



**Welcome to St. Peter's Anglican Church in Edmonton and our
service of Morning Prayer for Wednesday,
December 24, 2025
Year A**

In the spirit of peaceful dialogue, understanding, reconciliation, and healing, we walk alongside our Indigenous and Métis relations on the Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 Territories, the traditional meeting ground of Cree, Saulteaux, Niitsitapi, Nakota Sioux, Dene, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We give thanks for their hospitality and the opportunity to share common ground.

Lord, open our lips,

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

HYMN – HEAVENLY MESSAGE

Gathering: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,

To you all hearts are open,

All desires known,

And from you no secrets are hidden.

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love you,
And worthily magnify your holy name.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Trisagion: Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy and immortal one,
Have mercy on us. (3x)

Meditation: – Rev. Alison Westervelt
Love still takes the risk of birth.

I am going to share two poems this morning. They are both by Madeleine L'Engle. I love the faith-filled honesty of these poems. They're not really nostalgic, but instead they grapple with the world's pain in a very real and honest way.

This is no time for a child to be born, Madeleine wrote back in 1973, and if it was true then, it is no less true now. The earth continues to be "betrayed by war and hate."

On the surface, this may not be a good time for a child to be born, but then again, our faith leads us to agree with L'Engle when she concludes this poem by stating that "Love still takes the risk of birth." God's love for us is willing to take the risk, to send God's only Son to a young family in a small town in Palestine, to be the Saviour of this beloved world. How can we help but rejoice in this? And so, as she writes in her other poem, "we cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with love: Rejoice! Rejoice!"

Here, then, is a poem, prayer, psalm and promise for Christmas.

Psalm 96:7-13

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

He will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the Lord; for he is coming,

for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with his truth.

Scripture Readings

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. — *Titus 2:11*

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 Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. — *Luke 2:10-11*

The Risk of Birth, Christmas 1973

This is no time for a child to be born,

With the earth betrayed by war & hate

And a comet slashing the sky to warn

That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,

In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;

Honour & truth were trampled by scorn—

Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?

The inn is full on the planet earth,

And by a comet the sky is torn—

Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

First Coming

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait
till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
He came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Closing Prayer

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN: AWAY IN A MANGER

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Healing Litany:

Let us offer our prayers for God's healing, saying, Hear and have mercy.

Hear and have mercy

Blessed Jesus, your Holy name is medicine for healing and a promise of eternal life. Let us name before God those for whom our prayers are requested:

Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Tony and Mary Jean.....
Florence..... Lisa and Joe.....

Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry.....
Ken..... Monica..... Julie Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy.....
Ruth..... Jody and Michael.....

David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Melody and her family.....Pauline..... Mike
S.....

Jorges and Janine..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Lynn..... Irvin and
Margaret..... those we hold close in our hearts and those known to you
alone.

Grant us your grace to heal those who are sick. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy

Give courage and faith to all who are disabled through injury or illness. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy

Comfort, relieve, and heal all sick children. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy

Give courage to all who await surgery. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy

Support and encourage those who live with chronic illness. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy

Strengthen those who endure continual pain and give them hope. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy

Grant the refreshment of peaceful sleep to all who suffer. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy

Uphold those who keep watch over the sick. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Guide those who search for the causes and cures of sickness and disease. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Hear and have mercy

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

Hear and have mercy

Compassionate God, you so loved the world that you sent us Jesus to bear our infirmities and afflictions. Through acts of healing, he revealed you as the true source of health and salvation. For the sake of your Christ who suffered and died for us, conquered death, and now reigns with you in glory, hear the cry of your people. Have mercy on us, make us whole, and bring us at last into the fulness of your eternal life. Amen

Collect

Eternal God,
this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known
the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD

The Dismissal:

Let us bless the Lord, giving thanks for his living word.
Thanks be to God.

May the boldness of the Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of the Spirit lead us, may the gifts of the Spirit equip us to serve and worship God; and may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us. We will be back on Sunday morning. You can also join us in person at St. Peter's in Edmonton for our services of Holy Communion every Sunday morning at 10:30. Have a great week.