

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador
Anglican Parish of St. Philip
Bishop: The Right Rev Dr. Geoffrey Peddle
Rector: Rev. Edward Keeping



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**A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL OUR
PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS WHO ARE WORSHIPPING
WITH US TODAY**

December 14th, 2014 (Year A)

**The Bulletin today is given to the glory of God and in Loving
and Precious Memory of our dear**

**Loretta Tucker
By Victor and family**

Parish Mission Statement

God's people in the Parish of St. Philip, in a covenant relationship with God through Baptism, are called....

- ‡ To be Fishers of people in response to the call of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit;
- ‡ To be a House of Prayer
- ‡ To be a Centre for Christian Teaching;
- ‡ To be Disciples in learning;
- ‡ To be a fellowship of Loving and Sacrificial Service;
- ‡ To be Witnesses to our Lord's Love through Word and Example.

**Launching out into the
Deep....
Into New Spiritual
Depths**



From the Rector's Desk

I am offering Advent Reflections for your reading and meditations this Advent. There are four devotions and they are offered by bishops from the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Episcopal (Anglican) church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As you know, the Anglican Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church are in full communion with each other.

The third devotion (Third Sunday of Advent) is written by Susan Johnson. She is the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The last devotion in the series (Advent 4) is written by Fred Hiltz, Anglican Primate of Canada. I commend these devotions to you.

Prayer – “God of our present age, stir up in us a longing for justice with compassion and prepare us for the in-breaking reign of your love and peace. Amen.”

In the Gospel reading we hear John the Baptist say, “I am the voice crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.”

The passage from Isaiah captures what that voice in the wilderness is crying for:

- to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.

These words from Isaiah are what Jesus reads aloud in the synagogue in Nazareth at the beginning of his ministry, going on to announce, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

These readings underscore for me our need to offer prophetic voices crying in the wilderness – in the town squares, in the halls of government, in the courts of law – on behalf of all those who are marginalized and oppressed and in need of justice.

Is it just me, or do you also feel like the list of those in need of justice keeps getting longer and longer?

Our present age includes wars in Gaza, Ukraine, Syria, South Sudan, Nigeria, Central African Republic and elsewhere; the greatest number of refugees and internally displaced persons in the history of our planet; racial tensions made vivid by the death of Michael Brown and the subsequent and sometimes violent demonstrations in Ferguson, Missouri; the growing number of missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada; hunger and poverty around our world and in our own countries; homelessness; domestic violence; human trafficking; more.

The list is long.

Yet we are called to be like John the Baptist, crying out and working for justice, following the example of Jesus. We do this as churches, individually and cooperatively.

This past September, the leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Episcopal Church issued a joint pastoral letter on climate change. This was an important national and international effort. But we are called to cry out and work for justice individually and in our local context as well.

We work for justice through our heartfelt prayers and our offerings to support the work of the wider church. We work for justice as we petition our elected leaders, letting them know of our concerns. We work for justice as we volunteer in local ministries whether through our churches or through such community agencies as food banks, out-of-the-cold programs, homeless shelters and more. We work for justice when we take to the streets in silent vigil or loud, non-violent protest.

How is this true for you? How are you crying out for and working for justice? What more could you, your congregation, your community, your church be doing?

MILESTONES

If anyone knows of someone in the Parish celebrating a milestone in their lives, please contact the Church Office.

A Stewardship Thought for the Week

With Christmas coming, sometimes we feel we should warn, “Now, don’t give God’s part away to people on the Christmas list.” Honestly, few of us have any intention of doing that. In fact, many happily reach new levels of sharing in the business of Christ’s kingdom because of the season’s sense of rejoicing and hope.

May your giving today mean something special to you.

Church Chuckle

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot’s wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, “My mummy looked back once, while she was driving.” He announced triumphantly, “and she turned into a telephone pole!”

Noteworthy Events

Diocesan Resource Centre, opened Saturdays from Nov. 1st – Dec. 20th for the Christmas Season.

Notices (Cont’d)

The ACM of our parish will be providing an outside Christmas Tree complete with BLUE LIGHTS. Donations in memory of loved ones are invited and as the donations are received, the blue lights will be replaced with WHITE LIGHTS in memory of the particular loved one. BY CHRISTMAS EVE, THE TREE SHOULD HAVE ONLY WHITE LIGHTS.

We have a request to assist a family during the Christmas Season. We have some items but we need your help. This is a single-parent family with a 17 year old girl and an infant girl. Please place items in the silver covered box in the foyer. Monetary donations can be made through the church office or regular offerings (please mark the envelope accordingly and provide your church envelope number). Thank you.

You can pick up your 2015 church envelopes as you leave the church this morning. They are in the foyer.

Daily Morning Prayer (Mon thru Friday) is being held at 10:00am at the church. Anyone who would like to share in this service is welcome to come along.

Cards & Darts Fellowship: The Cards & Darts Fellowship will be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month, at 8:00pm, **but not in December.** The next scheduled date is January 28th.

If any members of our congregation have a new e-mail address or changed his/her e-mail address, would you kindly e-mail us your new address.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reader 1: We light the third candle of Advent. (With the first two candles burning, a family member lights the third candle.)

Reader 2: We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The Light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

Reader 1: God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called the people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God’s mercy and a joyful new beginning.

People: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to a greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and in acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

**People Sing: Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

Schedule of Services

3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 14th

8:30 AM – Holy Communion (BCP)
Eucharistic Assistant: Dave Bartlett
10:30AM – Holy Eucharist (BAS)& Sunday School
Eucharistic Assists: Todd Martin, George Sharpe
Counters: Don Morgan, Ruth Hiscock
Sidesperson: John Parrell

4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21st

8:30 AM – Holy Communion (BCP)
Eucharistic Assistant: Christopher Earle
10:30AM – Holy Eucharist (BAS)& Sunday School
Eucharistic Assists: Debbie Collis, Harve Hiscock
Counters: John Parrell, Gloria Earle
Sidesperson: Don Morgan

1st Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 28th

9:30 AM Holy Communion (BCP)
7:30 PM Carol & Lesson Service
(The list of names for whom flowers were placed in the Sanctuary for Christmas will be read at this service)

NOTICES

“TODAY” & “OUR DAILY BREAD” - Please pick up the latest copy of **“Today”** and **“Our Daily Bread”** for your daily devotion. They are on the table in the foyer. We are encouraging people to use them for their own spiritual growth. Please put a quarter in the container provided, so we can support these ministries.

Advent Bible Study has begun.

This week, it will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 17th at 7:30pm.
Dates for subsequent weeks will be announced.

Select Vestry Meeting – Tuesday, Dec. 16th at 7:00pm. Please note change in time.

St. Philip's Anglican Church New Year's Eve Party – Wednesday, December 31st at 9:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and are available by contacting Una Skanes, Margaret Tucker or Rebecca Tucker.

Advent Envelopes: We encourage the people of our congregation to use their Advent envelopes during this season. These givings are a separate budget item and we graciously ask for your support at this time.

Christmas Flower Fund: If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one for Christmas flowers in the Sanctuary, please note that the deadline is **Dec. 18th.**

Preauthorized Payment (e-Giving) of Church Offerings can now be offered to our parishioners. Many people find that this is a safe and convenient way to make their offerings and, if you are interested, **please complete the form which you will find in the pamphlet rack in the foyer.**

For those who are giving by Pre – Authorized (e-Giving), there will be plastic cards available in the foyer which read “Giving Electronically to the Anglican Parish of St. Philip”. We want our people to think about giving to the church by this method.

December 7th, 2014

Regular Giving \$1,972.00

Dec 7th 2014

Maintenance Fund \$555.00

Maintenance Fund

To date \$14,506.00

Maintenance Fund – I do ask you to give regularly to this fund. In the spring, major work around the windows of this building will be required. Repairs are needed immediately to the main door of our church. Please continue to use your “Pink Envelope” to contribute to this Fund so when the time comes for repairs there will be funds available.

MEMORIAL BULLETIN: We encourage you to donate the weekly bulletin as a memorial to a departed loved one. The envelopes and information are available from the pamphlet rack in the foyer.

Parish Hall Rentals: The Parish Centre is available to members of the congregation and the public to rent for birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. Please consider renting the hall for your next important event. Any person wanting to rent the parish hall can call the church office at 895-0715.

Recyclable Donations: - for your convenience, boxes are located near Sharpe's Store on Thorburn Road and Country Convenience, corner of Old Broad Cove Road and Bennett's Road. This is a project of the ACM. If you can help with sorting the recyclables on Monday or Tuesday nights please call John Parrell. **Your help is needed.**

Dismissal to be sung at the end of the service:

“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.”

Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent
Scripture Readings for today, Dec. 14th,

1st Reading: **Isaiah 64: 1 – 4, 8 – 11, Psalm 126** (Page 885)
(Larry Moss)

2nd Reading: **1st Thesalonians 5: 16 – 24** (Wendy Decker)

Gospel: **John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28** (Deacon Ed Bonnell)

The Scriptural Sentence for our worship today as appointed in our BAS Lectionary, page 270:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. (Isaiah 61.1)

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 for ever. Amen.

Collect for Launching out into the Deep (In unison) Bless, O Lord our God, the worship and work of this church. Grant that it may faithfully Launch Out into the Deep and respond to the call of Jesus to be fishers of people. By the power of your Holy Spirit make it a house of prayer, a Centre of Christian teaching and disciples in learning, a community of loving and sacrificial service, and a witness to your redeeming love through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 for ever. Amen.

Today in our Parish Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our parish families: Each week we remember a number of our families in our Prayers of the People: Val & Karen Puglisevich, Helen Purcell, Mary-Lou Quilty, Ethel Rees, Rene Ritter, Eva Roberts, Roy & Linda Roberts, and their families.

In our Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for **The Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador Synod Office Staff:** The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Peddle, The Ven. Sandra Tilley, Elizabeth Crisby, Gail Brittain, Darrin Gosse, Peter Chalker and Fred Dinham; and all retired clergy.

In our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Kitgum – (Uganda), The Rt. Rev. Benjamin Ojwang.
