

# St. Aidan Anglican Church

## Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,  
the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Processional Carol “Joy to the World”** .....#154 CP

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:  
To you be praise and glory for ever.  
The new light of your incarnate Word  
Gives gladness in our sorrow,  
And a presence in our isolation.  
Fill our lives with your light,  
Until they overflow with gladness and praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

God our Father, today the Saviour is born  
And those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.  
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
To live in the light of your Son  
And to share the good news of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
The light who has come into the world. **Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us.**

**Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world.**

**Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**

People of God: shout and sing!  
Tell the good news of peace on earth.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.  
All God's people *shout*: **Amen!**

Angels dance and the bright star shines.  
All creation bows to the Lord of all.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.  
All God's people *shout*: **Amen!**

One with us, yet born to save,  
He will show us the way to God.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.  
All God's people *shout*: **Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**



## Greeting

Christ has brought us out of darkness:

**to live in his marvellous light.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to St. Aidan today. We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth; **Jesus is our King.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world; **Jesus is our Way.**

With Jesus even dark places are light; **Jesus is the Truth.**

In Jesus we shall live for ever: **Jesus is our Life.**

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us

**and we beheld his glory.**

I bring you good news of great joy:

**a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.**

Unto us a child is born,

**unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.**

Hear the words of St Luke:

When the angels had gone from them into heaven,

the shepherds said to one another,

‘Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened  
which the Lord has made known to us.’

So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph,

and the baby lying in a manger.

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

**We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

The glory of the Lord has been revealed

**and all flesh shall see it together.**

*(Children light candles)*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

**a light no darkness can quench.**

The shepherds kept watch by night,

**and your glory shone round about them.**

The darkness is not dark to you,

**the night is as bright as the day.**

Let your light scatter the darkness

**and fill your Church with your glory.** 3

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us,  
and lying humbly in a manger,  
you show us how much God loves the world.  
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,  
until we reach our home in heaven,  
and see you on your throne of glory. **Amen.**



**Blessing of the Crèche**

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crèche, that all who worship His Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crèche, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life He came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

*(Candles are extinguished)*

My sisters and brothers in Christ, in this season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from Creation to the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his Holy Child Jesus.

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**First Lesson (Daniel)**..... Genesis 2:4-9, 15-25

*(God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden.)*

A reading from the Book of Genesis: These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God took the man and put<sup>4</sup> him in the Garden of Eden to till it

and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Officiant:** *Creating God, you call us to live in harmony with nature, with one another, and with you. Now fix our eyes upon the one in whom your purpose for our world has been revealed, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**First Carol** “The First Nowell” .....#139 CP

**Second Lesson** (Abigail)    Isaiah 40:1-11

*(God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption)*  
A reading from the Book of Isaiah: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The

grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Officiant:** *God of freedom, give the strength of hope to those who suffer oppression in body, mind, or human dignity. Let them hear the vanguard of your coming grace, and give them the wholeness you intend for all your children. We ask this in the name of your Servant, Jesus Christ, the sign of your presence and the pioneer of our salvation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Second Carol** “Good Christians All Rejoice” ..... #153 CP

**Third Lesson** (Michelle) ..... Luke 1:26-38  
(The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High)

A reading from the Book of Luke: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 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, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Officiant:** *Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Third Carol** “Away in a Manger” .....#126 CP

**Fourth Lesson** (Rachel) ..... Luke 2:1-20  
(*Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshipped by angels and shepherds.*)

A reading from the book of Luke: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Officiant:** O God our Father, Whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Him Who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Fourth Carol** “Once in Royal David’s City” ..... #123 CP

**Fifth Lesson** (Logan) ..... Hebrews 1:1-12

*(In the fullness of time, God sent his Son whose reign is for ever and ever.)*

A reading from the Book of Hebrews: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son; today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be his Father, and he will be my Son’? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’ Of the angels he says, ‘He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.’ But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’ And, ‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.’

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Officiant:** O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery. By the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Fifth Carol** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” ..... #143 CP



**Sixth Lesson..... John 1:1-18**

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.)

A reading from the book of John: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known. The Gospel of Christ.

**Officiant:** *Eternal Wisdom, creating, ordering and saving, we give you thanks that we have seen you in the selfless love of Jesus Christ. Now reign within our minds and hearts, and mobilize our will, that by your power and through our hands this world may be re-made to be the garden and the city of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Sixth Carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ..... #118 CP**

**The Prayers of the People** (*Deacon Arleen*)  
*You may kneel, stand, or sit for the prayers.*

**The Peace**  
Unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Offertory Carol** “Silent Night” .....#119 CP  
**Prayer over the Gifts**..... p. 277 BAS  
**Eucharistic Prayer #3** .....p. 198 CP  
**The Lord’s Prayer #2** ..... p. 211 BAS  
**The Breaking of the Bread #6**.....p. 213 BAS

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
Bring us to light and life.**

**Prayer after Communion** .....p.214 BAS

All our works praise you, O Lord.  
**And your faithful servants bless you.**  
  
**Gracious God**  
**We thank you for feeding us**  
**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**  
**May we, who share his body,**  
**live his risen life;**  
**we, who drink his cup,**  
**bring life to others;**  
**we, whom the Spirit lights,**  
**give light to the world.**  
**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**  
**so that we and all your children shall be free,**  
**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**  
**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

### Announcements

**Recessional Carol** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” .....#138 CP

### Dismissal

God sent his angels from glory  
to bring to shepherds the good news of Jesus’ birth.

**Amen. We thank you Lord.**

You have heard his story, the story of God’s own Son.

**Amen. We thank you Lord.**

May he fill you with joy to bring this good news to others today.

**Amen. We thank you Lord.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**Glory, thanks, and praise to God.**

## CHRISTMAS INFORMATION

**No Services on December 25—Christmas Day**

**Sunday, January 1—Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.**

**Friday, January 6—Epiphany: Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.**

**Pastoral Emergencies December 25 - January 3**

contact Deacon Arleen @ 306-631-1001

**Please note:** The **office will be closed** December 26-January 2.  
The mail will be checked regularly.

## MINISTERS TONIGHT

<b>Officiant:</b>	Rev. Dr. Dean Pinter
<b>Deacon:</b>	Rev. Arleen Champion
<b>Servers:</b>	Carla Hoffmann
<b>Greeters:</b>	Michelle Josefson, Pam Speir
<b>Bellringer:</b>	Daniel McElroy
<b>Lectors:</b>	Daniel, Abigail, Michelle, Rachel, Logan
<b>Music:</b>	Chris Kayler
<b>LCAs:</b>	Carla Hoffmann, Daniel McElroy, Darlene Pinter
<b>Sound:</b>	Thom Macfarlane

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