

Nov. 29th

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

Prayer over the Gifts: (In Unison): God of love and power, your word stirs 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

Prayer after Communion: (In Unison): God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen

Parish Cycle of Prayer: We pray for our parish families (this week we remember) Clayton & Cathy Parsons, William & Judy Parsons, Jim & Barbara Pender, Nicholas & Melissa Pender/Hancock and their families.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for The Lusitanian Church(Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury), The Rt Revd Jorge Pina Cabral – Bishop of the Lusitanian Church

Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of Trinity/Port Rexton(7 congregations) – Rector, Rev. John Sparkes and the Parish of Twillingate93 congregations) – Rector, Rev. Dkr. Joanne Mercer, RD

Provincial Prayer Care: We pray for the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador and for all parishes now closed due to the pandemic.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Primate: Archbishop Linda Nicholls

Metropolitan: Archbishop Ron Cutler

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

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

Nov. 29th, and Dec. 6th, 2020 (Year A)

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: As I write a reflection for this bulletin we are coming upon the first Sunday of Advent, a time when we are ever conscious of the closeness of the Christmas season. Ordinarily there would be an immense anticipation of these weeks of Advent, the excitement of Christmas would be in the air, and we would be in the festive celebratory mood, parties would be planned, families would have plans made to travel from abroad, and our lives overflowing with joy. However, at this point it looks like Advent and Christmas will not be the same this year as in previous ones. When we entered this Pandemic back in March we were in the midst of the Lenten season, thus Easter celebrations and worship services were cancelled. Subsequently we adjusted to the reality that the Pandemic was going to be a part of our lives for awhile, but had a large degree of optimism that we could look forward to a real celebration of Christmas with our families. Perhaps we underestimated the danger and stubbornness of the Corona Virus, or the discipline of the population to stick to the plan, obey and be governed by our political and medical experts. Whatever our expectations were, it looks like even the Christmas season will be severely impacted by Covid-19, as alarming numbers of new infections are seen right across Canada and beyond. We are, at this point, still doing well in our own province but even our numbers are starting to concern us again. So we don't know what restrictions will be in place to guide us safely during this Advent and Christmas season, but we do know that Advent and Christmas will still occur as it does each year, the only thing that might change is our ability to celebrate in all the traditional ways. The four themes of Advent, which we celebrate each of the four Sundays, is *Hope, Peace, Joy and Love*, the core meaning of those are felt and expressed in our hearts and lives. Even in the midst of this worrisome Pandemic we must still find ways to experience each one of these themes in our daily living. We will get through this Pandemic, already there are good signs of progress in the search for effective vaccines, which we pray will be made available to the population by early 2021. So, we know Advent is here (as of Nov. 29th), we know the very first theme will be *Hope*, let's take it one week at a time and really focus our attention on each theme as they

God willing, here at St. Philip's we will celebrate each of the four Sundays of Advent in community worship, preparing ourselves for the glorious celebration of Christmas. Christmas Eve celebrations will look a little different this year as well as we gather for worship. In the essence of care and safety for everyone our Sunday School did not resume during the pandemic, therefore, the children will not be featuring their traditional Christmas program at 4:00 pm. However, it is our intent to hold our regular Christmas Eve services at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm and if necessary 11:00 pm. It will be necessary for anyone planning to attend to call and register ahead of time, as our maximum numbers right now are capped at 100 people. Traditionally the church would be filled at 4:00 pm, but we will not be able to do that this year. Call and register and if the numbers are at a maximum you can be registered for the next service. We hope by making provision for three services we will accommodate everyone that desires to attend a Christmas Eve service. As we approach this most holy and festive season don't allow Covid-19 to steal from you the joy of the Saviour's birth, and the peace and light that he brought into our world. Make a determination that you are really going to use each of these four weeks of Advent to prepare for the celebration of Christmas, and that we can still celebrate the Lord's birth even without many of the traditions of the past. We will get back to that God willing for Christmas 2021, but this year let's do what we can to make sure we still hold true to the humble birth of our Saviour in a stable in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

(Rev. Randy)

Baptisms and weddings are still being done inside the church building. For now, baptisms are still taking place outside the normal worship times. We must still adhere to the maximum number of 100 persons and sanitizing the building after each use. If you need to book a baptism or wedding please call Rev. Randy. We can do these as long as we abide by the government and health regulations around Covid-19. If you have a child to be baptized please call Rev. Randy to set up a time.

We are still checking out the possibility of an FM frequency at St. Philip's. Thanks to Vestry member Tom Tulk we know that such a system will cost approximately \$2500. Vestry must now decide if this cost is affordable in these difficult times of Covid-19 when parish income is dramatically down. If it is something anyone would like to donate in memory of loved ones please speak to Rev. Randy. The system would allow for outdoor services being broadcast via your car radio instead of having to lower your windows, especially on a cold wet day. It would also be good for the cemetery services for those who have mobility issues. The system is usable within a 500 feet radius.

The 8:30 am worship services have now resumed. Anyone attending the service will have to register the same as for the 10:30 am service, and adhere to the diocesan and medical officer's restrictions.

We have two more Sundays to return the forms for the annual tree lighting ceremony. All forms and donations must be returned by Sunday, December 13th, so as to prepare the names for the lighting of the tree on Tuesday, December 15th.

Thank you to all who supported the ACM Salmon Dinner on Saturday, November 21st. Nearly 100 takeout dinners was sold, and a profit of over \$1200 was realized after expenses. Thank you to those who purchased the dinners, gave donations or helped in the process of cooking and serving them.

Christmas Food Hampers will be made available to people in the community should there be a need. Many people struggle to provide enough food for their families all the time, and at Christmas they often struggle even harder to make it a joyful occasion for their children. If you know of anyone that might be struggling this year at Christmastime and could use a little help, please let Rev. Randy know. Most of us are

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.**

come around. The one thing Covid-19 cannot take from us is our faith in God, it may force us to adjust and adapt our ways to celebrate, but it will not diminish our *hope, peace, joy* and *love*.

very blessed to have more than enough, if you would like to sponsor a hamper for a needy family please speak to Rev. Randy about that as well.

NOTICES/MEMORABLE DATES

As we quickly draw close to the end of 2020 we want to say thank you for your steadfast financial support of your church over these tumultuous months of the Pandemic. Most of 2020 will have been affected by Covid-19 and perhaps even as we begin the new year, but we are so thankful for the faithful support of our parishioners that have made it possible for us to keep up with all our financial obligations, we have been blessed. Our financial books will close for the year on December 31st, so there is still opportune time for everyone in the parish to get their annual offerings in before that time.

2021 Church Envelopes will be available as of Sunday, November 22nd. Please take yours and any others there for family, friends or neighbors. Some people are set-up for online giving but it is still good for them to have their packet of envelopes so that they can use other special envelopes such as PWRDF, Cemetery Offerings, etc.

Christmas Tree of Remembrance forms are now available at the main entrance. The lighting of the tree will take place on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00 pm. The last day to return the forms with the information will be Sunday, December 13th. Again it is a time to remember our loved ones at Christmas time and to light the tree in their memory. We will gather around the tree, Rev. Randy will read all the names, a prayer will be said and some carols will be played over the PA system. If anyone wishes to remain in the cars Rev. Randy will be broadcasting it so everyone can hear.

This year our Christmas Eve services may be different than past years, however, we want to let everyone know that we will be having services that day (Thursday Dec. 24th). Unfortunately, because of Covid-19 our children will not be doing the usual pageant that day, which we will miss seeing, but we do want our young families to still make the 4:00 pm family service. Rev. Randy will also be offering a 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm service that night as well. It will be necessary for everyone to call up our registrars, Donna and Janice Spurrell (895-3581) to register for whichever service you plan to attend. At the moment our maximum numbers are still set at 100 people at a time. Of course we are still in the grip

Our ACW is now up and running again after a long 8 month break. Unfortunately they were not able to carry out all their planned fundraisers in 2020 but are doing what they can to contribute to the parish budget. Presently they are selling tickets that will be drawn in December, please support their efforts.

What is Advent? It is the four Sundays preceding Christmas, and the very word *Advent* means "Coming", hence the weeks of preparation for the celebration of the coming of Christ at Christmas. Some people like to purchase advent calendars and, as they count down the days of advent, break open a window each day and eat the little piece of chocolate. Some people like to place their very own advent wreath on the table and light a candle each week to remember each theme – hope, peace, joy and love. So, as we prepare our hearts and lives for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, use the four weeks of advent to help us get ready for the greatest event in human history – the birth of our Lord, bringing light and hope to a dark world.

Today, Sunday November 29th is the first week of Advent, and the theme for this Sunday is *HOPE*. We celebrate the hope we have, especially in these difficult days of a pandemic, that all is not dark and despair, there is a bright light that continues to shine in our hearts and lives – Jesus Christ.

Sunday, December 6th is the second week of Advent, and the theme for this Sunday is *PEACE*. Jesus came into the world more than two thousand years ago to bring peace by being the *Prince of Peace*. Peace is ever elusive on the world stage, but we work toward it and pray for it, that a time will come when all peoples of the earth will learn to live together in harmony. May we always strive as well for peace in our own hearts and lives, that in the midst of turmoil and strife around us we can still find the inner peace of Christ.

At the time of publication of this bulletin our diocese is preparing for the election of a new bishop. God willing we will be able to announce the name of the new bishop at the Sunday morning worship on November 29th. Whoever is elected we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as he/she leads the diocesan church family in these turbulent times.

THE BULLETIN FOR THE WEEKS OF

Nov. 29th. & Dec. 6th.

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

Loving Husband and Father

George Spurrell
Nov.27, 1928 – Oct. 10, 1998

Given By:
Ruby, Janice & Donna

And

Parents

Bert & Edna Eddy

Brother-in-law

Robert Tucker

Given by:
Harold & Dorothy Eddy

of the pandemic and things can change quickly, but if all is as it is now we will have three time slots to choose from on Christmas Eve.

Notes

Please check our parish Facebook page as well as our website for weekly updates. Any information we want to get out to our parishioners will be shared and please pass it along to others that may not be using this technology.

Bulletins will continue to be printed every second week for the foreseeable future. Presently, because of Covid-19 restrictions, outside of regular worship there are not many other activities to report on. A limited number will be available on Sunday mornings, however, we do encourage parishioners to go online at stphilipsanglicanchurch@nf.aibn to read the bulletins.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund World of Gifts - Are you thinking of gift giving for friends and family? Why not check out World of Gifts! Go to gift guide online at pwrdf.org/worldofgifts <http://pwrdf.org/worldofgifts> and make your purchases 24/7. These gifts can truly change lives! As Christmas may look much different this year in terms of family getting together from away, and many of the traditional gift-giving ideas will not take place, maybe this venue with PWRDF may be a great way to give a gift to a family that will make a meaningful difference. Check out the site and see how cheap it is to provide a family with a gift of a goat, or chickens, or a donkey to carry water, or to provide PPE equipment to keep clinics safe. You can truly give the gift that gives life.

St. Lawrence's Pop-up Pantry will continue to operate during this difficult time. As you can imagine, there are a number of vulnerable people in our community who are in need. We are anticipating an increased demand for the pop-up pantry and as such we are asking those of you who are able, to continue to donate. Donations may be dropped off between 10 am and 1pm Mondays and Tuesdays at St. Lawrence's Anglican church. Please note that we now accept frozen items as well. Though it is at St. Lawrence's church it is a community venture supported by other churches and community organizations including our own parish of St. Philip.

If your church can be of any help to you during this time of Covid-19 please let us know. We recognize that maybe some of our seniors may not be able to get out to purchase their groceries, or fill prescriptions, etc., if you are in need of someone to do these things for you please call the church office and we will ensure that someone comes to help you. Please call 895-0715 and leave a message or call Rev. Randy directly at 693-8537.

ANGLICAN ALLIANCE BIBLE STUDIES - FAITH IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS. As we continue to worship at home perhaps the following link will be useful to you. Go online and give it a look: <https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/sqe-anglican/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/22143718/COVID-19-Bible-studies-FINAL.pdf>

What is the status of parish hall rentals? At this time The Canon EB Cheeseman Parish Centre is not available for general rentals. As of September, we made the hall available to our major renters, The Ballicatters and Eastern Health group, as long as they had documentation from Eastern Health showing their start-up plan.

Even though our church building is now open for worship services E-Giving is still a good way to make regular offerings. The form for this is available on the church website with all the relevant information. This is an excellent way to give because even if one cannot get to the church the offering is still given. We do have a number of people making their contributions bi-weekly or monthly in this way. You can also call the church office to get the form.

The Scriptural Sentence for our worship as appointed in our BAS Lectionary.

Church Chuckle

What did Luke have first and Paul have Last?

The letter 'L'

www.facebook.com/stphilipsanglicanchurch

Stewardship thought for the Week

Your use of money shows what you think of God.

St. Philip's parish is now setup to receive E-Transfers. With the church building closed some people are looking for ways to make their weekly, biweekly or monthly contribution to the parish. After being closed down now for 7 Sundays the parish really does need those offerings. These days many of us do online banking and send etransfers, so this is another way to make your contribution to the parish. Simply go online and use the parish email address as follows: stphilipsanglicanchurch@nf.aibn.com and please enter your name and envelope number (if you have a number) into the message box. The parish will receive your offering instantly and a message will be sent to our treasurer and she will ensure the amount gets added to your envelope offerings for tax purposes. It's very easy and convenient.

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<i>Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.</i>	<i>Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.</i>
Epistle & Gospel	Epistle & Gospel
1st Reading	1st Reading
Isaiah 64: 1-9	Isaiah 40: 1-11
Psalms 80 1-7 & 16-18 Page 812-814	Psalms 85 1-2 & 8-13 Page 818-819
2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9	2nd Reading 2 Peter 3: 8-15a
Gospel: St. Mark 13: 24-37	Gospel: St. Mark 1: 1-8

