

St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: The Rev. Michael H. Mitchell

*To all who mourn or need comfort,
To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who seek friendship,
To all who desire to grow in relationship with God
To all who yearn to pray,
To all who need a Saviour, And to all whoever will worship,
This Church of St. John's opens wide its doors
and in the name of Christ our Lord, says - WELCOME.*

RECTOR'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year, Everyone. Today at the 10:30 a.m. Service, we will celebrate the Baptism of an adult and three new children of God. A warm welcome is extended to the families and friends of the children to be baptised today.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany – the time when the Magi came from the East – following a star, to worship the child Jesus. Epiphany, meaning “manifestation,” is like a second Christmas. It is, in fact, the Christmas for millions of members of the Eastern Churches around the world. Epiphany is a proclamation that the child Jesus belongs to and is given to the whole world as its Saviour. All peoples of every nation, language and culture are included in Jesus’ saving birth.

With the Three Wise Men, the world brings to the child its variety of gifts: its culture, its many facets, its different identities. As we are gathered here at St. John's this Sunday, drawn together, to bring the gift of ourselves: our faith, our fidelity, our love, as we meet God in prayer and one another.

I recently found this beautiful blessing for the Feast of the Epiphany.
*May the star of Jesus our Lord shine on you
and on all the nations of the earth.
May you live in his light today and in the year ahead
and may the Lord Jesus be always with you.*

Have a great week.

Michael+



We welcome into the family of God through Holy Baptism **Soraya Rita-Elizabeth Ward**, daughter of Nolan Ward and Shayna Kenney; **Anthony Austin John Forward**, son of Kyle Forward and Brittany Osbourne; **Thomas Randall Osbourne**, son of Wade Meisner and Brittany Osbourne; **Nolan Charles Ward**. We welcome their families to this Baptism Service today.

Holy Eucharist with Baptism

Prelude: All Praise to Jesus' Hallowed Name - J.S. Bach

Announcements

Please stand for Processional Hymn

Hymn #136 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks'

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant: There is one body and one Spirit.
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Celebrant One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
People **One God and Father of all.**

Christmas and Epiphany Gathering Verses

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary;
born a child, you shared our humanity.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Blessed are you, Son of David;
born to rule, you received gifts from the wise men.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Blessed are you, Son of Man;
baptized by John, you saved us from ourselves.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray. *The community prays silently. The celebrant says the collect.*

Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ISAIAH 60:1-6

PSALM REFRAIN All nations shall serve him.

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts. All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service. For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper. **R**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **R**

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

SOLO: Edmund Brownless: 'Three Kings' by Peter Cornelius

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace

that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

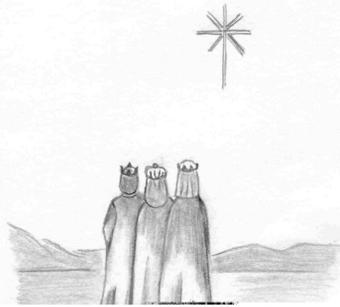
Gospel Hymn #160 'As with Gladness Men of Old'

Gospel

The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW. *People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"



Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** MATTHEW 2:1-12

Homily

Presentation and Examination of Candidates

The adult candidate stands and is presented by their sponsor:

Sponsors

I present Nolan Charles Ward to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Celebrant

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate

I do.

The candidates and families for Holy Baptism are invited to stand and present their child.

Parents and sponsors say,

I present (Soraya Rita-Elizabeth, Thomas Randall Osbourne, Anthony Austin John Forward) to receive the sacrament of baptism.

When all have been presented the celebrant asks the parents and sponsors, Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?

Parents and sponsors, **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and sponsors, **I will, with God's help.**

The Celebrant asks parents, sponsors and congregation the following:

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? **Answer I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God? **Answer I renounce them.**

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God? **Answer I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour? **Answer I do.**

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love? **Answer I do.**

Do you promise to obey him as your Lord? **Answer I do.**

Question to the congregation,

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ? **People We will.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Let us pray for these children who are to receive the sacrament of new birth.

Other prayers may be added

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Baptism Procession Hymn #35

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow. Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.
2. We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, almighty God and Father, for by the gift of water you nourish and sustain all living things. *All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant We give you thanks for sending your Son Jesus. For us he was baptized by John in the river Jordan. For us he was anointed as Christ by your Holy Spirit. For us he suffered the baptism of his own death and resurrection, setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, and opening to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with his gifts so that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant We give you thanks for you have called (*Name of candidate*) to new life through the waters of baptism. Now sanctify + this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Anoint them with your Holy Spirit and bring them to new birth in the family of your Church, that they may become inheritors of your glorious kingdom. We give you praise and honour and worship through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All **Blessed are you, our strength and song, and our salvation.**

The Baptismal Covenant

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

The Baptism

Each candidate is presented by name to the celebrant, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidates, saying,

N. . . , I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The celebrant makes the sign of the cross on the forehead with Holy Chrism, saying, I sign you with the cross, and mark you as Christ's own for ever.

The celebrant and families go to the Chancel to present the newly baptized to the congregation, singing the Baptism Procession Hymn #35

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honour! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

The following prayer is said together:

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

The Giving of the Light

The newly baptized are given a candle lit from the Paschal (Christ) Candle.

Receive the light of Christ, to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

When all of the newly baptized have received candles, the people say,

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God.

Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

Each one as they are able, makes an offering to the Lord for the needs and responsibilities of the Church to be placed on the altar.

Offertory Hymn #140 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear'

The Prayer over the Gifts *Read by celebrant*

God our Father, we have no gold to offer you but merely the poverty of our hearts and the incense of our praise and thanks. Fill us with the presence of Jesus, and let him be the light that guides our wavering steps. And let us be humble lights too, that show to all who see them, the way to the light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer 2

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation, and have shown your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of all peoples. We praise you Lord, with all the angels, in their song of joy.

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power, God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ. By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.** *(Sung)*

The Lord's 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 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and may say,

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion *(Sung)*

**Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus Bread of life, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus Prince of Peace you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

Communion Hymns #151 'All Poor Folk and Humble';
#146 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime'

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray. Standing, the community prays in silence.

God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this Eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Doxology

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**
**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing & Dismissal

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. And the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Hymn #138 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

Postlude: Let All Together Praise Our God - J. S. Bach

NOTICES

Please pick up your 2013 Offering Envelopes today.

ATTENTION LADIES

You are all invited to our **Annual Ladies' Potluck Lunch and Mystery Auction** in the Parish Hall on Monday, January 20 at 12 Noon. Please come and bring a friend. There will be lots of good food and plenty of fun.

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Susan MacMillan, Heather Hyson, Robert MacMillan
Lectors: 8:30 am Carolyn Hogg, Christina Pottie
10:30 am Heather Eisenhauer, Holly Mitchell
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Betty & Elroy Creaser
Server: Aisling Curtin

NEXT SUNDAY JANUARY 12TH

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Holly Mitchell, Susan MacMillan, Roger Demone
Lectors: 8:30 am Jo Eisenhauer, Sandra Jordan
10:30 am Maureen Moffatt, Sheila Morris; **Server:** Aisling Curtin
Sidespersons: Betty & Elroy Creaser

Please note:

- We would like Committee Chairs to pass in their budget items for the year 2014 **this week** by contacting Treasurer, Cammy Tibbo 530-6034 or email cammytibbo@eastlink.ca
- **Committee Reports** for our Annual General Meeting being held Sunday, February 16th, should be **emailed to Mary** at the Parish Office by no later than Monday, January 31st at stjohnslunenburg@eastlink.ca
Please keep the Annual Meeting in your prayers.

REGIONAL MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES

2014 Regional Marriage Preparation Weekend – The South Shore Marriage Prep Weekend for couples wanting to be married is to be held once again at St. John's Parish Hall, Lunenburg on Friday evening February 7, and on Saturday, Feb. 8. Short interactive presentations on a range of topics such as, communication, intimacy in marriage, financial goals, planning of the marriage service, and the spirituality of marriage are a part of what makes the two day program. Couples are encouraged to contact their rector to register prior to January 15. The registration cost will be 80.00 per couple.

Diocesan Cycle: As we come to the first Sunday of the New Year, we say special prayers for our Bishops and their families of our Diocese: *For Sue, Diocesan Bishop, and Bruce, For Ron, Suffragan Bishop, and Marianne, For Retired Archbishop Arthur, and Elizabeth.*

Local Ministerial: The Congregation of St. John's Anglican Church and Archdeacon Michael Mitchell and Holly.

Fisheries: *Adams & Knickle - Chockle Cap
Clearwater - Atlantic Guardian*

*Have a blessed week and we look forward to
welcoming you back next Sunday.*