

Dec. 12th

Collect for the Day: (In Unison) 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.

Prayer over the Gifts: (In Unison). God of hope, 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.

Prayer after Communion: (In Unison). Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and forever. Amen.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: We pray for our parish families (this week we remember) George & Shirley Sharpe, Gerald Sharpe, Mary Sharpe, Mrs. Shirley P. Sharpe, Steve & Majella Sharpe, and their families.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Anglican Church of Canada.

Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Central Newfoundland Synod Office Staff - The Rt. Rev. John Watton, Ms. Ada Fudge, The Ven. Terry Caines, Ms Lori Wheaton, The Rev. Harvey Bullen - Wellness officer

Provincial Prayer Care: We pray for the Dioceses of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Dec. 19th

Collect for the Day: (In Unison) 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 forever. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts: (In Unison) 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.

Prayer after Communion: (In Unison) 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.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: We pray for our parish families (this week we remember) Tony & Sharon Sharpe, Blair & Tracy Sharpe, Howard Sharpe, Margaret Sheppard-Boone, John & Jennifer Shik, and their families.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador Synod Office, Bishop Sam Rose and Synod Office Staff .

Provincial Prayer Care: We pray for the Dioceses of Newfoundland and Labrador.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Primate: Archbishop Linda Nicholls

Metropolitan: Archbishop David Edwards

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Bishop – The Right Reverend Samuel Rose

Anglican Church of St. Philip

Rector: Rev. Randy Lockyer

(Cell) 693-8537 / (Church) 895-0715

Deacon: The Rev. Edgar Bonnell

Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Canon Shirley Gosse

The Rev. Canon Don Morgan The Rev. Russell Osmond



Website: www.anglicanparishofstphilip.com

Rector's Warden – Gloria Earle – 895-3404

People's Warden – Gary King- 895-6239

Dec. 12th and Dec. 19th, 2021 (Year C)

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS WHO ARE WITH US TODAY. WE HOPE THAT GOD WILL BLESS US AS WE WORSHIP HIM HERE TOGETHER AT ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH.

From the Rector's desk:

At the time of this reflection (Dec. 8th), we are approaching the third Sunday of Advent, which means that Christmas is quickly approaching. During each week of Advent we focus on a theme that enables us to meditate and pray for whatever might be on our hearts and minds. The first two Sundays of the Advent season called us to reflect on HOPE and PEACE. As I have said before, without hope in our lives there can only be sadness and despair and a darkness around us that leads to spiritual death, and sadly, even physical death. For most of us there is now an excitement in the air as we approach the Christmas season; gifts are being purchased with ease, festive gatherings with family and friends are already taking place, lots of food is being prepared, cookies, cakes and all kinds of treats are being baked. The children are alive with eagerness and anticipation, and we can't wait to gather around the tree and tear open gift after gift. That's all so wonderful, and we thank God that we have so many blessings, and that we can share so much with those we love. On the flip side of that is the reality that Christmas is very often a difficult time of year for many. Not everyone has the fiscal ability to provide gifts and other things to those they love, many are unable to provide even a traditional Christmas dinner. We can only imagine how painful it must be to wake up on Christmas morning with little or nothing under the tree for the children, and little food to celebrate with. We thank God for food banks and other charitable groups that do their best to meet some of the needs around us. I am especially thankful for *Home Again Furniture Bank* this Christmas. This organization comes under the direction of our Anglican diocese, and we are very proud of the work they do to ensure families have beds to sleep in and tables to eat from and all kinds of furniture and other items necessary for daily living. Here at St. Philip's parish we are proud supporters of their work, and the families they help. In future if you have good used furniture, household appliances, etc. still in good working order, please call Home Again Furniture Bank, and for a small pickup fee they will gladly come and get it and repurpose it to others in need. In the past few weeks I have been working with them to furnish a full apartment for a single mom with two young children. The mom and children just returned home to St. John's last week after losing her oldest son (17) in October. She has a sister living in Portugal Cove – St. Philip's who approached me to see if I would do a referral for the family to receive a few items to help furnish

the apartment upon arrival. In response, Home Again Furniture Bank was able to totally furnish the apartment for the mom and her two sons. Upon arrival to the province last week they could move right into a fully furnished apartment. I think of Christmas for that family this year, for that mom hurting from the passing of her son two months ago, and the younger children missing their sibling. I hope that the gift of furniture and household items from Home Again Furniture Bank will provide them with a little bit of hope from knowing that others care. Hope is sure needed in a situation like this family is experiencing this year. This is but one example of what many people will be going through this Christmas. The first week of Advent is a call to us and to the Church to give hope to a hurting world. The second week of Advent was a call to pray for and work for peace. Ask people what they want for our world this Christmas you will get a variety of answers, such as, an end to the pandemic, an end to poverty, good health; but almost everyone will say world peace. It is something we desire so much because we see a world torn apart by war and violence and hatred for others. Peace is what we want, but so hard to achieve. It is because we are people of hope that we never stop praying for peace. Jesus so desired peace when he walked among us, his birth in a lowly stable was the greatest example of peace. So the Church must never cease praying for and working toward peace, and it starts in our homes, in our relationships, in our communities. The third Sunday of Advent we focus on JOY. We have so much to be joyful about where we are, but again, not everyone has joy in their lives this Christmas, what can you and I do to bring just a little more joy into the lives of others? The fourth and last Sunday of Advent we focus on LOVE. This is really the word that is the glue to all our relationships with others, and with God. Jesus reminded us over and over that without love we cannot honor him, and claim to be his follower. Jesus said our faith is really summed up in two commandments, to love one another and to love God. To be reminded of love on the last Sunday of Advent is to be reminded of God's greatest gift of love at Christmas. The love of God for all of us is really the Christmas story, and this love we have for our Lord is what compels us to reach out to others in love, compassion and generosity. May we use the next two weeks of Advent to watch out for those around us that might need our help this Christmas. Let's show them HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE in action.

Rev. Randy

THE BULLETIN FOR THE WEEKS OF

Dec. 12th and Dec. 19th

**IS GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Leslie McDonald

Given By:

**Cynthia Leroux
and
Mary-Lou Quilty**

Dismissal Song

**Go now in peace;
never be afraid.
God will go with you
each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith,
steadfast strong and
true. Know he will guide
you in all you do.**

**Go now in love
and show you believe.
Reach out to others so
all the world can see.**

**God will be there
watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith
and in love.**

Happy 60th anniversary to Canon Don as he celebrated 60 years as a priest in the Church on December 10th. We celebrate with him, are grateful for his ministry in our parish, and wish him many more years of good health and well being.

There are just a very few church calendars left if you haven't gotten yours yet. Cost is still \$5.00 and can be purchased from the parish office.

The Ballicatter After-school program still has openings for children that need this service. The pandemic has made it difficult for them to keep their numbers up, especially when so many parents were working from home. This program has been a tremendous benefit to our parish budget bringing in \$20,000 annually in rent. Please, if you know of any parents needing afterschool care for their children tell them about this great program we have right here in our parish centre.

Fundraisers and parish hall rentals continue to be down because of the pandemic. This has created a decline in our overall parish revenues to date. Our regular envelope offerings are up but what we budgeted from other sources are down. We want to stress the importance of all our parishioners helping us to meet our financial obligations as we near the end of 2021.

2022 church envelopes are now available in the foyer. It would be much appreciated if you could take others belonging to your family and/or neighbours and deliver them as well. If yours is not there please speak to Charlie Gosse (Envelope Secretary) or Rev. Randy and we will ensure you receive a pack. As well, if you are new to the parish and not yet on the envelope list let us know.

Covid regulations have been eased, however, we do ask everyone to be mindful that we are still in a global pandemic and that Covid and its variants are still moving around. We have opened up all the pews now for seating but still require the use of hand sanitizer and masks. If you are not on the list of those fully vaccinated please provide proof of your vaccination when attending worship. We only need to see it once, then your name is added to the list.

The 98.5 FM frequency is always in use whenever we are gathered for worship. If our numbers inside exceed the permitted numbers, there is still the ability to listen to the service through your car radio while in the parking lot of the church.

Bulletins will continue to be printed every second week for the foreseeable future. We do encourage parishioners to go online at: stphilipsanglicanchurch@nf.aibn to read the bulletins.

Our Food Bank Box is located in the foyer so that parishioners can drop non-perishable food items in there regularly. Last year we encouraged people to do it even more so through the season of Advent, which we do again this year. **On each Sunday of Advent we ask everyone to be extra generous** with their food contributions to the box. Each time the box is full we take the items to St. Lawrence's Pop-Up Pantry (Food Bank).

Rev. Randy will be collecting donations to help a family this Christmas. If you would like to contribute to this please speak to Rev. Randy. The family recently moved to St. Philip's and consists of a single mom with a 13 year old son and 14 year old daughter. The cost of the move and mom being unable to work because of a recent illness means they have little money to celebrate Christmas this year. They have reached out to the church for help and, in the spirit of Christmas, we will do what we can to ensure they have food and gifts.

Would you be interested in volunteering with Sunday School? Our Sunday school ceased when we entered the pandemic two years ago, however, it is time for us to try to get reestablished again. At the present time we have two volunteers, Jayde Strickland and Luke Fowlow, a young couple who recently moved to the area. Jayde's grandfather (Gordon Jackman) is a member of St. Philip's parish and Luke is the grandson of Bishop Don Young. If we can get a few more to add to the list we can get going in the new year with restarting Sunday School.

The next two Sundays will take us through Advent. We have lit the candles of HOPE and PEACE and during the Sundays of Dec. 12th and 19th we will light the candles of JOY and LOVE. This reminds us that CHRISTMAS is almost upon us. Let us use these next two Sundays to really prepare our hearts and lives for the Christ-child.

NOTICES/MEMORABLE DATES

Christmas Tree of Remembrance official lighting will take place this Wednesday, Dec. 15th at 7:00 pm. Rev. Randy will say a prayer, read the names of loved ones and the tree will be officially lit in their memory. Following the tree lighting there will be hot chocolate and timbits served in the parish centre. All are welcome. Forms are available in the foyer or you may use the one that is included at the back of today's worship booklets. Names must be submitted today, Dec. 12th.

Next Vestry Meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 14th. at 7 PM in the Board Room.

The ACW Christmas Stocking Draw (valued over \$500.00) will take place following the 10:30 am service on Dec. 12th. Tickets are still available prior to the draw if anyone is interested. Tickets are 3 for \$5.00.

Do you know the old stories of your community? How old is that house? Who used to have a wharf over there? That family has an old root cellar. We would love to hear from you! The PCSP Heritage Committee is an advisory group to Council. It comprises citizens who appreciate the history in our community and are striving to ensure its' preservation. If you have something to tell us, please contact:

- Rev. Bonnell – 895-2111
- Julie Pomeroy (Town Rep.) – 895-8000 x229
- Michael Pretty (Chair) – 727-4674

Email any pictures and stories to mpretty2@nl.rogers.com

The Canon E.B. Cheeseman Parish Centre is now available for rental for birthday parties, showers, etc. We will still need to exercise care and caution when using the parish centre, and we are not yet at a point where we can rent it out for maximum occupancy, as we must still observe the rule of physical distancing. If anyone is interested in renting the Centre please contact Donna or Janice Spurrell and they will be able to inform you of the current rules around its use. These rules can change at any time based on direction from our Chief Medical Officer and/or our Diocesan Covid team.

Our parish website can be accessed now through a **QR Code** (Quick Response Code). By scanning the code with your cell phone, tablet or some other compatible device you will immediately be taken to the parish website. We are also in the process of updating our website so it can be current. Here is the QR Code:



Notes

When do I stand, sit or kneel? Some call this “Anglican Calisthenics”... sometimes people are confused especially when others around them are kneeling, standing or sitting. But feel free to follow your preferences. Our goal is worship and not conformity, so, whatever you choose to do is right for you. For some members of our congregation, it may be difficult to stand as long as others because of mobility issues, we encourage them to please sit if that is more comfortable for them.

Dawn Cheeseman is selling Christmas cards with the picture of St. Philip’s church on them and they are now available. This is a fundraiser Dawn is doing on behalf of the ACW. A sign-up sheet for anyone interested in purchasing these cards is located on table in the church foyer Sunday mornings.

Christmas Eve Worship Services This Year will be as follows:

4:00 pm Family worship
7:00 pm Holy Eucharist
11:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Please bear in mind that even though some restrictions have been lifted or eased, we must still observe those that are in place, such as that of wearing a mask at all times. Christmas Eve is always a busy time at church and we love to see as many as possible, but please remember we are still in a pandemic time and must be guided by public health directives whatever they might be by that time. **Please also remember that to attend, worship one must be fully vaccinated.** If your name is not already on the list of fully vaccinated worshippers you must show proof of it in order to worship with us on Christmas Eve.

Maintenance envelopes in your box of envelopes are very important. So far this year we have noted a decrease in maintenance offerings. Your maintenance offering helps to pay our outstanding parish loan (cost of the geo-thermal heating system) of \$653.93 per month and other items of regular maintenance around the church. We look forward to retiring this outstanding loan in a couple more years and we ask all our parishioners to consider using the maintenance envelope each month.

Sunday School we also would like to see up and going again. This will require several volunteers to do so. We are now looking for teachers and leaders to help with this. The date we resume will not be known until we have our volunteers in place. This is a vital part of our parish life that got sidetracked during the pandemic, that we hope to get up and going again soon. Please speak to Rev. Randy if you have an interest in getting our Sunday School up and going again.

Parish finances as we approach the end of 2021 we hope will leave us in a good position of having met all our financial commitments. As we have indicated elsewhere, we have taken a real hit in 2021 in the rental and fundraising aspects of our annual budget, which will leave us short by about \$15000 at least. The history of St. Philip’s church and community is one where its people always rises to the occasion and does what needs to be done. As we draw close to the end of this year we ask all our parishioners to prayerfully keep the needs of our parish in mind and do whatever we can to ensure we meet our 2021 budget. With everyone’s help we will no doubt succeed. God has been good to us and that goodness and grace will ensure our future prosperity as a parish.

Scriptural Readings for our worship as appointed in our BAS Lectionary.

<u>Dec. 12th</u>	<u>Dec. 19th</u>
Third Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Scriptural Sentence Page 270	Scriptural Sentence Page 271
The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.	I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word.
1st Reading Zephaniah 3: 14-20	1st Reading Mecah 5: 2-5a
Canticle Isaiah 12 2-6 Page 76 (Canon Don)	Psalm 80 1-7 Pages 812 - 813 (Allie Wheeler)
2nd Reading Philippians 4: 4-7 (Canon Shirley)	2nd Reading Hebrews 10: 5-10 (Glenda Winter)
Gospel Luke 3: 7-18 (Deacon Bonnell)	Gospel Luke 1: 39-45 (Deacon Bonnell)

Refugee update: Farrah, our young single refugee has been with us now since the end of April, approaching 7 months of the 12 month sponsorship program. We share this with 4 other Anglican parishes, and our main objective is to see that she is safe, healthy, happy, and settling well in Canada. While we cannot share Farrah’s personal health information with others, we can say that Farrah will be traveling to Montreal in January for medical reasons and our committee and churches will be helping her with some of the costs not covered by government, some travel, lodging, meals, and other costs during her 6 week recovery period at home. If this is something you would like to help with by making a donation, please speak to Rev. Randy. Also, do keep Farrah in prayer during her time away and her travel back home.