

Dec. 18th

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: Janice Spurrell, Catherine Squires, Randy & Christine Squires, Cynthia Squires, Gerald Squires, Gordon & Jackie Squires and their families.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for The Anglican Church of Korea.

Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Rt. Rev. Bishop Sam Rose, Archdeacon Charlene Taylor and Synod Office Staff.

Provincial Prayer Care: We pray for the Diocese of Fredericton, Archbishop David Edwards – Bishop of Fredericton & Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

Dec. 24th

Collect for the Day: (In Unison) Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts: (In Unison) - Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion: (In Unison) – Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: We pray for our parish families – this week we remember: Halley Squires, Joseph & Evelyn Squires, Lydia Squires, Maria Squires, Marion Squires and their families.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for The Anglican Church of Melanesia.

Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of White Bay, Priest-in-Charge - Rev. Charlene Laing (4 congregations) and the Parish of Windsor/Bishop's Fall, Rector – Rev. Jeff Blackwood (2 congregations).

Provincial Prayer Care: We pray for the Diocese of Fredericton, Archbishop David Edwards – Bishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

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. 18th, Dec. 25th, 2022 & Jan. 1st, 2023 (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: : Here we are on the 4th and final Sunday of Advent, a reminder that the time of preparation for Christmas is nearly over, and, whether or not we used the time wisely to prepare ourselves spiritually for the great Christmas celebration is no longer important at this stage. What is important is what do we do now? Advent is the season in which the church casts its gaze to the horizon to catch sight of God's future. Even during times of darkness, difficulty, or despair, Advent teaches us to "remember forward." It reassures us that we can allow our lives today to take the shape of God's tomorrow, living in the full confidence that God's promises will be fulfilled. Along with the season of Christmas and the time between Epiphany and Lent, Advent emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the herald of God's Kingdom. To speak of our Lord in this way, however, is to recognize him as more than a preacher of the Kingdom. After all, the prophets and John the Baptist were also preachers of the Kingdom. To speak of our Lord as the herald of God's Kingdom is to claim that in Jesus the Kingdom is present. As the great missionary bishop, Lesslie Newbigin, once said, "In Christ we are no longer dealing only with the proclamation of the Kingdom; we are also dealing with the presence of the Kingdom." Jesus Christ proclaims and embodies God's kingdom. The readings assigned for the Sundays of Advent are rooted in these understandings. They also challenge us to examine our own lives and our allegiance to the Kingdom of God. The scriptures of Advent, not only pose a challenge, but also offers hope for each of us, for the church, and for the world. As it was for the first Christians, we need to attend to the words of the Old Testament prophets if we are to recognize in Jesus the presence of God's promised Kingdom. So, this year we will look to their words and example to encourage the posture of Advent in our church and in our individual lives. On December 24th we will gather again on the eve of Christmas, to joyfully sing the carols, and to proclaim the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ into the world and into our lives. We are pleased this year, after a three - year absence, to welcome the children back at the 4:00 pm Family Service, to lead us in a Christmas

pageant. For three years we have been impacted by a global pandemic, with restrictions that inhibited our Christmas gathering in the traditional sense. We look forward to a somewhat normal Christmas this year, which will allow us to express our gratitude for the birth of our Saviour in ways that we had always been accustomed to pre-pandemic. May we find that it is also for us the opening of our hearts to make room for him. When he was born into the world it was in a stable, he desires to be born anew in our hearts and lives today. Let's hope and pray that this Christmas we will make the extra effort to ensure there is room there for him. Please join us for our Christmas services this year, and together we will sing the carols, hear the Christmas story, and shout for joy at the birth of Jesus.

Rev. Randy

Thoughts for Christmas:

(1) The Greatest Christmas Gift

"This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ."
- Frank McKibben

(2) Laugh With Immanuel

"The implications of the name 'Immanuel' are both comforting and unsettling. Comforting, because He has come to share the danger as well as the drudgery of our everyday lives. He desires to weep with us and to wipe away our tears. And what seems most bizarre, Jesus Christ, the **Son of God**, longs to share in and to be the source of the laughter and the joy we all too rarely know."
- Michael Card

(3) Not Alone at All

"I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the word seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses."
- Taylor Caldwell

Our Parish Vestry is engaged in the area of Mission. In accordance with diocesan direction, we want to look at ways in which we can ensure our parish remains viable and sustainable well into the future. We hope to be able to focus on some areas of parish life that we can strengthen and enhance. In accordance with our parish mission statement, we want to also look at ways we can be the church to the wider community. The mission of our parish is of importance to all of us, so we want to hear from any of our parishioners that might have ideas to share, that will grow our parish and enable us to do effective ministry in the church and in the community. If you have ideas to pass along to us, simply write them down and pass them along.

St. Philip's 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.

Dismissal Songs

"Let There Be Love"

*Let there be love shared among us,
let there be love in our eyes;
may now your love
sweep this nation,
cause us, Oh Lord
to arise;
Give us a fresh understanding,
of Christian love that is real;
let there be love shared among us,
let there be love.*

"May God's Blessing"

*May God's blessing
Surround you each day,
As you trust Him
and walk in his way.
May his presence within
Guard and keep you from sin,
go in peace,
go in joy,
go in love.*

The parish books will close on December 31st. We ask that all offerings for 2022 be made to the church by that date, so as to be credited on your 2022 receipts. Offerings after this date will be receipted for 2023.

We are later than usual receiving our order of 2023 envelope boxes. Last year they arrived in November and gave Charlie, our envelope secretary lots of time to put the name and addresses on them. Our supplier faced some issues which delayed the printing of the envelopes; however, they are on the way and we hope to have them in time. If you don't have them by January 1st, please continue to use your old envelopes or a plain envelope, but do ensure you have your name and envelope number on it.

Thank you to all those who came out this past Thursday night to join in the lighting of our Christmas tree. The tree will remain lit throughout the season as a reminder to us of those that once were among us, and, now are in the nearer presence of God. We thank God for them, and, for the joy of sharing our lives with them. No doubt this Christmas, like past Christmas', will find us thinking about them.

The Canon EB Cheeseman Parish Centre is now available for rentals. If you would like to book the hall, or would like information about rental costs, please contact Donna or Janice Spurrell at 895-3581. Because of costs, earlier this year Vestry made a slight increase to rental rates. It was a very minimal increase and the facility is still the least costly venue in the town.

A message from our hospital chaplains – whenever you are admitted to one of our local hospitals, and would like to receive a visit from one of our Anglican chaplains, please register as "Anglican" and indicate at that time that you wish to see a chaplain during your stay. Unless you do this the chaplain may not know you are there.

If you would like to receive the rector's messages, bulletins and other parish information from time-to-time please provide him with your email address by contacting him at the following address: lockyerrandy@gmail.com

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.

Now that our choir is up and going again we would love to welcome new members of all ages. It would be wonderful if we could have enough members to fill out the choir pews on both sides of the chancel. In addition to singing to the glory of God on Sunday morning it is also a time of fellowship and fun each week at practice.

A project to replace all the current lighting in the main part of the church building. Over the last couple of years, we have replaced much of the lighting in the building with less expensive and more efficient LED lighting. We were able to do this easily and at a nominal cost. We realize that much of our electrical costs annually comes from the lights we have in the nave and sanctuary of the church. As we look to the near future, when it is expected that electricity rates will increase significantly, we are looking for ways to reduce our consumption. The Anglican Church of Canada is also emphasizing our need to be ever more conscious of our responsibilities as good stewards of God's creation, and to do whatever we can to reduce our carbon footprint. At the moment vestry is interested in obtaining quotes from qualified electricians so as to get an idea of what the cost will be to transition to new and improved lighting. Once we are ready to proceed with the work, we hope the whole congregation will support the project financially.

January 1st. 2023 First Sunday after Christmas

Next bulletin will be printed to include Jan. 8th. And Jan. 15th..

There will be regular services on Sunday, Jan. 1/23 with the following readers, readings and prayers:

Collect: Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Prayer over the Gifts: God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory. May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

Prayer after Communion: Source of Truth and Joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

1st. Reading:
Njmbers 6: 22-27

Psalm 8
Pages 711-712

(Joan Osmond)

2nd. Reading
Galatians 4: 4-7

(Re. Russell Osmond)

Gospel

Luke 2: 15-21

(Deacon Bonnell)

St. Philip's parish is set up to receive E-Transfers. These days many of us do online banking and send e-transfers, 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.

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.
www.facebook.com/stphilipsanglicanchurch

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:



NOTICES/MEMORABLE DATES

Parish forms and schedules will soon be available from the website. Very shortly all forms, such as memorial bulletins, flowers, Sidepersons schedule, Altar Guild schedule, cleaning schedule, readers schedule, counters schedule, etc. will be accessible from the parish website. We are currently reviewing and updating the parish website, so as to keep it relevant and up-to-date.

Christmas Eve services will be as follows – we will have our family worship, including our children’s program and Eucharist at 4:00 pm, and our services of Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm. & 11:00 pm.

Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year. Please note that we will have a traditional **9:30 am** service that morning, however, there will not be a 10:30 am service.

New Year’s Day is on a Sunday this year. Please note that we will have worship services at our regular times of 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Thank you to our ACW and ACM groups. We are very blessed, and fortunate here at St. Philip’s parish, to have two dedicated groups that work so hard each year to support the parish. Many of our parishes in this diocese have neither of these groups anymore, so we are indeed pleased to support their efforts. They have both worked hard in 2022 to raise funds to support the ministry of the parish, and they will make their annual contributions on Christmas Eve. Thank you to all those in the parish and beyond who supported their various fundraising events in 2022, and we ask you to continue that support in 2023.

**THE BULLETIN
FOR THE
WEEKS OF**

Dec. 18th and Dec. 25th

**IS GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

**Merrill Hammond & Edward Squires
Parents: Warwick & Blanche tucker**

Given by Laura Hammond & Family

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**Father & Grandfath:r Merrill Hammond
Grandparents: Warwick & Blanche Tucker &
Michael & Charlotte Hammond**

Given by Judi Howell & Family

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Leslie McDonald

*Given by Cindy(LeRoux), Marylou(Quilty)
& Emily McDonald*

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Curtis Squires

*Given by Wife (Marion), Children &
Grandchildren*

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**Reginald Squires
Annie Squires
David Squires
Gregery Squires
Elsie Squires
Joan Squires**

Given by the Family

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**Parents: Wilfred & Effie Edmonds
Jesse & Theresa Osmond
Sister: Marjorie Collins
Neice: Janet Edmonds**

*Given by Russell & Joan Osmond &
family*

Dec. 18th

Fourth Sunday of
Advent

Scriptural Sentence
(Page 271)

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

1st Reading
Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalm 80:
1-7, 17-18
Pages 812-814

(Todd Martin)

2nd Reading
Romans 1: 1-7

(Betty Lewis)

Gospel
Matthew 1: 18-25

(Deacon Bonnell)

Dec. 24th

The Eve of
Christmas

Scriptural Sentence
(Page 273)

*I bring you good
news of a great joy
which will come to
all the people for to
you is born this day
a Saviour, Christ
the Lord.*

1st Reading
Isaiah 9: 2-7

Psalm 96
Page 834

(Todd Martin)

2nd Reading
Titus 2: 11-14

(Betty Lewis)

Gospel
Luke 2: 1-20

(Deacon Bonnell)