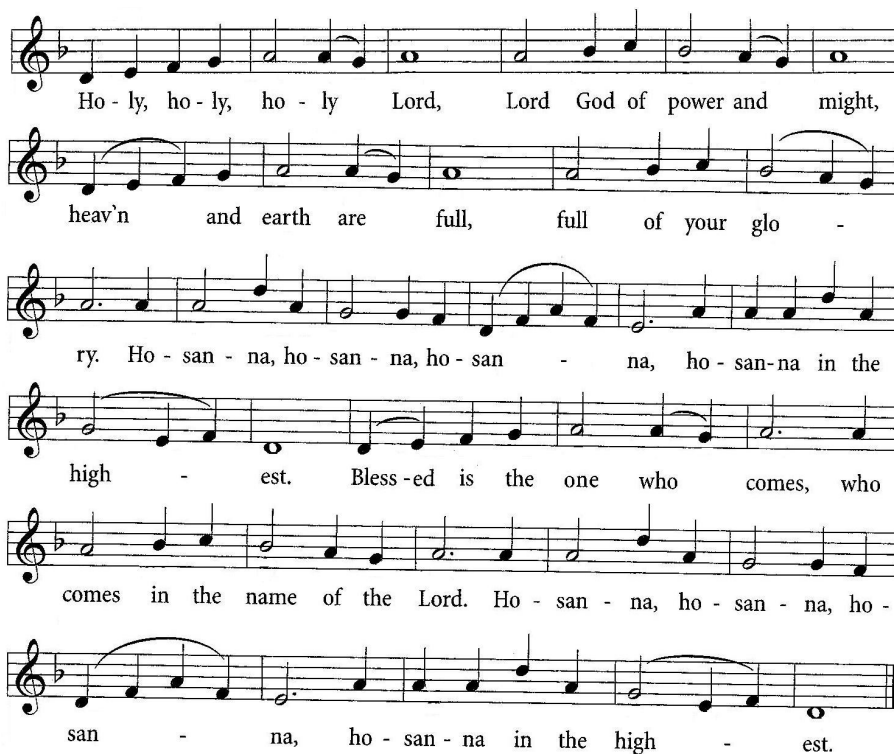

Celebrant The Lord be with you *People* And al - so with you.


Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.


Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
....Now with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name, singing.

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full, full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes, who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant Loving God, we remember that this baby in the manger
grew up in your loving care,

....Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit,
Feed us with your life, Fire us with your love,
And confront us with your justice.

ALL **Through Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
make us one in the body of Christ
with all who share your gifts of love. Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

ALL **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.**

cont'd over →

**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.**

Invitation to the Table

Share the Gifts

If you know the brokenness of life, its fractures within and its division without, then you have participated in the broken body of Christ and you are invited to share in the breaking of bread.

If you desire to know the love of God that overcomes indifference and despair, if you desire the reconciliation that overcomes estrangement and alienation, then you are invited to share the cup of the new covenant.

Receiving Holy Communion

The bread is received in the open palm. It is usual Anglican practice to drink the wine from the common cup. Wine and unfermented grape juice are served. If you would prefer to receive a gluten-free wafer or grape juice, please inform the person administering the bread or wine when they approach you. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, you are welcome to come forward and place your hands across your chest.

Carols during Communion

Born in the NightCP 130 (vs.1-2)

Born in the night, Mary's child,
a long way from your home:
coming in need, Mary's child,
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's child,
your face lights up our way:
light of the world, Mary's child,
dawn on our darkened day.

O Come, Little ChildrenCP 127 (vs.1-2)

O come, little children; O come, one and all.
Look into the manger in Bethlehem's stall;
for there, little children, on this holiest night,
our God sends from heaven his Son, your delight.

He lies there before you, asleep in the hay,
with Mary and Joseph to guard him and pray.
The wondering shepherds look in at the door,
and seeing the infant, they kneel and adore.

♪ **'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime..... CP 146**

'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain: Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song ran loud and high:

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver-pelt.

O children of the forest free, beloved of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant prays...

Closing Meditation: Prayer of Peace and Justice

Celebrant When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner,
To teach the nations,
To bring Christ to all,
To make music in the heart.

♪ **Silent Night CP 119**

(German)

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knab im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

cont'd over→

(French)

Douce nuit, sainte nuit !
Dans les cieux ! L'astre luit.
Le mystère annoncé s'accomplit
Cet enfant sur la paille endormi,
C'est l'amour infini !
C'est l'amour infini !

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

A Blessing

Celebrant May we who have been touched by the Word made flesh
be his body for the world, his hands to bring blessing,
his senses to glory in the promise of creation restored;
and the blessing of God,
Life Giver, Pain Bearer, Love Maker
be among you and remain with you always

ALL **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: Joy to the World *Alternate text by G.P. Haddon*

Joy to the world! The Christ is here!
The gift of peace to bring!
Let ev'ry heart a welcome place prepare.
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! The saviour lives!
With song your voice employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

Christ fills the world with truth and grace,
And asks each life to prove
The glories of God's righteousness
And wonders of God's love, And wonders of God's love,
And wonders, and wonders of God's love!

Postlude Ava Maria by Franz Schubert, arr. John Purifoy

Parish Events and Notices

Rector's Epiphany Open House: Saturday January 6, 1:00-5:00 pm

Come and celebrate the joy of Christmas and the New Year at an Open House at the Rector's home (4972 Geer Road, Davis Bay) on the Feast of Epiphany. In honour of the Three Wise Magi, Clarence and Dave are inviting you to bring along a note describing in brief **one wise lesson** you have learnt to share. Food and drinks will be provided. No gifts, please. A donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund for Benevolence would be appreciated.

Parking instructions: Please carpool if possible and park along Geer Road and save the few parking spots up the driveway for people who have mobility challenges. Thanks.

Notice of Special Vestry Meeting: Church Committee is asking all parishioners to make time to attend a Special Vestry Meeting on **January 14, 2018 at 11:30 am** to decide on a course of remediating the church. The formal motion with additional information will be circulated in writing and posted on the parish website in due course.

Office Closed: will be closed from Dec 26 to 29 for the holidays.

Sunday School: no Sunday School on December 31.

Office Administrator on Holidays: Karen will be on holidays the week of Jan 2-5, but the office will still be open from 10am to noon, Tuesday to Friday.

St.Hilda's Choir: No choir rehearsals until Thursday January 11, 2018.

This evening's liturgy has been compiled from various sources, including:

- *A Candle Is Burning* Words: © 1986 Sandra Dean, 1134 Plant Dr., Ottawa, ON K1V 9E8.
- Collect for Christmas (Source: Common Worship Additional Collects (2004))
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- Eucharistic Prayer adapted from St. John's Rite
- Prayer after Communion (Source: Common Worship Additional Collects (2004))
- Closing Meditation from *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

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St. Hilda's By the Sea Anglican Church

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Rector's Warden	Linda Smith		885-3344
Treasurer.....	Bob Maxfield.....		351-2972
Envelope Secretary	Maggie Scott		885-3312

Visit us at www.sthilda.ca or  Like us on Facebook facebook.com/sthilda

WHO WE ARE

St. Hilda, situated on the unceded traditional territory of the shíshálh First Nation, is a member of the Anglican Church of Canada & the worldwide Anglican Communion. As a community, we welcome & celebrate human diversity - including spirituality, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, & abilities. We aim to create a space where people of any faith or none can question & discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter & prayer, lived out through a common commitment to be in solidarity with the poor & marginalized, & to cherish creation.

