



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 22, 2017

Quadra Street at Rockland Avenue
Victoria, BC, CANADA

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL LINKS TRADITIONAL SEASONAL SERVICES WITH CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL CONCERNS

Two of the most popular and eagerly awaited occasions of the Advent and Christmas season each year in Victoria are the Advent Procession with Lessons and Carols and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Christ Church Cathedral. This year, the first of these takes place at 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 3rd, and the second at 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 17th. As usual, individuals and families are expected to pack the Cathedral for both services, to hear glorious music and inspiring words, and to enter into the spirit of the season.

This year, to emphasize the Cathedral's commitment to addressing the needs of the wider community, those invited to read lessons at both services represent specific aspects of social and civic concern. On December 3rd, the theme is environmental sustainability; readers include MLAs Adam Olsen and Andrew Weaver, and MP Elizabeth May. On December 17th, the readers will represent neighbours of the Cathedral, all of whom work for the common good of the community, including Our Place, Together Against Poverty Society, the Victoria Foundation, Victoria Public Library, YMCA-YWCA, and others still to be confirmed.

Both these services will be filled with glorious music, sung by the Cathedral Choir, led by Director of Music Donald Hunt. Warm candlelight will glow, inspiring words will be spoken, and hearts will be lifted as a timeless story is told anew within an uplifting space. The choice of readings and readers will bring home to everyone that the message of Christmas is as relevant today as ever, and is best lived out by all of us, regardless of our religious beliefs, through compassion for others, and taking action on their behalf and in solidarity with them. We hope you will join us!

In between these two occasions, a more intimate event takes place at 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 10th under the title "Christmas in the City: Tales of Generosity, Hope and Belonging." The intention is to raise awareness of the experience of children and youth in care, particularly at this time of year. Grade 5 students from the Cathedral School are actively involved in preparing and presenting the poetry and music. All are welcome to attend.

Christ Church Cathedral seeks to live out its mandate as "A Cathedral for the City" through active, year-round involvement in social issues. The Cathedral was naturally deeply engaged with the residents of Tent City across the street. It has organized a forum on food security and advocated strongly to address homelessness, child poverty and drug addiction. Cathedral volunteers fund and serve two meals every month at Our Place, and have sponsored two refugee families. A monthly designated charity is the beneficiary of parishioner donations. A parish consultation was recently convened to identify other ways of engaging God's world, walking beside the most vulnerable members of society, and stewarding the resources of creation that are entrusted to us.

For more information:

Kieran Wilson
Communications Officer
250-383-2714
frontdesk@christchurchcathedral.bc.ca
www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca

For full details about Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services at the Cathedral, visit:
<http://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/worship/advent-christmas-and-epiphany-services>