



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.*

Rector's Message



Welcome as we gather together in prayer and praise on this Fourth Sunday in Advent. Today, we light the candle of 'Love'. Our scriptures tell the story of God's divine love for us. It is a time immemorial that takes us on a journey from fear to trust. Beginning in the Garden of Eden we learn of the struggle, fear and sin that often clouds our relationship with God. God constantly comes to us, not only in the power of nature or in obscure signs, but ultimately, God comes to dwell with us in human flesh.

We learn in today's gospel, how the angel Gabriel communicates God's desire to a young Jewish girl by the name of Mary. The messenger calls her to put away any fear and to trust God's plan at work in her. Ultimately, it is a message to open to God's love. Mary responds with a resounding 'yes' and in so doing, models great faith for us. The angel also comes to Joseph in a dream and says: "Don't be afraid, Joseph." It's the same message God has given to God's servants from the beginning: "Don't be afraid. God is with you."

It is a message which we can take to heart in our own lives. In this last week before Christmas, let us keep our eyes, ears and hearts open to the God who chooses to come into our lives in so many ways. God bless you and have a wonderful week.
Michael

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer

10:30 am Roger Demone, Sharon Green, Charlene Demone

Lectors: 8:30 am Maureen Moffatt, Gill Osmond

Lectors: 10:30 am Sheila Morris, Hazel Oliver

Sidespersons: Wilfred Moore, Jane Ritcey Moore; **Server:** Aisling Curtin

NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH

Lay Readers: 10:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer

10:30 am Sharon Green, Sheila Morris, Holly Mitchell

Lectors: 8:30 am Ed Jordan, Sandra Jordan

Lectors: 10:30 am Rosalie Osmond, Ann Perry

Sidesperson: Hazel Oliver; **10:30 am Server:** Aisling Curtin

*Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ,
stands before us as an exemplar of faithful obedience,
and her "Be it to me according to your word" is the grace-filled response
each of us is called to make to God, both personally and communally,
as the Church, the body of Christ.*

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic International Commission Statement of Agreement.

The Holy Eucharist

Missa Nova in C - Alexander Tilley

Prelude: Now Blessed Be Thou, Christ Jesu - J. S. Bach

Please stand for Processional Hymn

Hymn #89 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'

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 - Love

Please refer to the Bulletin Insert

Jesse Tree

Hope is a Star (Verse 4)

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.
Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.

The Collect of the Day

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

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; 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 Samuel

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, *I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.*" Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

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

8:30AM Service

CANTICLE REFRAIN 'My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.'

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **R**

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

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.

CANTICLE 18, BAS (LUKE 1:47-55)

10:30am Service

Choir Anthem 'Magnificat' – C. V. Stanford

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** ROMANS 16:25-27

Hymn #269 'Heavenly Message'

Gospel

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

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.

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



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

LUKE 1:26-38

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

Sermon

Rev. Louis Quennelle

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

**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.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Kontagora - (Lokoja, Nigeria)
The Rt Revd Jonah Ibrahim.

Diocesan Cycle: Pray for the **Parish of Northumberland**, Rev Nicole Uzan, and Penny Nelson, Rev Bill Cook, Assistant Priest, Rev Kathryn Cook, Deacon; **Parish of St. John's, Truro**, Rev Lori Ramsay and Robert Cullen, Rev Gary Yetman, Assistant Priest, and Diane, Rev Dorothy Tay and Warren.

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

Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - **Chockle Cap, Freedom 99;**
Clearwater - **Atlantic Protector, Atlantic Preserver.**

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
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 in the name of the Lord.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn #362 'Tell Out, My Soul'

*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*

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the
mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this
in the name of Jesus Christ the 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. 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory**

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.** *(Sung)*

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 are baptized and who wish to be nourished
with the Body and Blood of Christ.

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

Communion Hymn #117 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming'

Announcements

Prayer after Communion

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

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.
May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the
name of Jesus 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

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.**

Hymn #91 'People, Look East!'

Dismissal and Sending Out

Go in joyful hope to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Christ is Born in Bethlehem - Buxtehude

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

NOTICES

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.

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 11am 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.



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

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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

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Robert MacMillan, Mike Lee, Katharine Owen

CUSTODIAN Bruce Holdbrook 634-3510

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