



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AS A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER,
WE GATHER ON THE TRADITIONAL AND UNSURRENDERED TERRITORY OF THE
HALQ'EMEYN-SPEAKING COAST SALISH PEOPLES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
THE QAYQAYT, MUSQUEAM, KWITWETLEM, KWANTLEN, TSAWWASSEN. AND TSEIL-
WAUTUTH, WE SEEK TO WALK A PATH OF RECONCILIATION & HEALING.

**4 pm Family Service
Christmas Eve
24 December 2025**

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*Whether you have been a lifelong Anglican or are new to our tradition, we welcome you this evening! If you are not familiar with Anglican worship, simply allow the words, music and symbols to speak to you. Participate as fully as you feel comfortable in doing. We stand to sing and sit to listen. Some people kneel for prayer, some sit and some stand. Please do what is comfortable for you. You are invited to join in the words in **bold type**. Music for the songs is found in the blue Common Praise in the pews.*

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude Music

Before the service, you are invited to help younger members choose a figure for the creche or a special prop to join in the pageant. Everyone gets a star to offer to Jesus. Please write your name on one.

Announcements

Gathering Carol

'O Come, All Ye Faithful'

Common Praise 118 (tune Adeste Fidelis)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels;
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

**God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
*O come let us adore him . . .***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest:
*O come let us adore him . . .***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
*O come let us adore him . . .***

Greeting

Presider: 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.

Presider: We gather here from many places on land that is the traditional
and unsundered territory of the Halq'emeyn-speaking Coast
Salish peoples.

**People: May Christ lead us on right pathways as we seek truth and
reconciliation in action.**

A short silence is kept.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Presider: For four weeks we have been counting to Christmas.
Now it is time to welcome Jesus born among us.
God's love shines out this night.

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

Candle Song

**Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
And the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Narrator: Listen now to the story of Christmas. I wonder what we will see
and hear and touch and taste tonight? This night is special. It is
like no other night. It is time to dream and sing our way to
Bethlehem. The children will show us the way. The little town we
seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For
thousands of years the houses have gathered there on the hilltop
like a family breaking bread together. 'Bethlehem' means "House
of Bread."

In the centre of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat. Behind the inn is a dark stable. A horse chews his oats while a cow leans and rests after the day's plowing in the valley. A sheep nearby is nearly asleep. All is still and quiet in the little town.

Would all children holding animals please bring them forward...

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (Blue Hymnbook #120)*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light:
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.**

Narrator: As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. Look there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born so long ago. They have come, like many others, because the Roman Emperor wants to count each one, so that he can take their money as a tax. But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

Would the children holding Mary and Joseph please bring them...

Carol: *Once in Royal David's City (Blue Hymnbook #123)*

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**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.**

Narrator: Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath.
Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn child!
Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed
box that his father has filled with straw.

Would the child holding Jesus please bring him up...

Carol: *Away in a Manger (Blue Hymnbook #126)*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus- look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

Narrator: In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy
sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the
light is something even brighter: the faces of angels. The fearful
shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly, "Do
not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be
shared by all people. Today in the city of David a Savior is born! He
is Christ, the Lord." Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly
host of them, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere."
The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the

barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find the Nativity itself in the centre of all that love.

Would the angels and shepherds please come forward...

Carol: *While Shepherds Watched (Blue Hymnbook #136)*

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.**

**“Fear not”, said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind.
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and humankind.”**

Narrator: Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry three kings, the wise ones, the Magi. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King shown to them by the shining star.

Would the kings please come forward with their gifts...

Carol: *We Three Kings*

**We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts, we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star:**

**O, O- star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding-
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

Narrator: The king's journey ends when they find this the new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

So now we all come, following the star, to find God with us. We come, as people have some all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us.

Come forward and bring your stars to place on our Christmas tree. Show us the way into the Mystery of Christmas, as we sing, for this night is holy and filled with over-flowing love.

Carol: *Silent Night (Blue Hymnbook # 119)*

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

Leader: We are going to be quiet together so we can hear God speaking to us. We are so glad that Jesus is born and that we have come tonight to celebrate his birth. In joy and humility, let us pray to the

Creator of the universe. To the bidding “with all our hearts” please respond, “we thank you God.” Let’s try that:
With all our hearts,

All: We thank you, God.

Leader: For the good news of salvation brought to Mary by the angel;
With all our hearts.

All: We thank you, God.

Leader: For the mystery of the Word made flesh, Jesus our Lord;
With all our hearts,

All: We thank you, God.

Leader: By the showing of the Son of God to the poor shepherds and all those who are in need; with all our hearts,

All: We thank you, God.

Leader: By the epiphany of the King of glory to the kings and all those in power; with all our hearts,

All: We thank you, God.

Leader: By the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan so that he can wash away all that is not clean; with all our hearts,

All: We thank you, God.

Leader: We pray for all who are in need of healing, all who are alone, and all who are fearful this night....

(in the pause, please name those you want to pray for)

...Jesus brings healing, and friendship, and courage to everyone who comes to him. For the Light of the world; with all our hearts,

All: We thank you, God. Amen.

the Exchange of the Peace

Presider: May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbours, respecting their comfort with distance and touch.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offering Song

‘Hark, the Herald Angels Sing’
Common Praise 138 (Mendelssohn)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King.”**

**Christ by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King.”**

**Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King.”**

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider: Let us pray,

**All: Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this
joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to
yours, for he is Lord now and forever. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

BAS Eucharistic Prayer 5

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Presider: You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing:

Sanctus

Common Praise 732 (tune Mass of Hope)

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: We give you thanks and praise, God our Mother and Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected. Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Presider: On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Presider: Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Presider: Holy One, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All: Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: In the language of your heart, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

You are invited to use either the traditional or contemporary version in English or the language you find most helpful for prayer.

**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 today our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
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.**

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
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 forever. Amen**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: We break the bread of life,
And that life is the light of the world.

**People: God here among us, light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

Presider: Dear friends in Christ, God bids you welcome to this table. Here we are strengthened for the journey. Here strangers become friends and the seeker finds God's wisdom speaking to them. See who you are and become what you see. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Communion

You are invited to come forward to receive bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available. You receive the fullness of Christ's love if you prefer to take one kind (just the bread or the wine). If you would prefer to have a blessing, please let the priest know.

During Communion

'What Child is This'

Common Praise 137 (Greensleeves)

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

***Refrain: This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.***

**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.**

Refrain

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

Refrain

THE SENDING FORTH FOR CHRISTMAS

A Christmas Blessing

Presider: May the blessing of light be on you – light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.
And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,
like a candle set in the window of a house,
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.
And may the blessing of the rain be on you,
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines,
and sometimes a star.
The blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be with you this night and always.

All: Amen.

Sending Carol

‘Joy to the World’

Common Praise 154 (tune Antioch)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,
and Heaven and nature sing,
and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders, of His love.**

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to live the love of Christmas.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*The flowers in the church are donated to the Glory of God
by Ben Kendall.*



Liturgical Ministers tonight

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greeters: | Gerry Rowse & Kate Abel |
| Chalice Administrators: | Sybil Collett & Alysia Kerr |
| Presider: | The Rev. Stephanie Shepard |
| Server: | Linda Gravlin |
| Crucifer: | Greg Kennelly |
| Music Director: | Kyumin Lee |

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

Wednesday Christmas Day, 10-11 am Christ Mass*

Saturday Community Brunch, 11 am- noon in the Hall

Sunday 8-9 am Traditional Eucharist Service (BCP)

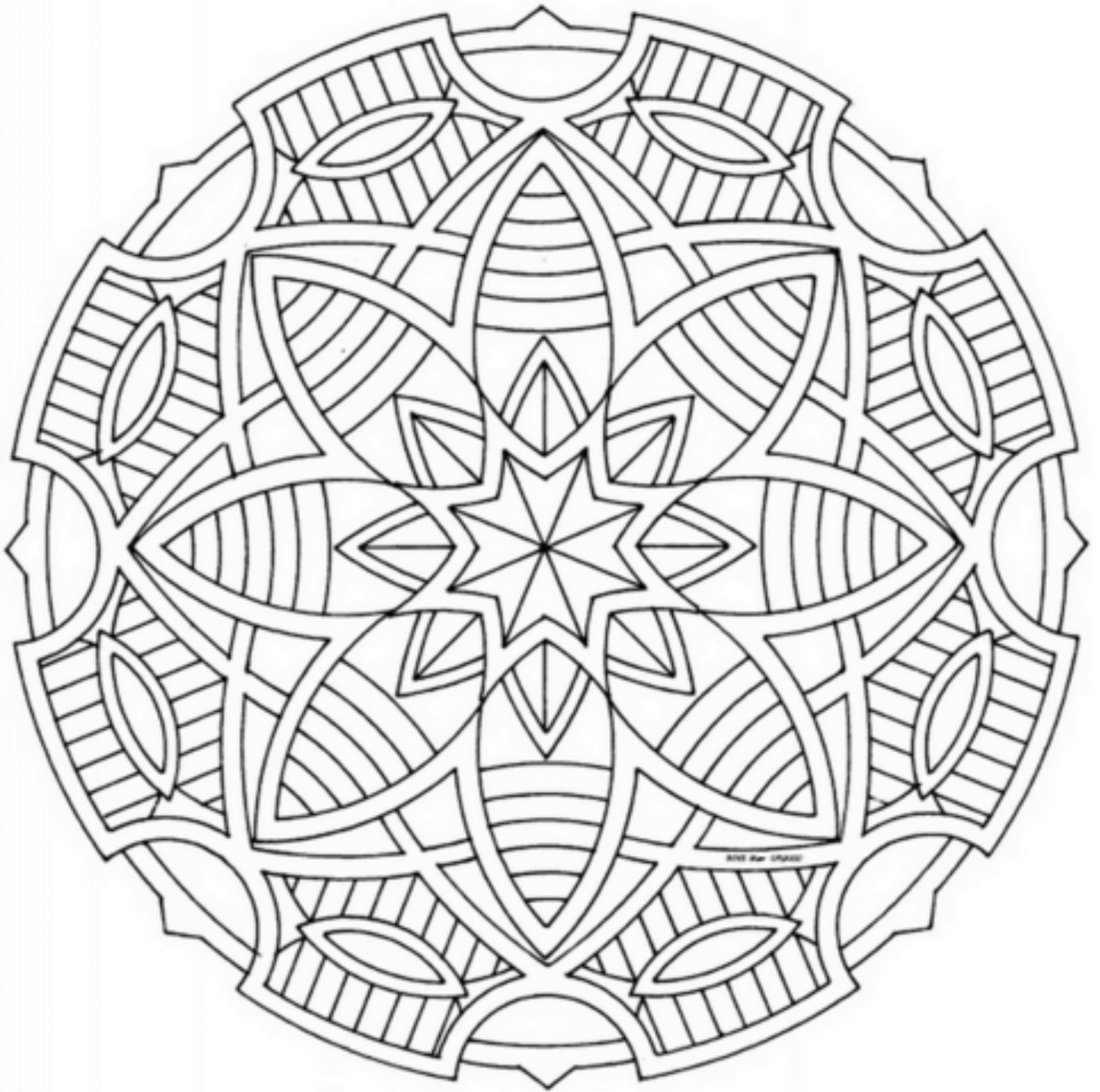
Sunday 10-11:15 am Choral Eucharist Service

Note: there is no midweek Eucharist until Wednesday January 7, 2026.

**live-streamed over Facebook.*

Go to <https://www.holytrinitycathedral.ca/events>.

Click on the photo of the service. This will take you to Facebook. A box will come up asking for your Facebook login. Click the X on the right upper corner of the box. If you do not have Facebook you should be able to watch from the HTC site.



***May your dear ones be blessed
In every place where they are
this Christmas and into the New Year***