

AVCRC exists to reach people, bringing them to a loving relationship with Jesus and membership in the Christian Community; helping them to grow in their faith, guiding them to serve in their gifted ministry, and honouring God with their lives.



Sunday December 15, 2019

Welcome to the third Sunday in Advent, a season of waiting and preparation. For many, this can be a challenging time. The sting of grief might be felt all over again. The short days and long nights can add to feelings of sadness or a hard-to-explain heaviness. This morning we mark a Blue Christmas; it's not easy to name our hurts and bring our pain to the surface. It may not seem right on what is supposed to be a joyful Sunday time of worship. But when (only when?) we name our hurts, we are more likely to encounter God's healing.

Bible reading for next week: Psalm 80; Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Order of Worship
Psalm 130 (pg 106)

Prayer

Song

Greeting

Songs

Candle lighting

Song: "King of Kings"

Offering: – Free a Family

Song

Morning Prayer

Scripture: Isaiah 35 (pg 695), James 5:7-10 (pg 1175);

Matthew 11:2-11 (pg 943-44)

Message: Jesus in the Middle of Blue Christmas

Psalm 30:1-5; 11-12 (pg. 106)

Blessing

Song

Please keep these matters in your prayers:

- Bobby S is growing weaker; pray that she will feel the holy presence of God.
- Pray for those affected by the ongoing Western Forest Products strike. Pray for cooperation and truthfulness between labor and management. Pray for industry that is sustainable for our forests and provides meaningful employment.
- Holidays mean family; pray for hurting families. Pray that the loving power of our Lord, Immanuel, "God with us," will overcome dysfunction, abuse, and denial that many people experience within their own families. May the church be a place where all are safely welcomed and healing begins.

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip: During Advent, we light the candle of Joy. Joy is not a fleeting happiness, but an attitude of the heart that springs from gratitude. What brings you joy? How might you spread joy to others? Wonder and talk about that this week.

Safe church: *A recent safe church conference showed both the depth of the problem of pornography and the depth of hope for those who struggle. This new column will highlight both, especially the hope.*

Advent is a season of preparation for the arrival of a king. It is a time for honesty. Though it might feel awkward and inappropriate, this is exactly the time to face the brokenness in our world; our sexuality is one such broken place. Porn websites receive more traffic than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined. The average age that a child is exposed to porn is 11. Porn is almost everywhere. Yet only 5 % of people report that they have had meaningful conversations about sexuality. 90% of churches have no ministry for those who struggle. Churches need to find the language to talk about this kind of brokenness. Without shaming people, churches need to find a delicate and respectful way to address this topic.

Christmas Kettles

If you are able, please contact the Salvation Army and take a turn at a donation kettle this season. Phone 250-723-6913

Weekly Calendar

Tonight: 6:00 – 7:15 pm Youth Bible study

Christmas Caroling: Next Sunday at 6:00pm you're invited to join a wandering band of carolers, making brief stops at the homes of our seniors to sing together. We'll meet at the church and carpool. We'll need about one hour.

*****Christmas Eve, December 24: 6:00 pm Candlelight Service*****

Please bring baked goods and other treats to share in the time of fellowship following the service. Thanking you, the Worship Committee.

Jesus is our Peace: Celebrate God's power made visible in His son, Jesus Christ, born to bring the world His peace and salvation. Share God's love with someone experiencing poverty, hunger, and injustice this Christmas with a simple gift: a goat, job training, or farm starter kit. Find these life-changing gifts and more in *World Renew's 2019-2020 Gift Catalogue* at worldrenew.net/gifts. Or call 888-WRLD-RNW to order.

November Giving (Correction)

Budget	\$25,460.95
Free a family.	\$200.00
Chaplaincy Care.	\$170.85
Seafarers.	\$700.00
Food grains	\$2086.00
<u>Umrans</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
Total Giving	\$28,697.10

<u>OFFERING SCHEDULE</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>HELPERS</u>	
December 15 –Free a Family	Patty T	Renger D & Margrit D	
December 22 – ACAWS	Pete B	John K & Elaine V	
December 29 – Shelter Society	Janay	Kim M & Lois L	
	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	
December 15	Bev & Brian H	Pam S, Carol D	
December 22	Bev & Brian H	Roy K, Yvonne C, Curtis	
December 29	Alice & Theo V	Jessica O, Anita B	
	<u>COFFEE MAKERS</u>	<u>LIBRARIAN</u>	<u>SECURITY</u>
December 15	John & Erin K	Joan W	Pete B
December 22	Bob & Joan W	Anita B	Pete B
December 29	Roy & Joanne K	Alice V	Pete B

AVCRC WELCOMES YOU!

5033 Roger St, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 3Y9

Church Phone: 250-724-1434

Pastor Curtis Korver: pastor@avcrc.org

bulletin@avcrc.org (Submit by Wednesday evening please.)

www.avcrc.org; www.facebook.com/avcrc; @avcrc on Instagram.

Connect with the CRCNA: crcna.org, Facebook, Twitter