

ORDER OF SERVICE – DECEMBER 1, 2024 10:00 AM – 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Preaching: Pastor Rick

Presiding: Pastor Bart

Music Team: Choral Worship Team

Welcome to worship!

If you are a visitor today, please pick up a gift bag and learn more about our programs at the Welcome Table at the back of the narthex. Grab a coffee and mingle following the service. A family friendly area is available in the Gateway to sit with other parents or to allow your children to enjoy some snacks following the worship service and Sunday school. If your children require a quiet place during the service, feel free to take them to the narthex near the fireplace area or into the Gateway Room where we have few quiet toys for them to enjoy.

If you are a visitor, we welcome you to come forward for communion. If your children have gone through communion instruction, they are welcome as well. If they are not taking communion, please bring them forward for a blessing. If you would like personal prayer this morning, you are invited to meet with our prayer team in the narthex either before or after you have taken communion. Individual prayer is also available following the service.

Today's worship service, including our children's time is live streamed and recorded for future viewing on St. Peter's YouTube channel. Sitting further back out of the filming area is an option.

Today is the First Sunday in Advent.

At today's service, we welcome new members into the St. Peter's church family. We will also take some time to recognize the many volunteers who faithfully share their gifts and time in serving God and each other. In celebration, please join us following our worship service for lunch.

OPENING HYMN: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne

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LIGHTING THE CANDLES • WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Hope

ADVENT Hymn: The Wexford Carol

Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done, In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary lowly we should pray To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon the morn There was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God's angels did appear Which put the shepherds in great fear
"Arise and go!" the angel said "To Bethlehem. Be not afraid
For there you'll find this happy morn A princely babe sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind The shepherds went, this babe to find
And as God's angel had foretold They did our saviour Christ behold
Within a manger he was laid And by his side the virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of life Who came on earth to end all strife

Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done, In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary lowly we should pray To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon the morn There was a blessed Messiah born.

12th Century Irish Carol | Public Domain

ADVENT PRAYER

Dear Lord, we wait for Your coming as our Good Shepherd. Please gather us in your arms, feed us with spiritual food, and wipe away every tear from our eyes. Let your face shine on us, that we may be saved! Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, beseeching Him, in the name of our Lord Jesus, to forgive the iniquity of our sin.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open
All desires known, from You no secrets are hid
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By the power of your Spirit
That we love and magnify your name

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P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Silence for reflection]

P: Most merciful God...

All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: and also with you.

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy (2x)

Christe eleison, Christ have mercy (2x)

Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy (2x)

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

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ADVENT GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth
We praise your name; we bless your name; we worship and glorify you!
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo (2x)

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16 NIV

¹⁴ “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵ “‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

PSALM 25:1-10 NIV

¹ In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.

² I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³ No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

- ⁴ Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.
⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.
⁶ Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.
⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.
⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
⁹ He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 NIV

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Choir: *Come, Emmanuel* by Twila Paris, arr. Robert Sterling

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36 NIV

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

PRE-SERMON HYMN: Ancient Words

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart: O, let the ancient words impart;

Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

CHORUS

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you,
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice: O, heed the faithful words of Christ.

CHORUS

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you,
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

Martyr's blood stains each page, they have died for this faith;
Hear them cry through the years; "Heed these words and hold them dear!"

CHORUS

We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. O let the ancient words impart.

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SERMON: Pastor Rick

OFFERTORY HYMN: Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near
Let every hill and valley a level road appear
Then greet the king of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see him coming: Your own eternal king
Palm branches strew before him; spread garments, shout and sing
God's promise will not fail you; no more shall doubt assail you
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king
Your king, yet every nation its tribute too should bring
All lands, bow down before him; all voices, thus adore him.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!

Swedish 17th Century hymn | public domain | text: Franz Mikael Franzen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you.

All: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your Goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 into hell.

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.**

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

PROPER PREFACE

Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth of Your glory are full

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (2x)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth of Your glory are full

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest (2x)

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION (LBW p. 110)

LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in Heaven...

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world (3x)
Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us and grant us, grant us peace.

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COMMUNION SONGS

Hallelujah

You came to earth to bring us joy
Incarnate as a baby boy
To heal our broken hearts – we're thankful to You
It goes like this, creation's song, the fall, the child who rights our wrong
With every breath I'm singing "Hallelujah!"
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn to find a place
For You were coming soon – yeah
There was no place for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born – Oh! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
Angelic hosts of heaven led them to You
It was just as the angels said: "You'll find Him in a manger bed,
Emmanuel: God with us. Hallelujah!"
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

A bright star led the wisemen three
To Bethlehem the child to see
From Eastern lands though desert sands came to You
And when the star stopped where you were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and whispered, "Hallelujah!"
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

I know You came to rescue me
And Jesus, You grew up to be
The Saviour of the world to bring us to You
My sin drove nails through your hands
Your rugged cross in history stands
As love poured out to sinners – Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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Christ Is Coming, Lift Your Eyes (Tune: St. George's Windsor)

Christ is coming lift your eyes
Sweep your hearts prepare your lives
Spread your welcome He is near
Soon Messiah will appear
He is life and peace profound
Trust His love and turn around
Christ is coming don't delay
He is Lord prepare His way

Wash your hearts confess your sin
See your heaven now begin
Look beyond your fear and pride
See His Kingdom open wide
Meet the Lord of sky and sea
God in full reality
Christ is coming don't delay
He is Lord prepare His way

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COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please see below for details)

CLOSING HYMN: Hark the Glad Sound

Hark the glad sound the Saviour comes
The Saviour promised long
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song

He comes the pris'ners to release
In Satan's bondage held
The gates of brass before Him burst
The iron fetters yield

He comes the broken heart to bind
The bleeding soul to cure
And with the treasures of His grace
To bless the humble poor

Our glad hosannas Prince of Peace
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name

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THE SENDING

P: Go in Peace.

C: Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Rick: Mon, 10:30 AM– 1:30 PM
Tim Bauer: Mon & Tues, 1:00–3:30 PM
Pastor Bart: Wed, 1:00–4:00 PM
Staff Meeting: Wed, 10:30 AM –11:30 AM

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE:

Dec 1	Sun	10:00 AM	First Sunday in Advent • Welcoming new membership • Volunteer appreciation and lunch to follow
Dec. 1	Sun	7:00 PM	Advent by Candlelight – Lessons and Carols (with choir and brass)
Dec. 2	Mon	7:00 PM	God's Word is Our Foundation Evan Leading at Kumlin Ranch
Dec. 3	Tues	9:00 AM	Prayer Group – Diana Leading
Dec. 4	Wed	9:30 AM	<i>Hammer of God</i> , Small Group Study Gary Leading
Dec. 4	Wed	1:30 PM	Good Vibes Memory Choir
Dec. 5	Thurs	10:00 AM	Genesis Bible Study with Pastor Paul (Downstairs)
Dec. 6	Fri	3:30-5 PM	Weekly Church Cleaning
Dec. 7	Sat	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast
Dec. 8	Sun	10:00 AM	2nd Sunday in Advent, Sunday School Christmas Play Practice

MONTH OF DECEMBER 2024

Dec. 10	Tues	9:00 AM	Prayer Group – Diana Leading
Dec. 11	Wed	9:30 AM	<i>Hammer of God</i> , Small Group Study Gary Leading
Dec. 11	Wed	1:30 PM	Good Vibes Memory Choir
Dec. 11	Wed	7:00 PM	Activettes Monthly Meeting (Basement)
Dec. 12	Thurs	10:00 AM	Genesis Bible Study with Pastor Paul (Basement)
Dec. 13	Fri	3:30-5 PM	Weekly Church Cleaning
Dec. 14	Sat	9-3:00 PM	Sunday School Play dress rehearsal
Dec. 15	Sun	10:00 AM	3rd Sunday in Advent, Sunday School Christmas Pageant
Dec. 15	Sun	3:00 PM	Good Vibes Memory Choir Concert
Dec. 24	Tues	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Services (Pastor Bart)
Dec. 24	Tues	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Services (Pastor Rick)
Dec. 24	Tues	10:00 PM	Christmas Eve Services (Pastor Rick – Communion)
Dec. 25	Wed	10:00 AM	Christmas Day (Pastor Rick – Communion)
Dec. 29	Sun	10:00 AM	1 st Sunday After Christmas, No Sunday School

ADVENT

Advent falls on us today. We begin a 4-week journey that culminates at the manger where we meet baby Jesus, the incarnate one, God with us. May something in each of us be changed or sparked as we draw closer to the true, historical event that changed how God would choose to meet us and the world he loves.

NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

A special welcome to our new members. We are thankful that you are part of our church family. We also give thanks today for our many volunteers who serve faithfully at St. Peter's by offering their gifts. In ongoing celebration, we would like to invite all of you to join us for lunch downstairs following the service. Welcome Kyle Phillips, Laurel Bogda, George and Wendi Forster

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Please check your mailbox for a copy of our new church membership directory. If you don't have a mailbox, please feel free to request a mailbox at the welcoming table and pick up a copy of the directory at the same time. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped get this directory together.

ADVENT PROJECT 2024 – Meeting God

The theme of the Advent devotions this year is *Meeting God*. We will explore ways in which God reached out to people throughout scripture and ultimately revealed himself to us in Jesus. During the Advent season you will receive a link via your email to hear some wonderful stories of your church family and a scriptural reflection on the advent theme. Enjoy the stories of your brothers and sisters in Christ as we anticipate the coming of Emmanuel this advent season. Pick up a copy of the devotion booklet from the Narthex that goes with these videos. Be sure that Tim has your email so you can receive these wonderful advent videos.

LIVING DIRECTORY – Coming Soon

Many of you have told your stories over the years, and we have recorded them to be enjoyed by many others. We have gathered them together and along with new ones that will be recorded will create online in a "living directory" to go along with your new picture coming out of the new membership directory. What a wonderful way to put a name to a face and a story to the person. Coming in January 2025.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT – TONIGHT at 7 PM

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS WONDERFUL EVENING AS WE BEGIN ADVENT. This will not be broadcast online, so please come to experience this live. This year, special guest choristers from Bow Valley Baptist Church will join the St. Peter's choir and a special brass quartet led by Pastor Bart. Through lessons and carols, we will focus our attention on the incarnation of Jesus as we approach Christmas. This is wonderful event to invite neighbors and friends to, so they may experience the wonderful message of Christmas through the gift of music. Come and sing some of your favourite carols.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – Saturday, December 7, 8 AM

Join us for our last session before Christmas as we continue our bible study on Discipleship. This Saturday we reflect upon the concept of Allusion coming out of John 21:9. We ask, "Why a fire of burning coals?" "Why do I know that?" Discover how exciting it is to read God's word and the message of the Grand Story still needing to be told today.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT – December 15, 10:00 AM

We enjoy getting to know one other through our stories. The Sunday School and Pre Sunday School children of St. Peter's are preparing to share some stories with you.

Come. Meet us at the stable.

St. Peter's Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 15th at the 10 am Service

GOOD VIBES MEMORY CHOIR CONCERT – December 15, 3 PM at St. Peter's

Please come and support the Good Vibes Memory Choir in its inaugural concert: *That's What Friends Are For*. Enjoy songs about friendship from various eras. We know you'll want to sing along, tap your toes or be taken back to memories of days gone by. No tickets necessary, but donations are welcome. Please invite people you know who are experiencing memory loss. This is a wonderful opportunity to get people connected with a vibrant community of singers and volunteers.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – DECEMBER 24

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight services are special services where people seem to be drawn into the heart-warming message of Jesus, as Emmanuel, God with Us. Why not invite or bring a long a friend or neighbor? We have three services, 4 PM, 7 PM and 10 PM (with Holy Communion)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE – DECEMBER 25, 10 AM

Experience the peace and tranquility of our Christmas Day Service. A quiet time of reflection, we come to praise the One who has come as God and man into a world that needs light. Yes, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us in grace and truth. God has come. Meet with him on Christmas morning.

NEW PROGRAMS IN JANUARY

If you have a program, Bible study or fellowship event happening in the New Year, please phone or email Tim so he can get it on the church calendar. Please have this into the office by December 15, so we can prepare some promotional material for all the many wonderful opportunities available at St. Peter's as we begin a new year together as a church body.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP 101 – Simple Habits to Help Your Family Grow in Jesus

Please put this exciting one-day event on your calendar. SAVE THE DATE. Saturday, Jan. 25, 9-3. We are happy to have Christy Thomas, a young mom and children's ministry leader share her experience and wisdom. Come and learn strategies to help you confidently nurture faith in your kids and teens through small habits that add up over time. For more information, speak with Angela Kumlin. Open to grandparents too. No cost! Invite your friends along.

GOOD VIBES MEMORY CHOIR

We start a new choir term on **Wednesday, January 15 at 1:30 PM.**

We will also have "Bring-a friend-to-rehearsal" on Wednesday, January 22. It's an opportunity to try it out. Do you know someone experiencing memory loss? Please invite them and come with them. Get them connected to a wonderful community. Whether you or your loved one has memory loss or not, singing in a choir improves brain health. There is NO CHARGE for this choir. This is an opportunity to reach out to people with (or without) dementia and let them know that our church community cares about them and their family members. For more information, please go to:

www.goodvibesmemorychoir.com OR email Erica at goodvibesmemorychoir@gmail.com

Join Pastor Rick and bring a grieving friend: Cochrane Area and Hospice Association presents

A HOLIDAY GRIEF

Seven strategies to consider when you are missing someone special during what's been coined "The Happiest Time of the Year."

Join best-selling author, grief counselor, narrative therapist, ordained minister and thanatologist, Rick Bergh, for an evening of practical grief education. Let's come together as a community to support one another during a difficult time of the year for those who are grieving.

Rick's recently released book, *Grief Nuggets: Daily Insights for the Grieving Heart* will be available for purchase, all proceeds going toward the work of the Hospice Association and their amazing work.

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 Time: 7 PM

Location: Founds Book & Shop

208 1 St W, Cochrane, AB

For more info: Contact Pastor Rick