



Rector's Message

A warm welcome as we begin the Season of Advent. Advent leads us in expectation and joyful hope. Christ tells us to stay awake and be watchful. Its not an easy task on our part, given life's distractions.

Brian Peterson points out how counter cultural Advent is, writing, "As we enter the season of Advent, the culture around us is expecting booming business, successful shopping, and family gatherings that warm the heart. Our culture wants to start December with upbeat economic projections and high celebrations. Instead, the church begins Advent with a reminder that we and the world are still in need of salvation. Today's scriptures show God's people at the end of their rope and there is an apocalypse. We're looking for manger scenes, and instead we get a crumbling temple. We're looking for that shining star over the stable, and we get the stars themselves falling from the sky. We're ready for a birth, and we are presented with the End. The words, "You better watch out," are probably ringing in our ears from the store music. They now take on a more urgent tone – Christ is coming as Lord of all, so watch out! Keep awake!"

Do take advantage of the various Prayer and Scripture booklets that are available in this Season, as well as our weekly musical meditations each Wednesday at noon. God Bless you and have a great week.

Michael+

St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: Archdeacon 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.

O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

Words: Abbé Simon J. Pellegrin, 1663-1745
Music: 16th Century French Carol

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Charlene Demone, Holly Mitchell, Heather Hyson
Lectors: 8:30 am Laura Roblee, Ed Jordan
10:30 am Rosemary Smith, Kevin Skinner
Sidespersons: Debbie Chapman, Audrey Morgan; **Server:** Aisling Curtin

NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Sheila Morris, Charlene Demone, Roger Demone
Lectors: 8:30 am Sandra Jordan, Roxie Smith
10:30 am Holly Mitchell, Mary Meisner
Sidespersons: Betty & Elroy Creaser; **Server:** Aisling Curtin

Heritage  Faith  Vision

St. John's - A National Historic Site - Founded 1793

The Holy Eucharist

Sung Setting - Missa Nova in C - Tilley

Prelude: Once He Came in Blessing - Walther

Please stand for Processional Hymn

Hymn #474 'Jesus, Where'er Thy People Meet'

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Please refer to the Advent Insert.

Decorating of the Jesse Tree

Children's Time and Music Moment

Music Moment: 'Hope is a Star' 1st verse

I. Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain: When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles

brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people. *ISAIAH 64:1-9*
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM REFRAIN



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. **R.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R** *PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18*

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our

Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

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

Gradual Hymn #92 'O Day of God, Draw Nigh'

Gospel

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

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

MARK 13:24-37

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles Creed *In joyful hope, we confess our faith,*
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 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. 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.

The Prayers of the People

Please kneel or sit for the prayers.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Solemn Promise regarding Violence against women.

"I will never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women".

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Falkland Islands, Rt Revd Nigel Stock.
Diocesan Cycle: Pray for the **Parish of Amherst**, Archdeacon Glenn Eason and Terry Lea, Rev Charlotte Ross, Assistant Priest, and Dale; **Christ Church, Amherst, Church of the Good Shepherd, Tignish and Parish of Parrsboro with Port Greville**, Rev Tory Byrne.
Local Ministerial: The Congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the Rev'd Laurence Mawhinney and Marion.
Fisheries: Please pray for our inshore Lobster Fishermen once again this week.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;

God welcomes sinners and invites them to the table.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,

All we confess that 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 neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us,

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon + and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand, and the celebrant addresses the people.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you. The assembly greets one another.

Choir Anthem: ‘How Beautiful Upon the Mountains’ - Stainer

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn #110 "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us'

Representatives of the parish present the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist.

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.

The Prayer over the Gifts *Read by celebrant*

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer #S 3

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.

Preface for Advent

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and 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.**

We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

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

Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving. May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

In joyful expectation, we join with Christians everywhere, saying:

**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:

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and says,

The gifts of God for the People of God.

All Thanks be to God.

The Communion

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us your peace.

The celebrant and people then receive communion.

The body of Christ (given for you). The blood of Christ (shed for you).

The communicant responds each time, **Amen.**

*This community of faith,
welcomes to the Lord's table
all who wish to be nourished
with the Body and Blood of Christ.*

Communion Hymn #60 'I Come with Joy'

Announcements

Prayer after Communion

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

God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Doxology

Glory to God,

All 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

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Recessional Hymn # 97 'Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring'

Postlude: Toccata in G minor - Pachelbel

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

It is the tradition at St. John's for parishioners to make a special contribution to the church in memory of Departed Loved Ones at Christmas. Donations may also be made to the **Rector's Discretionary Fund** to help local people in need, the **Memorial Fund**, the Altar Guild for the **Flower Fund**, the **Food Bank** or another Fund of your choice. Kindly contact Mary at the Parish Office no later than December 17th so that acknowledgements can be included in our Christmas bulletins. Again this year we are placing a limited number of **Wreaths** in the church for \$25.00 in Memory of Loved Ones.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

Each year members of the parish give something special that will go to some needy person at Christmas. The Salvation Army which administers the Christmas Daddies program requests that the gifts **not** be wrapped. **White Gift Sunday** will be held on December 7th. Parishioners are asked to bring gifts suitable for a boy, girl, adult male or adult female.

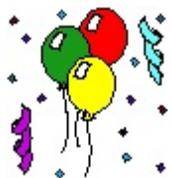
The **Mission to Seafarers Christmas Shoe Box Program** helps to make Christmas a little more special for each seafarer when away from home at this special time of year. It would be appreciated if members of this parish would support this program again by preparing a shoe box sized gift that includes a woolen hat, scarf, gloves or mitts, socks, men's toiletries such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush and disposable razor, playing cards, hard candy and a small memento of your community or area. A Christmas card with your return address is optional. The top and bottom of the box can be wrapped separately. All gifts are inspected to meet the custom and harbour police requirements and a New Testament is placed in each. You can drop off your shoe box gifts at the church or Parish Office by December 7th.

Our **Annual Carolling at Harbour View Haven** will take place on Sunday, December 7th. Please join Jennifer Green-Heisler and Messy Church at 5pm for ornament-making for the residents and a tasty bite to eat, followed by our carol singing starting there at approximately 6pm. All voices and ages welcome!

Please join us for the **lighting of our outdoor Christmas tree**, which this year, will be done in conjunction with Lunenburg's Annual Pilgrimage and Lighting of Christmas Trees on Saturday, November 29th commencing at 6:30pm at St. John's.

PLEASE NOTE: Pick up your **Advent/Christmas Newsletter** before leaving church today. It would be appreciated if you could help by delivering to a neighbour or friend.

Music and Meditation begins this Wednesday at noon here in the sanctuary. Our guest is pianist Walter Delahunt, Artist in Residence at LAMP.



Happy 16th Birthday to Aisling Curtin.
The big event happened on November 24th.
All the best Aisling!

Congratulations to Rev. Capt. Reg MacDonald on the 40th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. God bless you.

Hazel Oliver has only a few Church calendars left. Be sure to get yours by calling 902-634-3236. Cost is \$5.00.

Our parish treasurer, Cammy Tibbo has asked that everyone continue their ongoing financial support, especially during these hard winter months that are almost upon us. St. John's parishioners are generous indeed and we are grateful for the wonderful help we receive. Thank you.

**REACH
OUT**

Parish Contacts

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PLANNED GIVING

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CUSTODIAN Bruce Holdbrook 634-3510

CHURCH SEXTON Paul Woodley 523-2847

NEWSLETTER

Janice & Brian Kenefick 902-764-2145

WEBSITE Grant Dixon 902-640-2897

CHURCH HUMOUR

The children in a Sunday school class were tested to see if they understood the concept of getting to Heaven. I asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" "NO!" the children answered. "If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?" Again, the answer was, "NO!" By now I was starting to smile. "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" Again, they all answered, "NO!" I was just bursting with pride for them. Well, I continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?" A six-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD FIRST."