29 November 2026 10:30 a.m.



"Three Angels" by Laura James (1991-) laurajamesart.com

First Sunday of Advent

St. John's Anglican Church
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
www.stjohnslunenburg.org

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Dawna Wall
Director of Music: Donald Russell, ARCO

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

Prelude: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599 J S Bach (1685-1750)
Mass Setting: Mass of St Cedd Peter Nardone

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome and Announcements

Standing, we sing

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

114 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending Helmsley

OPENING GREETING

Lord, touch our lips
that our hearts may sing your praise.
Lord, come quickly to our aid,
awaken us to your presence.
Glory to God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit:
Mystery of love, behind, through and beyond all things.
In quietness our souls wait for you:
Amen, Come, Lord Jesus Come!

COLLECT FOR PURITY

As we turn our faces to you, O God, let our worship be a new beginning: cleanse our spirits by your mercy, draw us deeper into your love and accept our offerings of praise and prayer on behalf of the world; through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

INTROIT

Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul: O my God, I trust in Thee. Let me not be ashamed: let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed. Show me thy ways O lord and teach me Thy paths.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The seasons of our life are shaped by darkness and light, by planting and harvest, by tears and laughter. In Advent we listen and watch, keep awake and wait for God's saving love to be made known to us again.

We light this first Advent candle, and pray that God's hope is kindled anew in us. May it be a hope that is tender and brave, steadfast and sure, amid all that we encounter.

KYRIE

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

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

Sitting, we listen to the FIRST READING

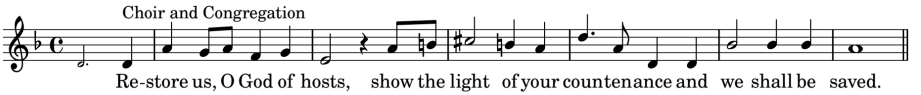
Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

For the word of God in scripture
For the word of God among us
For the word of God within us
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8-: 1-8



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock; Shine forth, you that are en throned upon the cherubim, before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.
Refrain

Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer? You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink. **Refrain**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Turn us again, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **Refrain**

Sitting, we listen to the SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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 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 whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the word of God in scripture
For the word of God among us
For the word of God within us
Thanks Be to God.

Standing for the GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All they that wait on Thee shall not be ashamed, O Lord. Show me Thy ways O lord: teach me Thy paths. Alleluia! Alleluia! Show us Thy mercy, O Lord: and grant us Thy salvation. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
And also with you
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37

"But 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 the 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."

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

Sitting, we listen to: THE SERMON

ANTHEM

Creator of the stars of night J. H. Arnold (1887-1956)

Standing we say together:

ADVENT CREED
from the Evangelical Lutheran Church

We believe in God, the creator of all things,
the God of Abraham and Sarah,
the Holy One who freed the slaves from Egypt
with steadfast love and mercy,
Who made a straight path in the wilderness,
Who promises to make all things new.
We believe in Jesus, the Messiah, who is Emmanuel, God with us. He

is king of Kings, yet born of Mary.
He showed God's love through healing and teaching,
And chose the way of servant-suffering
by dying on a cross.
After three days he rose from the dead
and appeared to many.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the One who inspires faith,
Who has spoken through prophets and preachers,
the One who breathes new life into the church
and the world, Who is making all things new.
We believe that God is still creating.
We believe that Jesus is still with us.
We believe that the Holy Spirit
is calling us forth in love and mercy.

Sitting for PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of our salvation, all our longing is known to you, our sighing is not hidden from you. Keep us alert and awake to your presence every moment. **God of new light, hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you comfort and guide your people. We pray for our community and our neighbours. We pray for the launch of lobster season, and all who are at sea, for safe passage, good weather and plentiful harvest. We pray for ourselves, those dear to us, those who have asked for our prayers, and those known to you alone...
(you are welcome to offer your petitions silently or aloud)
God of comfort, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you remind us not to be afraid, and to work with you for the healing of the nations. We remember the leaders in every place and we pray for your reign to draw near.
God of reassurance, hear our prayer.

Incarnate God, you hold all things in love, enlighten our hearts with a renewed vision of your mercy, That we may have strength to join you in the hard and holy work of waiting and watching for you in our lives and our world. **God among us, hear our prayer.**

Holy God, give us ears to hear, and eyes to see, that we may know your presence in our midst as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Dear friends in Christ, as the nights lengthen, and the days grow dim, we prepare for the birth of our Saviour. Advent is a time to explore the mystery of incarnation and the shadowed places where the light of Christ brings courage and hope. The steadfast love and infinite mercy of God meet us here, and invite us to lay our burdens down. Confident in God's forgiveness, let us confess those things that are heavy on our hearts.

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.**

ABSOLUTION

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.

Standing for THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

90 How the World Longs for your Birth Nun Komm

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of love and power, your word stirs up 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.

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.

It is indeed right that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.
You made us in your image. And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation. As a mother gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own to nurture them in the way of compassionate love. You sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary. Jesus revealed your love for all Creation, and showed us the way of reconciliation.
Having lived among us - Jesus suffered the cross, Died, And in rising again became the firstborn of the renewed family. As the Holy Spirit came forth and gave life to your church, may Wisdom draw near to us this

day, as we gather around your table, with angels and archangels, and all the company of earth and heaven to sing the hymn of your unending love:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

To you be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you: do this to remember me. After supper he took the cup; 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 Poured out for you for the forgiveness of sines; Do this to remember me. Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son Unite us in Christ and give us your hope that we might be strengthened to do your work as your body in the world. Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit, all praise and glory be yours, Creator God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 them 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

The gifts of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

THE COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive.Gluten free wafers are available. If you would like communion to be brought to you, please signal an usher.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION HYMN

93 You Servants of the Lord Narenza

Standing, we pray the

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All your works praise you, O Lord. And your faithful servants bless you. Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

(followed by the people's Amen.)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

98 Hark the Glad Sounds! The Saviour Comes Richmond (224)

DISMISSAL

As we await Christ's coming,, let us go in peace,

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme', BWV 645

J S Bach (1685-1750)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to the St. John's Guild for hosting coffee hour today. Contributions of hats, scarves, mitts or socks will be given to Soul's Harbour to help warm someone in need this winter.

Please submit Christmas memorials and Memorial Wreaths directly to the office by phone: 902-634-4994 or email office@stjohnslunenburg.org

This week in the life of the church:

Family Play Group (Lower Hall)	Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
Music and Meditation	Wednesday at Noon
Donald Russell, organ with readings by Dawna Wall	
Capella Regalis Rehearsal	Thursday 3 - 5 p.m.
Choir Practice (All Welcome)	Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Assisting with the Services:

	Today, Nov 29	**Next Week, Dec. 6**
Chimer	Peter Allen	Peter Allen
8:30 Lector	Gill Osmond	Susan Foote
10:30 Lectors	Andrew Griffin	Margaret Shirley
	Hannah Griffin	Alfie Saunders
LLM	Susan MacMillan	Jim Shephard
Greeters	S. Skinner, H. Hyson	Jane Ritcey
	J. Eisenhauer	Wilfred Moore
Live Stream	Ron Wall	Hans van Nie