



ADVENT 2019:  
nurturing  
simplicity

# the Parish of St. Dunstan

*On the traditional lands of the Sto:lo Nation*

December 8, 2019

*Advent 2*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS, PAGE 3  
ORDER OF SERVICE, PAGE 4  
ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS, PAGE 6

# Welcome!

This is a diverse & safe congregation for people wherever they are on their journey with Christ. We are an inclusive church which means we celebrate women in leadership, children at the Eucharist & welcome LGBTQ+ people to participate fully in the community.

## W O R S H I P

### **Advent:**

*The season of waiting for the arrival of Jesus  
as a baby & as Lord of All.*

### **For Children**

*The Nursery is staffed & open for children ages 0 to 4.*

*There is Sunday School this morning for children ages 5 to 12.*

*Activity bags are available in the entry near the colouring table.*

**All our volunteers & staff have a criminal record check.**

### **Taking Communion**

*Everyone is welcome to receive bread & wine as a sign of our commitment to Christ & Christ's commitment to us.*

*There are **gluten-free wafers** for those who need it & **juice** for those who prefer.*

**Prayers for healing** with the anointing of oil is offered beneath the cross during Communion. Please **light a candle** as a sign of your prayers.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Spiritual Practice Series**      *Tonight, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8:30pm*  
*Time with Mary with David Taylor & Lorie Martin*  
*More information can be found in the Centre for Spiritual*  
*Renewal program*
- Langley Chorus**  
**Christmas Concert**      *Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5pm*  
*tickets available at the door*
- St. Dunstan's Choir**  
**Christmas Sing a Long**      *Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8pm*  
*Admission by donation*  
*Refreshments following in the Hall*
- Messy Church**      *Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30pm*
- Sung Evening Prayer**      *Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm*

# ADVENT CHALLENGE

care  share

*This year the local ministry initiative of the Diocese of New Westminster is supporting*

## **Urban Aboriginal Ministry**

*UAM reaches out to First Nations people from across Canada who are living here in Vancouver. These individuals sometimes find themselves in desperate situations & need support & help. For more information, visit our website & check out the news item titled **Advent Challenge**.*

*Please designate all donations to **Care+Share**.*

The liturgy is taken from the Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada. Hymns numbers are indicated after the hymn title & found in the blue Common Praise hymn book. The readings are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary. The entire service is projected on the wall.

## Gathering the Community

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*the Greeting, Announcements & the Collect for Purity*

**Kyrie**

**Prepare the Way of the Lord**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

*the Prayer of the Day*

## Proclaiming the Word

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*The Prophet Isaiah (2:1-5)*

**Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19**

*Paul's Letter to the Romans (15:4-13)*

**Lift Your Voice**

*the Gospel according to Matthew (3:1-12) & the Sermon*

*the Prayers of the People, the Confession & Absolution*

*the Peace & the Offering*

**Hark a Herald Voice, 108**

## Holy Communion

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*All are welcome to receive bread & wine (or juice) at Communion.*

**Wait for the Lord, 94**

**In You There is a Refuge**

**All Who Are thirsty**

## Sending the Community

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*the Blessing*

**Come, O God of all the Earth, 589**

**Coffee & refreshments are served in the hall following the service.  
Please visit the Information Table in the entry if you have any questions.**

# Today's Scripture

Introductions to the Lessons by Bill Bennett

**Isaiah 11:** The first author of Isaiah, celebrates & foretells the coming of a leader from the house of David. Peace among all creatures is a parable of peace being established in the political & spiritual realm.

**Romans 15:** Paul urges the Roman Christians to be hospitable, quoting relevant passages from the Old Testament.

**Matthew 3:** Matthew describes the ministry of John the Baptist in the wilderness.

## Sermon Notes

### **Advent 2: Nurturing Simplicity – our message.**

In the craziness of life we can all wonder what it might be like to live more simply. This Advent we are invited to shake off those things that hold us down & give more attention to those things that liberate us. This week we will wonder about our message – what is it?

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Men's Coffee**  
Wednesdays at 9am

**Women's Coffee & Crafts**  
Fridays at 10am

**Centering Prayer**  
Wednesdays at 6:30pm & Fridays at 11:30am

**Study Group**  
Wednesdays at 7pm.  
This week we will recall the Woman at the Well with the Reverend Dr. April Stanley.

**Youth Group**  
Fridays at 7pm. Call 778-987-0530 for location.

# ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

The following is a resource to help you connect with the themes of Advent & continue your prayers through the week. This can be done on your own or in the family group. This liturgy is based on Home Prayers found in the Book of Alternative Services (p. 687). **If you do not have a prayer book, please take & keep one for your use.**

Our devotions this week will guide us into living more simple lives focussed on the things that matter & letting the things that don't matter drift away. **OUR MESSAGE** as followers of Christ can, at times, get muddled. How can we get down to some essentials?

## 1. The Preparation

The First (Blue) Advent candle is lit as someone prays,

**Author of light, yours is the morning & yours is the evening. Let Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine for ever in our hearts & draw us to your light. Amen.**

## 2. The Reading & Reflection

Read the passage from Scripture then reflect using the wonder questions as your guide. This guide uses the New Revised Standard Version.

### OUR MESSAGE IS LIFE – MATTHEW 22:23-33

Notes on the reading:

- The Sadducees are trying to confuse the message of Jesus by contriving a story & asking for Jesus to defend his message. Jesus does not participate in their game.
- Jesus uses an ancient description of God to highlight that God is the God of the living. How could God still be called the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob if they were dead?

*I wonder how God gives you life.*

*I wonder who you know that could use the simple message of life.*

### OUR MESSAGE IS LOVE – MATTHEW 22:34-40

Notes on the reading:

- Jesus still has opposition to his message. Even the Pharisees want to make it more confusing than it is.
- Jesus sums up his message by appealing to 2 Hebrew Scripture texts: Deuteronomy 6:4 & Leviticus 19:18.
- If any part of Scripture could be committed to memory, it is these two Hebrew Scripture verses.

*I wonder how God has shown you love.*

*I wonder who you know that could use the simple message of love.*

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

## OUR MESSAGE IS SERVICE – MATTHEW 23:1-12

Notes on the reading:

- Jesus responds to his challengers – those who try to confuse his message – by pointing out their actions.
- You can always tell what someone believes by how they behave.
- Instead of acting like a lord or master, Jesus acts like a servant & calls his followers to imitate him, not the Pharisees or Sadducees.

*I wonder how God has led you to serve others.*

*Plan to attend & serve at the Thursday Meal once in the coming year.*

Thursday

## OUR MESSAGE IS SELF-REFLECTION – MATTHEW 23:13-26

Notes on the reading:

- Jesus continues to uncover the error of the Pharisees & Sadducees. He calls them hypocrites. Hypocrite is a Greek word that means pretender, or actor.
- Jesus calls us to live authentically, not putting on pretense.
- While Jesus' words are tough, he is helping the Sadducees & Pharisees by putting a mirror up to them so that they can reflect on their behaviour.

*I wonder what you do for self-reflection.*

*Reflect on your day by asking yourself what one highlight & one lowlight was.*

Friday

## OUR MESSAGE IS REPENTANCE – MATTHEW 23:27-39

Notes on the reading:

- Jesus continues his hard words to the Pharisees & Sadducees. Sometimes hard words are the only thing that will cause a person to wake up, or “snap out of it.”
- Jesus is not giving us license to call others names but is inviting us to reflect on our own behaviour. WE are the Sadducees & Pharisees.
- When our beliefs & actions differ, it is time to admit it (confess) & change our beliefs or behaviour (repent).

*I wonder how what you believe about God & yourself is reflected in your action.*

*Plan to go to confession once in the coming year.*

### 3. Prayers & the Lord's Prayer

*Pray the Advent litany from the Book of Alternative Services (page 119).*

*The liturgy concludes with the Lord's Prayer.*

# Christmas Eve

6pm, 10:30pm



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## The Parish of St. Dunstan

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The Parish of St. Dunstan, Aldergrove



### Office hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30 – 12:00 pm

#### Wardens

Theresa Tancock 604-614-7145  
Lois Curtis 778-347-0817

#### Music Director

Carol Tindall 604-856-4695

#### Archbishop

the Most Reverend Melissa Skelton  
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