

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 for ever. 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): Martha Clarke, Lewis & Dorothy Clarke, Wallace & Georgina Clarke, Debbie Collis, and Carol and Darren Comerford.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement. His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch – The Revd Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council The Revd Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. Rt Revd Innocent Ordu (Nigeria), Rt Revd Robert Atwell (England), Rt Revd Nick McKinnel (England), Rt Revd Jackie Searle (England), Rt Revd John Kereboro Zawo (South Sudan) and Rt Revd John Samuel (Pakistan).

Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador Synod Office staff – Rt Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Peddle, Ven. Sam Rose, Ms. Elizabeth Crisby, Mr. Fred Dinham, Mrs. Gail Brittain, Mr. Darrin Gosse.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Primate: Archbishop Linda Nicholls
Metropolitan: Archbishop Ron Cutler
Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador
Bishop: The Right Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Peddle
Anglican Church of St. Philip
Rector: Rev. Randy Lockyer
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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 – Harvey Hiscock - 895-2011
People's Warden – Gary King- 895-6239
December 22 & 24, 2019 (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:

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, our countdown of Advent Sundays is nearly over, the question is – have we made good use of these Sundays in preparation for the celebration of Christmas? I suspect, for many of us, the past few weeks and the next two days have been and will be extremely busy and stressful, as we get ourselves ready for the celebration of Christmas, at least when it comes to the purchasing of gifts and food. Every year we tell ourselves – *next year I am going to be prepared earlier and will spend less time racing around*, but then the time comes around and we are caught up in the madness of the season again. In all the busyness of the season we are always at risk of burnout, as we race from store to store, spend much time in lineups, and spend way more money than we wanted. We live in a very secular society where the commercialism of Christmas seems to override the spiritual nature of it, and, we get caught up in the rush of it all, so much so that when Christmas Eve/Day arrives we are exhausted. Advent is a time for us to pace ourselves and find the right balance between the commercial side and the spiritual side of Christmas. It is a time for us to reflect on the true gifts of Christmas – family, health and wellness, peace, prosperity and a faith that comes from knowing God's greatest gift to humanity – Jesus Christ who came in great humility by being born in a stable in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, and is our guiding light and hope in the world. The next two days will be very busy for us all with all the final preparations we have left to do, but let us not forget to reflect and put into perspective what Christmas is really all about –

JESUS CHRIST, and everything else ought to be an expression of our joy for the Christ-Child's birth. So many people will make all the preparations for the Christmas season – the gifts, the food, the parties, etc., but will neglect to find a church on Christmas Eve to come and worship Christ. That, really is the sad part of the season, as it seems so silly to do all of this preparation and then forget to include Jesus, after all it is his birthday. When we prepare a birthday celebration for a family member or a friend we always remember to invite him/her, so too, when we make all these plans and preparation for Jesus' birthday we must remember to include him. Now that we have spent so much time over the past weeks rushing around let's take the next two days to prepare ourselves for the spiritual part of Christmas, as we gather on Christmas Eve, may we truly be excited and re-energized by the birth of Christ whose birthday it is we celebrate.

(Rev. Randy)

On behalf of myself, Ada and our children, I take this opportunity to wish you and your family, a very Merry Christmas, and, a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. May the glory of the Christ-Child, born in a lowly stable in Bethlehem, and, whose birthday we now celebrate, continue to be your hope and light in our world today. Please know that you are always welcome to share the journey of light, life and faith with all of us at St. Philip's church.

(Rev. Randy, Ada, Kirklind, Dylan & Adam)

***This Bulletin
is Given to the
Glory of God and
In Loving Memory of:***

***Parents - Lewis & Ethel Rees
Given by Eric, Gloria & Family***

***Our daughter – Leila Tulk
Parents – Warwick & Blanche Tucker,
Rendell & Sadie Tucker
Given by Greta & Gilbert Tucker***

***Parents – Alvina & Cecil Tucker,
Doris & Harold Piercey
Brother – John Tucker
Sister – Doreen Linfield
Given by John & Winnie Piercey***

***Parents - Ronald & Margaret Mercer
George & Jean Thomas
And - Other Loved Ones
Given by Rick & Linda Thomas***

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.**

**The Scriptural Sentence for our worship
today as appointed in our BAS Lectionary**

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***A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name
shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.***

4th Sunday of Advent – Dec. 22nd.

8:30 am – Holy Communion (BCP)

Eucharistic Assistant – George Sharpe

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Eucharistic Assistants – Moses Tucker & Charlie Gosse

Counters: John Parrell & Gloria Earle

Sidesperson: Karen Puglisevich

Altar Duty: Ethel Barfitt & Margie Tucker

Christmas Eve (4:00 pm) – Dec. 24th

4:00 pm – Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Eucharistic Assistants – Ches Barfitt & Joan Tucker

Counters: John Parrell & Gloria Earle

Sidesperson: Karen Puglisevich

Altar Duty: Ethel Barfitt & Margie Tucker

Christmas Eve (7:30 pm) – Dec. 24th

7:30 pm – Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Eucharistic Assistants – Dave Bartlett & Todd Martin

Counters: John Parrell & Gloria Earle

Sidesperson: Karen Puglisevich

Altar Duty: Ethel Barfitt & Margie Tucker

1st Sunday after Christmas – Dec. 29th.

8:30 am – Holy Communion (BCP)

Eucharistic Assistant – Marianne Baker

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Eucharistic Assistants – Harve Hiscock & Carol Bartlett

Counters: Tom Tulk & Jeanette Osmond

Sidesperson: Todd Martin

Altar Duty: Ethel Barfitt & Margie Tucker

**The Collect, Epistle
and Gospel for:**

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

Page: 812-814

(Gloria Earle)

2nd Reading: Romans 1: 1-7

(Dave Earle)

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25

(Deacon Bonnell)

CHRISTMAS EVE (4:00 PM)

1st Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98

Page: 836

(Ethel/Ches Barfitt)

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4: 1-4

(Gary King)

Gospel: John 1: 1-14

(Deacon Bonnell)

CHRISTMAS EVE (7:30 PM)

1st Reading: Isaiah 62: 6-12

Psalm 97

Page: 835

(Debbie Collis)

2nd Reading: Titus 3: 4-7

(Todd Martin)

Gospel: Luke 21: 1-20

(Deacon Bonnell)

NOTICES

Dec. 22 - Christmas party & Pageant rehearsal - today December 22nd following the morning worship service. All those (Sunday School & Youth) involved in the pageant are asked to attend as it will be only two days before Christmas Eve. We will have lunch/party and go right into the rehearsal and should conclude by 2:30 pm. **As we draw near to Christmas** we look forward to the participation of our children at t

he 4:00 pm Christmas Eve family service. This year our Sunday School is considerably understaffed so anything our parents can do to help and support the upcoming Christmas service please let the Sunday School leaders know.

Dec. 22 - Parish of the Ascension: Parish of the Ascension, 58 Smallwood Drive, Mount Pearl, is hosting a Community Tree Lighting and Carol Sing on Sunday, December 22 at 6:30. Please bring along your family and friends and join us for an evening of carol singing and hot chocolate. All are welcome to attend!

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve services will be held on Tuesday, December 24th at **4:00 pm** (family worship with abbreviated form of Holy Eucharist and the Sunday School Children will do their pageant) and **7:30 pm** (Holy Eucharist). We invite everyone to come along and join with us as we celebrate and give thanks for the birth of Jesus

Jan. 12 - The next service of baptism will be held on January 12th. Anyone desiring to have their children baptized should speak to Rev. Randy in advance of this date.

Memorial bulletin forms are available in the rack in the foyer for anyone wanting to place the bulletin in memory of loved ones. The forms are in the envelope, simply fill in the information, enclose your donation and drop it into the offering plate or bring it to the parish office.

Parish Clergy greetings

May the song of the angels, "peace on earth and goodwill to all," be the song that we all live; and may our God who gives himself to us as a GIFT in his Son, born to be our Saviour, be the gift that receives new birth in our hearts this Christmas. We extend Christmas blessings to everybody, and wish everybody good health and happiness in the New Year.

(Russell and Joan)

Dear Friends, Once again we come to this beautiful season of Christmas, a time to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. There is a spirit of expectation in the air, a sense of joy and wonderment. However for some people the bright lights and happy music cannot hide the pain of loss, sickness or poverty. For some this will be "Silent Night, Lonely Night." May each of us make an extra effort to reach out to those around us, who may not be as fortunate as we are. Let us never forget that Jesus was born into poverty and His family soon became refugees. We must try to see His face in all and never forget the CHRIST in Christmas. It is His birthday. Let us not forget to invite Him to the party. Joy to the world, the Lord has come !!! Have a blessed and Merry Christmas, and a bright and Happy New Year, from our home to yours.

(Canon Shirley and Charlie)

From our house to yours in St. Philip's, we send a Merry Christmas to all and a blessed New Year.

(Florence and Don)

Notes

Anglican Life Subscription must be renewed immediately if you would like to continue receiving the magazine into the new year. For a good many months now we have been reminded to renew membership by mail, email or by calling the toll free number. Unless you do this immediately you will not receive the paper in January, which also includes the national church paper (The Journal). As well, if you have not been receiving the subscription but would like to, please let them know. There are no subscription rates but annual donations are encouraged. Please see the subscription renewal information on the back of your December edition and act immediately to keep your paper coming.

The 2020 Church Envelopes are now available! They are located in the foyer so we encourage you to take them. If you are a 2019 contributor your name will already be on the box. If your name is not there and you wish to have a box of envelopes please speak to Rev. Randy or call our Envelope Secretary, Charlie Gosse at 895-0585 and you will receive them immediately.

Many people are signed up with our Direct Giving Plan, which enables them to make direct offerings through their banking institution on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. That means that if you are away your church is still receiving your regular offerings, which ensures the parish is able to meet its monthly financial commitments. Forms for this are available from the parish office.

2020 Church Calendars – more on order - cost \$5.00. They can be purchased through the parish office.

Limited time left to meet our parish financial budget so we remind everyone of the importance of getting our church offerings for 2019 in before the end of December. In this critical time where many of our parishes in this diocese are struggling to survive we must ensure we remain strong and vibrant into the future, but to do this we need the full support of all our parish church family. Please help us to, not only meet our financial goals for 2019 but to even exceed them!

This year we will be starting a Youth Group that will meet certain Sundays at 10:30 am. This is a great time for our young people, aged 12 - 16 to come and take part in various roles with-in the church. We will meet and plan activities and projects All are welcome! We are desperately looking for volunteers for our children and youth programs. If you are interested, please let me know. You do not have to commit for every week!! *(Lisa Lake)*

Today is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, a reminder that Christmas Eve is only 2 days away. The theme of this Sunday is that of *Love*. The word *love* is found in scripture more than any other word, as it is vital to being a Christian. Jesus said over and over – *we cannot love God unless we first love one another – God is love – love your neighbor as yourself – greater love has no man/woman than to lay down one’s life for one’s friend...* May the love of Christ dwell in our hearts and be the guiding principle in all our relationships.

Mr. James Parsons, owner of Landings Restaurant plans to host a free Christmas dinner on Christmas day at 1:00 pm for anyone that may not be having Christmas dinner with family that day. There may be various reasons why someone is spending Christmas alone – no family around – loss of loved ones – financial stress, etc. If you have no plans for Christmas dinner but would like to come out and join in with others on this festive day please let Rev. Randy know and he will pass along the names to Jim. We commend Mr. Parsons for thinking of those who live alone or are in need and giving of his time (and those who will help him) to host this free Christmas dinner.

Invitation to be part of our Mission Team. As we enter into a new year (2020) we are going to make mission a big part of our congregational development. As the diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador continues to emphasize the need for parishes to do some work in the area of mission, it is suggesting that every parish institute a mission team with goals and objectives to enable growth, including spiritual growth and renewal. If you have an interest in being part of this team we would love to have you join with us.

Rev. Randy’s bible study (Coffee & Parables) will recess until after Christmas, at which time we will pick up with the parable of The Good Samaritan. All are welcome to attend.

The Christmas Tree of Memories was lit this past Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm. Many thanks to all those who came out, braved the cold wind, and celebrated with us. There were about 40 people present, and, hot chocolate and Timbits were provided in the Canon EB Cheeseman Parish Centre. Christmas music was also provided by Gary King.

Church Chuckle

*“Out of the mouths of Children”
After my 11-year old son came home from a Christmas caroling tour of area churches, he announced excitedly, “Mom, one church even gave us a standing probation!”*



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Prayerfully consider your Parish in your Estate planning.

Stewardship thought for the Week
Even if I give the whole of my Worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave.

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| Yearly Budget for Envelope Giving for 2019 - \$97,000.00 | |
| Needed Monthly - \$ 8,741.67 | |
| Needed Weekly - \$ 2,108.00 | |
| Rec’d Dec. 15th | |
| Regular Giving | \$ 1,742.00 |
| Maintenance | \$ 45.00 |
| Rec’d Year to Date | |
| Regular Giving | \$ 78,181.72 |
| Maintenance | \$ 11,127.10 |
| Total Brought in for Dec. 15th | \$ 3,088.86 |