

2nd Sunday of Advent December 7, 2014



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.

Heritage Faith Vision
St. John's - A National Historic Site - Founded 1753



Rector's Message

Welcome everyone as we gather on this Second Sunday in Advent. Throughout Advent, we hear messages calling us to be alert and awake to God's coming in our lives and in our world. This requires patient waiting. Many of us find any sort of waiting to be difficult in our fast-paced society, where Christmas

decorations fill the stores by mid-November. The second lesson from Peter calls us to wait patiently in "peace, without spot or blemish."

All of our activities, from shopping to baking, visiting, wrapping gifts, decorating, sending cards can be carried out with a certain patient kindness. We live in challenging times. Our readings inspire hope that God's saving grace is at work in the world. As long as there are wrongs to right, pains to ease, relationships to mend, crooked paths to make straight, the message of Advent is relevant. As the cold and dark of winter settle in and nature takes a rest, we too are invited to rest in God's Advent promises of new life. The dark of night, the cold of winter, the agony of human suffering – none of these has the final word because God will not have it this way. Through prophets such as John the Baptist, God keeps crying out in the wilderness of our lives; straighten the pathway; wait in peace; welcome the advent of Jesus, our Saviour. God Bless you and have a great week. Fr. Michael

Comfort ye, Comfort ye,
Comfort ye my people,
saith your God.

George Frédéric Handel "The Messiah"

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

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

NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH

Lay Readers: **8:30 am** Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Robert MacMillan, Susan MacMillan
Lectors: 8:30 am Carolyn Hogg, Christina Pottie
10:30 am Grace & Ron Swan
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Elroy & Betty Creaser; **Server:** Aisling Curtin

The Holy Eucharist in Traditional Language

Sung Prelude: See Amid the Winter's Snow - arr. Archer

Please stand for the Processional Hymn

Hymn #103 'On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry'

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.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Candle of Love

Would you kindly leave the Insert in the church for use during Advent?

Jesse Tree - Week Two

Song for Advent Two

Music Moment: 'Hope is a Star'

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.

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

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

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive 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

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** ISAIAH 40:1-11

PSALM 85 REFRAIN



You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob. You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins. **R**

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him. Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. **R** PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is

not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 2 PETER 3:8-15A

Gradual Hymn #102 'Prepare the Way, O Zion'

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 be to thee, O Lord.**



The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he

ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

MARK 1:1-8

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

In joyful expectation, let us confess our faith, as we say,

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God, of God; Light, of Light; very God, of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; through whom all things were made: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended to heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *Please kneel or sit for the prayers.*

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Confession and Absolution

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

When the Lord comes,
 he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
 and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
 Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept. Then the celebrant and people say together,

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word and deed, Against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: + have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting 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.

And with thy spirit.

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

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn #106 'There's a Voice in the Wilderness'

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 our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you; **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts; **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

It is meet and right so to do.

Preface for Advent

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things. 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 with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and singing:

**# 683 CP Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, who didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the body and blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

**All We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee,
and we pray to thee, Lord our God.**

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this holy communion may worthily receive the most precious body and blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer We are bold to pray in Jesus' name.
**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 all say:

All We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his blood, That we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.

The Communion

- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.**
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.**
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: grant us thy peace.**

The celebrant and people receive the communion in both kinds. At the distribution the minister may say to each communicant,
The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee (preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life: take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving). **Amen.**

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for thee (preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life: drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee, and be thankful). **Amen.**

During Communion, hymns may be sung and silence may be kept.

Communion Hymn # 100 'Comfort, Comfort Ye My People'

Announcements

Prayer after Communion Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

May the God of peace, make you holy and patient, as you wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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.

All Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn # 108 'Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding'

Postlude: Of the Father's Love Begotten - arr. Archer

Service adapted from the Book of Alternative Services and the Book of Common Prayer. The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Used with permission

NOTICES

St. John's Church now has FibreOp Wireless Internet - WiFi. It will support the ministry of the Heritage Committee as well as for use in the church during services, sermons, children and family events and many more possibilities. To log on to the WiFi account please use the following password: **Lunenburg1753.**

The parish office email address has changed. Effective immediately please use stjohnslunenburg@bellaliant.com. Please note the rector's email address is unchanged.

To our Santa Claus Paraders: a special thanks to Jane Ritcey and Adams & Knickle for their contribution of the dory, truck and driver, to Raymond Francis for the trailer, to Howard Keeping and his elves for decorating the dory, to Christina Bower, Rena Demone and Louise Holdbrook for organizing, to Sharon Hill for assistance with bells and, especially, to all our young people and parents who joined our dory crew for the parade! Well done mates! Check out the pics on Facebook.

Please join Jennifer Green-Heisler and **Messy Church at Harbour View Haven at 5pm today** for ornament-making for the residents and a tasty bite to eat, followed by our annual carol singing starting there at approximately 6pm. All voices and ages welcome!

Baptism takes place December 28th at the 10:30am service. If you know of anyone desiring baptism, please contact the Parish office. Adults and children are welcome to receive baptism.

**St. John's 4pm Christmas Eve Service
Featured in the Diocesan Times**

Check out the December issue of the Diocesan Times for a feature article on last year's St. John's outdoor Nativity on Christmas Eve. If you don't receive the Diocesan Times and the national Anglican Journal, please speak with Mary. You will also find the Diocesan Times on our Webpage, www.stjohnslunenburg.org, along with other interesting information about the parish including the Advent and Christmas schedule of events.

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 **Community Outreach 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.

Music Announcements

Advent Music and Meditation with organist John Scott - Wed., Dec 10 at noon.

Our Gifts We Share this Christmas - with John Barr and friends - Thurs., Dec 11 at 7 pm. Admission: Donation to the Food Bank

A King's Christmas with King's College Chapel Choir - Saturday Dec 13, 4 pm

Advent Music and Meditation with mezzo soprano Nina Scott Stoddart - Wed., Dec 17 at noon

To Bethlehem with Kings with Capella Regalis - Saturday, Dec 20 at 7 pm. Admission: Donation to the Food Bank

In these weeks leading up to Christmas, if you or anyone you know of would like a home visit and or communion, please call the Parish Office 634-4994 to arrange a visit from the Rector.

A variety of Advent Prayer Resources are available in the Church.

The last date to make a donation for the tax year 2014 is Sunday, December 28th.

Parish Contacts

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HONORARY ASSOCIATES: Rev. Capt. Reg MacDonald • 634-4657, Rev. Linda Macdonald • 634-9473; Rev. Oliver Osmond • 634-8589, Rev. Alvin Westgate • 640-2484

PARISH WARDENS

Wayne Dodge 902-634-4885 • Bruce Holdbrook 902-634-3510

CHAIR OF PARISH COUNCIL

Heather Eisenhauer 902-634-4713

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ ORGANIST

Barbara Butler 902-624-0506

HAND BELLS Sharon Hill 902-634-8781

HONORARY ORGANIST James Aulenbach

CHIMER Peter Allen 902-634-4668

TREASURER Cammy Tibbo 902-530-6034

ALTAR GUILD Joyce Creaser 902-634-4635

PASTORAL VISITATION

PRAYER & HEALING MINISTRY

Holly Mitchell 902-634-8477

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Louis Quennelle 902-527-0122

HERITAGE Roger Demone 902-543-5753

MUSIC Jane Ritcey Moore 902-275-4834

PROPERTY

Bruce Holdbrook 902-634-3510

LADIES' GUILD

Susan MacMillan 902-634-3019

ACW Barbara Nowe 902-634-4473

ACW CATERING Patty Tanner 543-3474

LAY READERS Roger Demone 543-5753

SERVERS Sheila Morris 902-634-3713

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Christina Bower 902-233-2138

MESSY CHURCH

Jennifer Green-Heisler 902-640-2088

TOURS Peter Allen 902-634-4668

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mary Meisner 902-634-8429

FOOD BANK Laura Roblee 902-521-4823

MEALS ON WHEELS

Jo Eisenhauer 902-634-4463

PLANNED GIVING

Jim Eisenhauer 902-634-4713

PWRDF Katharine Owen 902-273-2279

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Mary Meisner, Velvet Eliuk, Betty Lou Olivier

SYNOD DELEGATES

Robert MacMillan, Mike Lee, Katharine Owen

CUSTODIAN Bruce Holdbrook 634-3510

CHURCH SEXTON Paul Woodley 212-1890

NEWSLETTER

Janice & Brian Kenefick 902-764-2145

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