



Following Jesus Christ to be a beacon of God's light and hope



# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13th, 2015

# WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us. Where you are a Sunday regular, checking out church for the first time, or somewhere in between, we want to welcome you.

For those of you who have not been to one of our services we hope this booklet helps you feel more comfortable. We know new experiences can be a bit awkward, so we have tried to make it easy for you to follow along with this booklet and with the overhead screen.

## A FEW TIPS

1. Keep an eye out for boxes that **SIT** say **STAND** and as they will help you know when to rise in body and spirit, if you are able, and to be seated.
2. We sing a lot, in a variety of different styles from ancient chant to contemporary folk and praise. Sometimes you will see abbreviations besides songs like "VU" meaning *Voices United* or "MV" meaning *More Voices*. All songs are projected on the screen, but these books are available in your pew if you can read music or just prefer to sing from a book.
3. Throughout the booklet there are grey outlined boxes with focus questions intended to guide and enrich your worship experience. You are encouraged to fill them out and take notes during or after the service as a way to dig deeper.

## PRELUDE

**SIT**

**Focus:** When the angel appears to Mary in our passage, he calms Mary by saying “do not be afraid.” Do you come to worship for a sense of excitement, or a sense of calm? Or in between?

## GREETING AND WELCOME

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## OPENING SONG

COME, O GOD OF ALL THE EARTH

**STAND**

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## THE NEWS OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER

**SIT**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## CHORAL INTROIT

BETHLEHEM WIND

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

*The St. George's Men's Group*

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Focus:** In response to God's call, Mary says “let it be with me according to your word,” though the road will not be easy. Where have you been struggling saying “yes” to the Spirit's prodding?

## RESPONSE SONG (SUNG TWICE)

LORD, O LORD OUR GOD

**STAND**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

## HYMN OF PRAISE

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS (VU#2)

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## Greeting

We begin worship with the ancient Christian greeting as the acknowledgment of God's presence among us.

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## Passing the Peace

We welcome each other by extending a hand of peace as a reminder that Christ is breaking down the boundaries that divide us as human beings.

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## The Advent Candles

During the Advent season, we light a circular wreath with one large candle in the middle surrounded by four others. The circle symbolizes the eternity of God, and we light a candle each Sunday in Advent and the final candle on Christmas Eve.

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## Confession

Confession is the opportunity to share with God our failures, shortcomings, brokenness and struggles, and those of our world. The **Assurance of Grace** that follows is a reminder to us of God's forgiveness and mercy that has the power to set us free.

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**The Jesse Tree**

In Isaiah 11, the writer says that a “shoot from the stump of Jesse”—Jesse being King David’s father. Jesus is seen as representing that shoot, as a new start for not only Jesse’s family, but the whole world. We decorate the Jesse Tree as Jesus’ family tree with stories from all through the Bible to help us keep in mind the big picture.

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**Scripture**

In the reading of the Bible and the sharing of the sermon, the community hosts our sacred text. We listen together for a word from the Spirit that addresses us in the here and now. We sing a **prayer of illumination** before the reading of scripture to pray for the opening of our hearts and minds to the Spirit.

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**The Prayers of the People**

Following the sermon and hymn we offer up our prayers to God for the world, our community and our community of faith for God’s

**CHILDREN’S WORD**

DECORATING THE JESSE TREE

**SIT****INVITATION TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

*At this time, children are invited to join our leaders in Children’s Church. Nursery care is for children ages 0-4, and children’s Church is for Ages 5-12. Children are also welcome to stay with their parents in worship.*

**SONG FOR ALL AGES**

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD (BERTHIER)

**STAND****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

HOLY SPIRIT, COME TO US (MV#75)

**SIT****SCRIPTURE READING***Heather Pitman*

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20; LUKE 1:26-45

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.****SERMON**

“GREAT EXPECTATIONS”

*Rev. Ryan Slifka*

**Sermon Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**HYMN**

O ANCIENT LOVE (VU#17)

**STAND****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A NEW CREED (VU#918)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE***Ray Brandon*

THE LORD’S PRAYER (VU#921)

**SIT**

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

## OFFERING HYMN

LORD, PREPARE ME TO BE A SANCTUARY (MV#18)

STAND

## OFFERING PRAYER

HYMN (TO THE TUNE OF VU#40)

SING OUT ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

## SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

CLOSING (SUNG TWICE)

WAIT FOR THE LORD (VU#22)

## POSTLUDE

SIT

*You are invited to exit the sanctuary quietly, or remain seated for the postlude to enjoy a last moment of worship. Following, you are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a time to get to know each other better.*

**Focus:** As soon as Mary hears the news that she is bearing Christ, she rushes to tell her cousin Elizabeth. What did you hear or experience in the service that you could share with friends or neighbors?

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## Offering

As a community of faith we collect a weekly offering of our time, our talents and financial gifts. They are collected to support God's mission in the world through our local church and all over the world. It is also a personal discipline that reminds us who we are, and that all in life ultimately belongs to God.

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## Sending Forth and Blessing

In being sent forth we are reminded of our mission to be God's people in the world. The blessing concludes the service as a declaration of God's love and presence that accompanies us through the whole week.

## THE NEWS OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER

DECEMBER 13-19, 2015

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please hold the following people in your regular prayers:**

Eve Mark, Peter, Mari, and family, Jon and Mona Mahovic, Win Argue, Cliff Fletcher, Jennifer Barter, Disciple Bible Study Group.

Please call or email the office at [stgeorgeuc@shaw.ca](mailto:stgeorgeuc@shaw.ca) for changes

### PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS:

Contact Lydia Wilson at [lydmac2@shaw.ca](mailto:lydmac2@shaw.ca) or fill out your connection card in the pew.

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES

- December 19th: A Service of Carols and Lessons**  
At Comox United Church 7:00pm
- December 20th Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship**  
Celebrating at 10:30am  
**Celebration Singers Concert Matinee**  
"The Joys of Christmas" 2:00pm
- December 21st Celebration Singers Concert**  
"The Joys of Christmas" 7:30pm
- December 24th Christmas Eve Family Worship**  
Candlelight Service With Carols
- December 25th Christmas Day Contemplative Worship**  
Carols and Holy Communion 10:30am
- December 27th First Sunday in Christmas Worship**  
Carols and Lessons 10:30am
- January 3rd The Visit of the Magi**  
Epiphany of the Lord Worship 10:30am

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### DONATE TO THE PASTOR'S BENEVOLENT FUND & RECEIVE A CALENDAR

The Pastor's Benevolent Fund is a special fund that provides assistance those in need throughout the year. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a copy of Salt of the Earth: A Christian Seasons Calendar, a beautiful wall calendar that is structured by the Christian liturgical seasons. Available in the Fellowship Hall after the service or in the Office: Tuesdays – Fridays (9am – 12noon). See [www.thechristiancalendar.com](http://www.thechristiancalendar.com) for more about the calendar.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AND FOR A FEW SUNDAY'S AFTER THAT FOR PICKUP.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING THEM UNTIL 2015.

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### ANNUAL MITTEN TREE COLLECTION

Please bring warm toques, scarves and gloves and place them on the tree by the entrance for those in need in our community. Your donations this year, will be donated:

St. George's Drop in Centre. Care-A-Van.

Hamper Programs - Salvation Army and Royal LePage

### WHITE GIFT SUNDAY - DECEMBER 20TH. 2015

All food items will be donated to St. George's Pantry

Any gifts, off toys or money will be donated to the local

Hamper Programs - Salvation Army and Royal LePage

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### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Beryl Vince (2<sup>nd</sup>); Marilyn Coveney (3rd); Isabelle Johnson (5th) ;  
Bev Aitken (6th); Lyle Shannon (10th); Cameron Sim (14th); Betty  
Thornton (17th); Coral Tanner (20th); Cliff Fletcher (30th).

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### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

*Use this prayer to start each day mindful of God's presence*

God, surely you are my salvation.

I begin this day without fear, trusting you,

for you are my strength.

Help me to meditate all day

on the thought that you are rejoicing in me!

And keep me keenly aware, as I travel through this day,

of ways that I may help others, especially those with special needs.

Then bring me home to you at the close of the day. Amen.

*-FROM THE FEASTING ON THE WORD WORSHIP COMPANION*

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Today's service centers on **the Good News According to Luke, 1:26:45**. In our passage, an angel appears to Mary, and announces that she will bear a child who will fulfil ancient promises of deliverance as "Emmanuel" (God-with-us). Mary runs and delivers the news to her cousin, Elizabeth, who is also pregnant (with John the Baptist). The baby jumps in Elizabeth's womb, and Mary and Elizabeth celebrate this blessing.

The **Good News According to Luke** is the third of four books that chronicle Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Luke's main emphasis is that in his words, deeds, death, and resurrection, Jesus is the one who God promised to save the people of Israel. In Luke, Jesus proclaims God's good news of deliverance for all peoples, especially for the poor and the downtrodden.

Today is the **Third Sunday** in the **Season of Advent**, the first season of the Christian Year beginning the four weeks leading up to the festival of Christmas. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." During this season we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus (the first Advent), and prepare ourselves in anticipation of God's future reconciliation of all creation (the second Advent). The people of Jesus are called to participate in the here and now, waiting and working towards that promised future. **The liturgical colour is deep blue, the colour of royalty from the image of Christ as King.**



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[STGEORGESUNITED.COM](http://STGEORGESUNITED.COM)

[FACEBOOK.COM/STGEORGESUNITED](https://FACEBOOK.COM/STGEORGESUNITED)

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**MINISTERS OF THE  
GOSPEL**

The Whole  
Congregation

**PASTOR**

Rev. Ryan Slifka

**ADMINISTRATOR**

Jenny Millar

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Anne Bateman

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Eve Mark  
St. George's Choir

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Cheyenne Hutt  
Seva Ganga  
Emma Long

**SOUND BOOTH**

Norman Walker  
Céline Sokol

**CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

Alison Mewett

**ELDERS OF COUNCIL**

Malcolm Horne  
Wendy Irwin  
Carol Lidster  
Erik Nieuwejaar  
Ula Nieuwejaar  
Catherine Tancon  
Ellen Wise

**MINISTERS EMERITUS**

Rev. Ray Brandon  
Pat Brandon

**MAINTENANCE**

Clinton Wise

**CUSTODIAN**

Erik Nieuwejaar