

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): Nicole Chafe, Randy & Marie Chafe, Stephen and Angela Chatman, Dawn Cheeseman, Joyce Clark and their families.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Sokoto (Nigeria) - Rt Revd Augustin Omole, El Salvador (Central America) – Rt Revd Juan David Alvarado Melgar.

Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Central Newfoundland Synod office staff – Rt Rev. John Watton, Ven. Terry Caines, Ms. Ada Fudge, Ms. Lori Wheaton, Rev. Harvey Bullen – Wellness Officer, Rt. Rev. Donald Young – Tri-Diocesan Officer.

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
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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 15th, 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:

Late autumn and early winter are times of great seasonal change. The leaves turn brilliant colors, then fade and fall. Shadows lengthen as the days grow shorter and colder. Vacations and the warmth of summer are distant memories and we are reminded once again that the things of this world last but a moment and then pass away. Even so, we look forward as well. Christmas can be a wonderful time of year. Likewise, the winter ahead has its delights. Few can deny the beauty of falling snow and the childlike excitement a winter storm can arouse. Advent draws us spiritually into this season of change, longing, and expectation. As the days grow shorter and the darkness increases we continue to light candles on our Advent wreath and remember that Jesus is the true light of the world, the light that shines in the darkness. These lit candles also symbolize our ongoing commitment to come out of the darkness into God's own marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). There is a gospel song that says, "Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright." Just as the darkness of winter gives birth to the new life of spring, so too Advent brings us into the glorious light of Jesus Christ, and, from despair arises new love, peace, joy and hope into our world and into our lives. The hardest lesson for human beings to learn is that nothing we amass in this life in terms of material possessions and wealth is going to last, and that true and everlasting riches are found within. That house we live comfortably in, that nice car we drive, or whatever

else we have around us, in due time will come to pass as will we ourselves, and all that is left is of a spiritual nature, and that is the best thing of all. Recently, I came across a list of the world's richest people, and, at the very top was a gentleman with a net worth of 110 Billion dollars. That's a hard number to wrap our heads around, but to put it into perspective here are some fun things we can do with this number – It is equivalent to earning almost 55 million dollars for every year since the birth of Jesus – If you have a half million dollar home you could purchase 220,000 similar homes- if you live to be 100 years old you will have earned \$125,570.00 for every hour you lived. You get the point – 110 billion dollars is a massive amount of money. The truth is you can amass this kind of wealth and still be poorer than a beggar on the street. Jesus teaches us that true wealth comes from within, and, if our lives are centered on accumulating money and material things for ourselves to a point that we have no time for other people, for worship, for prayer, and being generous with what God has given us, then we have missed the mark. Advent helps us to focus on what is really important in this life, and that we have much to do in preparing for the next life. As Advent helps us prepare our hearts and lives to welcome the Christ child that came more than 2000 years ago, it also helps us capture the bigger picture – that life here is a beautiful gift from God, to be treasured and lived to the fullest, but God expects us to live it to the glory of God, to be doing good unto one another, to not hoard earthly treasures for ourselves at the expense of the poor and vulnerable among us. What we do with God's gifts is a reflection of who we are in relationship with God. May this Advent indeed be a time for reflection in our lives and, if we need to tweak a few things, it is also a glorious opportunity to do so.

(Rev. Randy)

CHILDREN'S PAGE



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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***The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me to
bring good tidings to the afflicted.***

3rd of Advent – Dec. 15th.

8:30 am – Holy Communion (BCP)

Eucharistic Assistant – Todd Martin

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Eucharistic Assistants – Carol Bartlett & Lori Gosse

Counters: John Parrell & Gloria Earle

Sidesperson: Canon Don Morgan

**Altar Duty: Jeanette Osmond, Phoebe Parrell &
Joan Osmond**

4th 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

**The Collect, Epistle
and Gospel for
Today – 3rd
Sunday of Advent**

**1st Reading:
Isaiah 35: 1-10**

**Psalms 146: 4-9
Page: 905**

(Ruth)

**2nd Reading:
James 5: 7-10**

(Harve)

**Gospel
Matthew 11: 2-11**

(Deacon Bonnell)

NOTICES

Dec. 15 - Today is the third Sunday of Advent, a reminder that Christmas Eve is drawing ever closer. The theme of this Sunday is that of *Joy*, imagine the joy of those who were present that first Christmas when Jesus came into the world. That joy still fills our hearts this time of year especially. When we consider the themes of the four weeks of Advent – hope, peace, joy and love, if we have all of these in our lives then we are very much living as God desires us to live. Please continue with us through the Advent season and let us prepare ourselves for the birth of the Christ-child.

Dec. 17 - The Christmas Tree of Memories will be lit this Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm. Today will be the last day to get your memorial names added to the list. We will gather at 7:00 pm, Rev. Randy will offer a prayer, read all the names of deceased ones in whose memory the tree will be lit, the lights of the tree will be officially turned on, and will be kept on throughout the Christmas season. We are then going into the parish centre for hot chocolate, Timbits and Christmas music. All are invited to come including the children.

Dec. 22 - Christmas party & Pageant rehearsal next Sunday, 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.

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 **7:30 pm** (Holy Eucharist).

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.

As we draw near to Christmas we look forward to the participation of our children at the 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.

Good luck Benjamin - Today is Benjamin's last day with us as our catechist. It has been a pleasure having him with us for the past 2½ months. We wish him well in his discernment process towards ordination.

Best Wishes to Canon Shirley Gosse on the 27th anniversary of her ordination to the Priesthood.

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)*

Coastal Sounds Choir Association is proud to present its 12th Annual Holiday Concert featuring Aurora Women's Choir, Coastal Sounds Community Choir, Queen Elizabeth High School Choir, and a presentation of the 7th Annual Christmas Cantata Project with massed choir and orchestra. Wed, **Dec. 18, 7:30pm**, All Saints Parish, Foxtrap. Tickets \$18/\$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Children 12 & under free. Get yours at www.coastalsounds.ca, via Facebook, from a choir member, or leave a message at 770-6927 to arrange pick-up. Food Bank donations are greatly appreciated. A scent-free event.

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.

Church Chuckle

After the sermon, Rev'd Larry asked the children what the word 'Amen' means. A little boy's hand shot up, "I know", he chirped. "It means, 'Tha-tha-tha-that's all folks!'"



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Prayerfully consider your Parish in your Estate planning.

Stewardship thought for the Week
"Support your church. You can't take your money with you, but you can send it on ahead!"

Yearly Budget for Envelope Giving for 2019 - \$97,000.00 Needed Monthly - \$ 8,741.67 Needed Weekly - \$ 2,108.00	
Rec'd Dec. 8th	
Regular Giving	\$ 2,314.66
Maintenance	\$ 460.00
Rec'd Year to Date	
Regular Giving	\$ 76,439.72
Maintenance	\$ 11,082.10
Total Brought in for Dec. 8th	\$ 5,295.95