

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

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 on this Third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of 'Joy'. The Latin word is 'Gaudete' which means, 'Rejoice'. Paul reminds us: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God.*
Philippians 4:4-6

Our annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, has a delightful selection of Carols from around the world. Please join in raising your voices with our Chancel Choir as we hear God's Word and respond in song and prayer.

Holy Scripture records the desire of God to enter into an intimate relationship with humankind. God desires to be known not merely in the signs and power of nature, or in some obscure manner, but to enter fully into human history and to dwell among us in flesh.

The prophets of the Old Testament continually called people into a deeper relationship with God. They reach a climax in John the Baptizer, who calls us to prepare the way for the Lord by repentance and letting go of whatever gets in the way of God's coming in our lives and in our world.

The Church has always held up as a model for our Christian living Mary, the Mother of Jesus. With great trust and faith, Mary says 'Yes' to the will of God. Her 'fiat' her 'yes' allows the salvific work of the Holy Spirit to take flesh within her womb. As we sing and pray today, may her example inspire us all to respond with 'yes' to God's work in our lives and in our world. God bless you and have a wonderful week. *Michael*

Every year we celebrate
 the holy season of Advent, O God.
 Every year we pray the beautiful prayers
 of longing and waiting,
 and sing the lovely songs of hope and promise.

Karl Rahner

Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude: St. John's Ringers:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel - arr. Susan E. Geschke

Please stand for the Processional Hymn

Hymn #88 'Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus'

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant Lord, open our lips,
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Candle Three

'We Wait upon the Lord with Joy' - See Advent Insert.



Jesse Tree and Children's Song

'Hope is a Star' (Verse 3)

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.
Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.

Bidding Prayers

The Celebrant leads the congregation in the Bidding Prayers.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, in these days of shadow and of hope let it be our duty and delight to listen to the story of our faith, and hear again the prophet's words of blessing and repentance.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, God met us in his Son and brought us home; how God humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness.

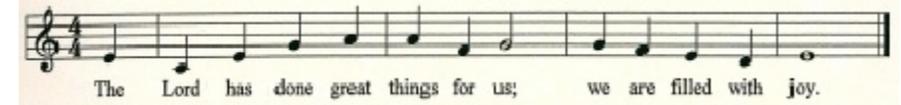
So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the

poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

And remembering the promise that Christ shall reign for ever and ever, let us pray for Elizabeth our Queen and the Royal Family and for all who are in authority under her, with all the rulers of the nations, for peace and justice on earth and for the unity and mission of the Church that with longing in our hearts we may hear again the story of Christ's coming, and join with Mary and Joseph, and all the forebears in faith, in offering our worship of Word and Song.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Psalm 126



When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations, "*The Lord has done great things for them.*" The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

First Lesson Zechariah 9.9,10

Reader: Grace Swan

Rejoice greatly, your king comes to you

Please stand for the prayers

Loving God, in all the trials of life, may we be people of joy who rejoice at your coming in every moment of life. May nothing take away our openness to your coming. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregational Hymn #95 'O Come, Divine Messiah'

Choir Anthem: 'Comfort All Ye My People' - Faure

Second Lesson ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

Reader: Rev. Linda Macdonald

The Lord God causes righteousness and praise to spring up for all the nations.

Prayer

God of justice and peace, inspire prophets among us to speak and work on behalf of the poor, hungry and unemployed in our communities. May your Spirit be upon us this Advent Season as we make straight the crooked paths of our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem: 'A Maiden Most Gentle' - French trad., arr Carter

Third Lesson: Jeremiah 23:5,6

Reader: Ron Swan

I will raise up for David a righteous branch.

Prayer

God of creation, plant in hearts the seeds of hope, joy and compassion. As you restored your people Israel through the branch of David, so too, in our day, restore your people through the church, the mystical body of your Son, our lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

St. John's Ringers: 'Carol of the Manger' - arr. Ruth Schnare

Congregational Hymn # 126 'Away in a Manager'

Fourth lesson Micah 5:2-4

Reader: Kevin Skinner

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

Prayer

God of small beginnings, you bring strength out of weakness and hope out of fear. By the power of your Spirit, make us your children, followers and partners in the grand design of your kingdom of love, rooted and revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Choir Anthem: 'Myn Lyking - R. Terry' (words 15th century)

Fifth lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: Aisling Curtin

Isaiah foretells the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace

God of light, in the midst of the darkness of our lives, may the light of your Son shine brightly, so that we may be light for this world. For you are the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Amen.

Congregational Hymn: # 121 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

Sixth lesson I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Reader: Wayne Dodge

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances

Prayer

God of faithfulness, you call us to be ever faithful in prayer and in good works. Guide our Advent journey to the manger of Bethlehem. Amen.

Choir and Congregation: 'Unto Us is Born a Son' - arr. Willcocks

ALL: Unto us is born a son, King of choirs supernal:

See on earth his life begun, Of lords the Lord eternal,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

ALL: Christ, from heav'n descending low, Comes on earth a stranger;

Ox and ass their Owner know, be-cradled in the manger.
Be-cradled in the manger.

MEN: This did Herod sore affray, And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay, And slew the little childer,
And slew the little childer.

WOMEN: Of his love and mercy mild, this the Christmas story:

And O that Mary's gentle Child, Might lead us up to glory!
Might lead us up to glory!

ALL: O and A and A and O, Cum cantibus in choro,

Let our merry organ go, Benedicamus Domino,
Benedicamus Domino.

Seventh lesson John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reader: Rev. Louis Quennelle

(John) was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son, the light of the world. Give your people wisdom to see your purpose, and openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregational Hymn: # 101 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed'

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

Read by Celebrant

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.
May the Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Choir Anthem: 'What Sweeter Music' - Daley

The Offertory

Offertory Hymn #148 'See Amid the Winter's Snow'

*Parishioners share in gathering the offering of God's people.
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.*

Prayer Over The Gifts

God of hope, accept all we offer to you this day and renew in us
the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the
sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Advent Litany and Prayers of the People *Holly Mitchell*

○ Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to
the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live for you and for one
another. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

○ Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire
of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched
arm and ransom us from all that would enslave and diminish your people.
Lord Jesus, come soon!

○ Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep
silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set
us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

○ Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can
shut; you shut and none can open: come and free all those who are
prisoners of their own deeds. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

○ Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of
righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death, remembering all those who are ill and have asked us to
pray for them. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

○ King of the nations, you alone can fulfil our desires: Cornerstone, you
make opposing nations one: may your Kingdom come upon this earth as it is
in heaven. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

○ Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord
our God, giving healing to all who suffer. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O
Lord. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

The Lord's Prayer *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.**

Blessing

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the
days of your life; And the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son,
and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Hymn #138 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

Postlude: Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland - J. S. Bach

*Service adapted from the Book of Alternative Services © by the General
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The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.
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LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Readers: **8:30 am** Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Robert MacMillan, Sharon Green, Heather Hyson
Lectors: 8:30 am Carolyn Hogg, Christina Pottie
Sidespersons: Betty & Elroy Creaser; **Server:** Aisling Curtin

NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST

Lay Readers: **8:30 am** Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Roger Demone, Charlene Demone, Sheila Morris
Lectors: 8:30 am Maureen Moffatt, Gill Osmond
10:30 am Sheila Morris, Hazel Oliver
Sidespersons: Jane & Wilfred Moore; **Server:** Aisling Curtin

ANNUAL REPORTS

It is time once again to start preparation of **Committee Reports** for our Annual Report. We are asking that **all reports be emailed to Mary** at the Parish Office.

Please note:

- The last date to make a contribution for **2014 Income Tax Receipts** is Sunday, December 28th.
- We would like Committee Chairs to start working on their budget items for the year 2015 and to contact Treasurer, Cammy Tibbo at 902-530-6034 or email cammytibbo@eastlink.ca
- **Please bring a bell to ring at our Christmas Eve Services** which are being held at 4 pm and 10 pm. We will use them to joyfully announce the glad tidings of the birth of the Messiah.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULES

December 21st - Advent 4: Wait upon the Lord with Love

8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist

December 24th - Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

4:00pm - A special 'Nova Scotia Christmas'

Our Family Eucharist begins outside in our 'Manger Square' for a 'living manger' with a variety of animals, our children and families participating.

10:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Sung Eucharist (BAS) with Organ, Choir and St. John's Ringers.

December 25th - Christmas Day (Thursday)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist with music (BCP)

December 28th

8:30am - BCP Eucharist

10:30am - Service of Morning Prayer with Baptisms and Christmas Carols

MUSIC AT ST. JOHNS

Music and Meditation – Half hour musical presentations on Wednesdays at noon during Advent ~ This week, December 17th with mezzo soprano Nina Scott Stoddart

**Saturday, December 20 at 7 pm -
TO BETHLEHEM WITH KING'S** With Capella Regalis

COMBINED ANGLICAN/LUTHERAN SERVICE

Our congregation will join with the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church for a special worship on **January 4th at 11:00 am**. We encourage all parishioners to come out to this shared worship. A time of fellowship with refreshments will follow the service. Please note the 8:30am service is as usual. Also note the time of I am for the joint service at Zion.

4PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

This year, a special 'Nova Scotia Christmas' takes place outside at St. John's Anglican Church at our 4pm service. The Family Eucharist begins outside in our 'Manger Square' for a 'living manger' with sheep, lambs and a goat! Our children and families will be participating. This part of the service will take approximately 20 minutes before we move inside for the Offertory and Holy Eucharist. We encourage folks to invite their friends and neighbours to this service. All are welcome to attend this community event.

THANKS TO OUR PARISHIONERS

It is with pleasure that I pass along these kind words of thanks to you, our generous members of the congregation.

Michael delivered the gifts to Mission To Seafarers yesterday in Halifax. They are touched by the generosity of this parish which gives consistently year after year. The Mission gave us a lovely Thank you card.

The Salvation Army called the parish office and in conversation stated that our White Gifts are donated in kindness which goes noticed by the staff, volunteers and recipients. She continued to tell me how much our gifts of coats meant to them from our collection at the Palm Sunday service. They were able to place all these coats with very happy, well deserving people in need of a jacket.

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.

Generation to Generation

The Youth and Family Ministry Fund Development Task Group, through the 'Generation to Generation Fund', has been raising money to re-establish the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator position. To date, over \$24,000.00 has been raised. While monies are in place for salaries, donations are needed to fund the program. Please, if you are able, forward your gift to The Diocese of NS & PEI, Generation to Generation Fund, 1340 Martello Street, Halifax, NS B3H 2Z1.

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.

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.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Kitgum - (Uganda) and The Rt Revd Benjamin Ojwang.

Diocesan Cycle: Pray for the Parish of Maitland, Rev Lori Ramsey, Priest-in-Charge, and Robert Cullen; Pray for the Parish of Stewiacke and Shubenacadie, Rev Lloyd Ripley.

Local Ministerial: The Congregation of Zion Lutheran Church and Rev. Rick Pryce and Deborah.

Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - Cachalot I; Clearwater - Atlantic Leader; Tall Ship - Picton Castle. Scientific Research Vessel - Joides Resolution.



Have a blessed week and we look forward to welcoming you back next Sunday. Here are our numbers if you need to reach us in the meantime.

Parish Contacts

RECTOR: Archdeacon Michael H. Mitchell • rectorlunenburg@eastlink.ca • 902-634-8477
SECRETARY: Mary Wagner • **PARISH OFFICE:** 902-634-4994
email: stjohnslunenburg@bellaliant.com; **WEB:** www.stjohnslunenburg.org
PRIEST ASSISTANT: Rev. Louis Quennelle • 902-527-0122
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

SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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 Barbara Simonds 902-634-3319

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

WEBSITE Grant Dixon 902-640-2897

As the Chinese proverb puts it:

If you want happiness for an hour– take a nap.

If you want happiness for a day – go fishing.

If you want happiness for a year – inherit a fortune.

If you want happiness for a lifetime – help someone else.