

Sunday in the Octave of the Epiphany
January 7, 2018



St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: Reverend Michael H. Mitchell
Organist & Choir Director: Barbara Butler

*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

Alvin's Message
Welcome to the Church of Saint John



Merry Christmas! Today our orthodox brothers and sisters celebrate The Mass of The Christ Child. They follow a different calendar than the one we use. The orthodox celebration falls close to our celebration of the Epiphany.

The Celebration of the Epiphany is much older than the December 25th celebration. In the catacombs, in Rome, where the early Christians are buried, there are many Christian symbols on the tombs, One, which appears often, is the Magi/Wise Men bringing the gifts. After the period of persecution and the Church became settled, then, dates were set aside to remember specific events in Jesus' life.

What attracts a great number of people to the story of the Magi is their faith. Even though they were 'from away', 'outsiders', 'non-Jewish', 'Gentiles', they made their way from the East, perhaps Iran or even farther East. They recognized a significant event and with that as their compass they found the new born child in Bethlehem and offered him the gifts, which was to reflect his future life - a king, a priest, and a death.

As we contemplate the story of the birth of the Messiah what is sticking is that, poor people who were outcasts (shepherds) and Gentiles were among the first to pay homage to Jesus. As the story continues we will see that the Jewish leaders and Roman rulers were the ones who rejected Jesus. This rejection happened right at the beginning of the Jesus story.

Lord Jesus, we ask you to increase our faith that we may recognize you as our mighty God and Prince of Peace, the Son of God and Son of Mary, the Word made flesh and the splendour of the father. *Fr. Alvin*

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Heather Hyson, Robert MacMillan
Lectors: 8:30 am Maureen Moffatt, Susan Foote
10:30am Ann Grandy, Rose Conrad; Server: Aisling Curtin
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Susan MacMillan, Hazel Oliver

NEXT SUNDAY JANUARY 14TH

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Robert MacMillan, Susan MacMillan
Lectors: 8:30 am Ed Jordan, Sandra Jordan
10:30 am Hazel Oliver, Aisling Curtin
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Sharon Green, Patty Tanner; Server: Aisling Curtin

The Holy Eucharist

Communion Setting - Land of Rest

Prelude: Quem pastores -Willan

Hymn # 162 'Sing of God Made Manifest'

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.

All Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory To God

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,
All and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

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

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

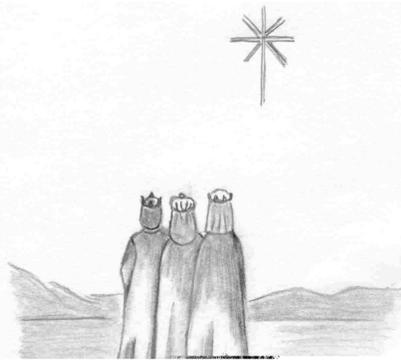
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 163 'When Christ's Appearing was Made Known'

Gospel

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW People Glory be to thee, O Lord.



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

REFLECTION The Rev. Dr. Wendell Eisener

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We 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: Lord, hear our prayer.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia, The Most Revd Winston Halapua, Bishop of Polynesia and Primate and Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia; Bishop of Taranaki - (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia) The Most Revd Philip Richardson
 Diocesan Cycle: Pray for the Parish of Alberton, Prince Edward Island, Rev Darroch Fagan, Priest-in-Charge and Margaret; Christ Church, Cherry Valley, Prince Edward Island, Rev. Dr. G. Wayne Short, Priest-in-Charge, and Sheila.
 Local Ministerial: The Congregation of St. John's Anglican Church and Rev. Alvin Westgate and Cathy. Please continue to keep Father Michael Mitchell and Holly in your prayers.
 Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - Cachalot I; Clearwater - Fundy Leader.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
 God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
 he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.
 Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,
 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.

And also with you. We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn

#628 'O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High'

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

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

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. Therefore with angels and archangels we raise our voices in joyful praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

(Sung CP#719) 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.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, " Take, 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.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith. (Sung)

CP #720 Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

We offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; 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 3x) CP #721

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 the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

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 CP#745

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 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.*

Communion Hymn

#165 'Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering'

Anthem: What King Would Wade (164 in Common Praise)

Prayer after Communion

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 & Sending Out

May the God of peace, make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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 #387 'All Praise to Thee'

Postlude: Praise God, All Christians – Walther

NOTICES

Music Announcements:

Musique Royale presents 'Magnificent Mozart' with Symphony Nova Scotia, conductor Bernhard Gueller with guest pianist Luca Buratto on Friday, January 26 at 7:30 pm here at St. John's Church. Advance tickets at \$30 are available at Shop on the Corner or reserve at 902-634-9994.

A five week course covering the "struggle for the real Jesus" will be presented by Rev. Dr. Wendell Eisener, C.S.C., Department of Religious Studies, St Mary's University. Make plans now to attend. Sessions will be held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday evenings January 9th - February 13th 7:00-8:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please note:

- We would like Committee Chairs to be working on their budget items for the year 2018 and to contact Treasurer, Dan Sargeant by email idsargeant@eastlink.ca
- It is time to start preparation of Committee Reports for our Annual Report. We are asking that all reports be emailed to Mary at the Parish Office.
- Offering envelopes are ready for pick up at the back of the church.

FOOD, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! All ladies of the parish are invited to the annual Pot-Luck Luncheon and Mystery Auction on Monday, January 15 at 12 Noon in the parish hall. A great way to start off the new year. Come, enjoy and bring a friend.

HERITAGE FAITH VISION

The Marriage of NS Giantess, Anna Swan and Kentucky Giant, Cpt. Martin Van Buren Bates in June 1871 at the Church of St. Martin in the Fields had a Lunenburg connection. The wedding was celebrated by the Rev. Wm. Rupert Cochran, who grew up in Lunenburg, son the Rector James Cochran (1825-52). Queen Victoria gave Anna a cluster diamond ring and Martin an elegant watch and chain. Our story will continue.

Humour

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he ?"

SUNDAY SCHOOL DUTY SCHEDULE

Nursery....Viola Green....Laura Eisner
 Nursery Curriculum.....Emmi Fraser/Alex Payne
 Grade I....Rena Demone; Grade II....Lori Nickerson

Parish Contacts

RECTOR: Rev. Michael H. Mitchell
 PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: Rev. Alvin Westgate • 902-640-2484
 SECRETARY: Mary Wagner • PARISH OFFICE: 902-634-4994
 email: stjohnslunenburg@bellaliant.com; WEB: www.stjohnslunenburg.org
 HONORARY ASSOCIATES: Rev. Linda Macdonald • 902-634-9473,
 Rev. Oliver Osmond • 902-634-8589

PARISH WARDENS

Duncan Crowdis 902-521-9724 • Blake Starratt 902-634-9424
 • Robert MacMillan 902-527-0122

CHAIR OF PARISH COUNCIL

Brooke Nodding 902-634-9425
 ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR
 Barbara Butler 902-624-0506
 HAND BELLS Sharon Hill 902-634-8781
 CHIMER Peter Allen 902-634-4668
 TREASURER Dan Sargeant 902-237-9728
 ALTAR GUILD Maureen Moffatt,
 Ann Grandy, Barbara Simonds
 PASTORAL VISITATION Vacant at this time
 PRAYER & HEALING MINISTRY
 Linda Macdonald 902-634-9473
 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
 Vacant at this time
 HERITAGE Roger Demone 902-543-5753
 MUSIC Jane Ritcey Moore 902-275-4834
 PROPERTY Wayne Dodge 902-634-4885
 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

Rena Demone 902-634-9644
 TOURS Peter Allen 902-634-4668
 CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 Mary Meisner 902-634-8429
 FOOD BANK Laura Roblee 902-521-4823
 MEALS ON WHEELS Laura Roblee
 902-521-4823, Barbara Simonds 902-634-3319
 PLANNED GIVING
 Jim Eisenhauer 902-634-4713
 PWRDF David Penney 902-209-1626
 REGIONAL COUNCIL
 Mary Meisner, Betty Lou Olivier
 SAFER CHURCH
 Duncan Crowdis 902-640-2214
 SYNOD DELEGATES
 Duncan Crowdis, Robert MacMillan
 CUSTODIAN Joseph Carnevale 902-529-3050
 SEXTON Joseph Carnevale 902-529-3050
 NEWSLETTER
 Janice & Brian Kenefick 902-764-2145
 WEBSITE Grant Dixon 902-640-2897