

*Dismissal Song*

*“Go Now in Peace”*

*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.*

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) 709-693-8537 / (Church) 709-895-0715

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](http://www.anglicanparishofstphilip.com)

Rector's Warden – Gloria Earle – 709-895-3404

People's Warden – Gary King- 709-895-6239

**December 2023 (Year B)**

**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:***

We are about to begin a new liturgical church year, as we come to the first Sunday of Advent (Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>). Keep in mind that the church calendar is a little different than the regular calendar we use from January to December. Our Anglican church makes use of three cycles, A B & C, each with its own set of lectionary readings and collects. With the first Sunday of Advent, we are now transitioning from Year "A" into year "B", we will follow this cycle until the first Sunday of Advent next year, 2024. Using this common lectionary of A B C, in the course of three years practically the whole of the bible is read at our Sunday morning worship services. There is no other denomination, I believe, that places greater emphasis on the proclamation of scripture than the Anglican church. In addition to this we are very structured so as to observe all the feast days as they occur in the course of the year. So, welcome to Advent 2023, I invite you to join us for the journey through Advent into Christmas. Celebrating Advent involves spending time in spiritual preparation for the coming birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. In Western Christianity, the season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. This year, because Christmas Eve falls on the 4th Sunday of Advent, we will observe it during our Christmas Eve services.

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which Christians are called to make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Celebrating Advent typically involves a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy. Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of the age. The word *advent* comes from the Latin term *adventus* meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly the coming of something having great importance. Advent season, then, is both a time of joy-filled, anticipatory celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ and a preparatory period of repentance, meditation, and penance. One of the important symbols that the Anglican church uses to mark the Sundays of Advent is the traditional Advent wreath. The wreath, a large circle, often with evergreen branches, that has no beginning and no end, symbolizes the eternal nature of God. There are 5 candles on the wreath, each one represents a theme of Advent and Christmas. Each Sunday of Advent, we light one candle to represent the theme for that Sunday, *Hope, Peace, Joy* and *Love*, the 5<sup>th</sup> candle, which is normally larger and white in color, occupies a space in the middle of the wreath, we call this one *The Christ Candle*, and it is lit at the Christmas Eve service. As each candle is lit during the weeks of Advent and Christmas, there are special prayers to remind us of Jesus' call for us to be people of hope, to strive for peace, to find joy in our Christian lives, and to love God and one another. The Christ Candle of Christmas reminds us that Jesus is the one we worship, that he is indeed the reason for the season.

We live in a very perilous time, there is much chaos and evil in the world. Though the world has always known chaos and evil, there might well be an argument to say that in the present day it is unprecedented. As we consider world events, such as war in Ukraine, the Middle East, political oppression, Cyber security threats, ethnic conflicts, racism, targeting of people and places of worship simply because they don't worship God in the same way, increase in violent crime in all our communities, mass shootings, continued destruction of our planet because of greed, leading to intense weather patterns and disasters, and the list goes on and on. Unless humanity becomes a lot better in observing the themes of Advent - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love we are in serious trouble. One need not be a Christian to see that we are destroying ourselves, and the very home we live, planet earth, and radical change is needed to save us all. The good news is – there is always hope. Christians are never without hope for a better world, and Advent calls us to work hard to make a difference. The church is tasked with a responsibility to challenge, and hold accountable, those who set policy and enact laws that are detrimental to the world we live in. The Anglican church, for many years, have been a powerful voice against greed, injustice, oppression, and devastating the earth; advocating tirelessly for peace, sustainability, equity, equality, and justice for everyone. We take seriously our call by God to be good stewards of God's creation. We recognize that, just as we hold others accountable, we too are accountable to God for what we do or, equally important, don't do to make our world a better place for everyone, including generations yet unborn. The world is experiencing a very difficult time on so many fronts, and Advent reminds us of who we are, and what our responsibility is to God, to each other, and to the earth God created and entrusted to our care. The good news is that God is still in control, and desiring that we acknowledge the error of our ways, and, in faith, service and obedience, find ways to make our world a much brighter and beautiful place for everyone. We are all created equally in God's sight, loved equally, and it is God's great desire that we be blessed equally. It is indeed true that the main reason of poverty, disease, and starvation is not a lack of resources, but one of greed. Statistically, nearly 85% of the wealth of the world is controlled by less than 10% of the population. Year after year the wealthiest become even wealthier, while the poor become poorer. We saw this profoundly during the pandemic, when corporate greed really kicked into overdrive. The call of Advent is a call to share with those who have so much less, as an expression of gratitude for what God has given to us.

I invite you, again, to join with us in this Advent season, to pray, to give, and to work toward the kind of world God created it to be. We don't give up and accept it as it is, that would be a sign of hopelessness, and, again, we are people of perpetual hope. When we get through the Sundays of Advent and come into Christmas, then we really get a reminder of the God we serve. A God, who loves us enough to take on flesh and be born as one of us, In Jesus Christ, just to show us the way. A God who never gives up on us, and, hopefully, a God we never give up on either. Hope, Peace, Joy and love, that's who we are, and that's what we are called to. Blessings!

*Rev. Randy*

**Parish Recycling program** is something we are very proud of in our parish. This is a project taken on by our men's group (ACM) many years ago and still going strong. Residents of the town drop off their bottles and cans at several designated sites, our men pick it up and take it to the recycling trailer, where it gets sorted, counted and bagged every Monday night. Once we have enough its placed on a trailer and taken to the recycling depot in St. John's. In addition to keeping a lot of stuff out of the landfill, it brings much needed money into our parish budget. There is a need for extra volunteers that can spare about two hours on a Monday night (7-9 pm) to come along and help out. If you can do this, please speak to our ACM president, Gary King at 709-895-6239.

**Maintenance Fund.** The work we undertook this summer was possible because we had a very healthy maintenance fund, therefore, we did not need to borrow the money. Now that the work is done, we need to rebuild our fund again for future work that arises. We have been using the maintenance fund as well for the past 7 years to repay the loan we acquired to install the geo-thermal heating system. We are happy to say this will be paid off fully this coming November, for which we give thanks. We can't stress too much the importance of building up our maintenance fund, because it enables us to look after the physical structure of our building, so that necessary work gets done in a timely fashion because we have the money to do it. Please keep being generous with your contributions to our parish maintenance fund.

**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](mailto:lockyerrandy@gmail.com)

**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](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsanglicanchurch)

**THE BULLETIN FOR THE  
Month of December  
IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

**Parents**

**Arthur Robert & Alice Squires  
Albert Sr. & Susannah Morgan**

**Brothers:**

**Arthur William Squires  
Eric Johnson Squires  
Graham Albert Morgan Jr.  
Wilfred Morgan**

**Brother-in-law:**

**Stanley Richards**

**Sisters:**

**Drucilla Butt  
Mary Normore  
Bertha Martin**

**Grandparents:**

**Christine & Gordon Tucker  
Florence & William Squires**

**and all departed relatives  
& loved ones**

**Given By:**

**Florence & Canon Don Morgan**

**Husband & Father**

**Leslie McDonald**

**Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1936 – Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

**Given By:**

**Emily, Cindy & Mary-Lou**

**Sunday School.** We are asking all parents who would like to enrol their children to please speak to Rev. Randy, Lori Gosse or Stephanie Smith. We also are in need of parents to volunteer to help out as well. We hope to get everything up and going soon so that we can begin planning our Christmas Eve pageant.

**Columbarium niches** are still available for purchase. Approximately 40 of the 48 available have been sold since they were first installed in 2016. The cost is still \$3000 (no tax if purchased from the church, funeral home will charge tax) The plan is to install more of them once these are sold, however, the cost of future units will be determined by the cost of purchase and installation at that time. Anyone requiring more information about the columbarium is asked to speak to the Rector.

**Help needed in our Sound Room on Sunday mornings?** There is a real need for volunteers to control the microphones, etc. during our morning services so that we have the right volume and everyone can hear what is being said. This would be a great thing for some of our young people to get involved with, they have lots of technical ability for sure. We would also like to get back to using our screens on a more regular basis as well. Speak to Rev. Randy about it.

**The church piano has now been professionally tuned.** It has been at least 7 years since the piano has been tuned, and we hope to use it over Christmas, especially for our family service on Christmas Eve. In addition to the tuning, it required a little fixing, as one of the keys was broken. We ask that anytime the piano is used and needs to be moved, that it be done so very gently, so as to keep it sounding good.

**Thank you to Karen Puglisevich, and Courtney Melindy for hosting our morning Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.** Taking the time to share together and get to know one another better is a wonderful way of growing together as a parish family. Our next scheduled Coffee Hour will be Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to share.

**Both our ACW (women's group) and our ACM (men's group)** have resumed their regular monthly meetings soon. We want to issue an invitation to any of the ladies or the men to feel free to join in with the meetings, and to be part of the activities that they undertake throughout the year on behalf of the parish.

**To those who hold keys to the building** we want to stress the importance of ensuring the building is securely locked after every usage. As a rule, if you unlock a door please lock it after, even if someone else is in the building. Ensure all windows are closed and locked, all lights are out and the door locked. Not often, but occasionally a door gets left unlocked all through the night, so please be extra vigilant in securing the building.

**Our choir and organists have resumed their weekly practices soon.** If you have an interest in joining the choir we would love to have you. What a joy it would be to have enough in the choir to need to use the seats on the other side of the chancel. We welcome people of all ages.

**Canon Shirley continues to look after our Sunday readings and reader lists.** In the past year we added a couple of new readers to the list, but would love to have even more. If you would like to be one of our readers on a Sunday morning please speak to Canon Shirley.

**Altar Servers are needed.** We welcome any young people in our congregation that would like to serve at the altar to please speak to Rev. Randy. Duties include things such as lighting and putting out the candles, carrying the cross, helping with Communion, etc. Canon Morgan did some extensive training with a group of adults as well in the past year, so we would like to get them involved in this ministry as well this year.

**Our Food Bank boxes** are still in the foyer and we welcome donations of non-perishable food items to be dropped into them. Once they are full we take them to the Pop-Up Pantry (food bank) at St. Lawrence's church.

## **NOTICES /MEMORABLE DATES**

**December 17** - If you would like to contribute to the **Christmas Flower Fund**, forms are available in the rack off the foyer. You may also place your information on a piece of paper, which should include your name, envelope number, names of loved ones in whose memory you are contributing, put it in a plain envelope and mark it CHRISTMAS FLOWERS. The deadline to get your information and donation in will be Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**December 17 (Draw Date)** - ACW are selling tickets on a **huge Christmas stocking**. It is one of their major fundraisers for the month of December, as they prepare to make their annual contribution to the parish budget, we ask for your support by purchasing tickets, the cost is 3 tickets for \$5.00

**December 19** – Annual Christmas Tree of Remembrance will take place on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We will assemble at the church foyer, where Rev. Randy will read the names of those in whose memory the tree will be lit, there will be a prayer of remembrance, followed by the lighting of the tree. The forms for this can be found at the back of the church, and they should be returned on or before Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**December 24** - Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, so **our services will be as follows** – 4:00 pm family worship and children participation, 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist and 11:00 pm Holy Eucharist. Please note that the usual Sunday morning worship will not occur on Christmas Eve. There will also be a 9:30 am service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day.

## ***Congratulations!***

**Canon Don Morgan** on the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Canon Shirley Gosse** on the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of her ordination to the Priesthood on December 21.

**The Christmas cards, depicting our church**, produced by Dawn Cheeseman, are available again this year. A package of 5 cards is \$10.00 If you would like to order your cards again this year please speak to Dawn at church or call her at 709-685-4851.

**Children are encouraged to sign up for the Christmas pageant at the 4:00 pm Family Service on Christmas Eve.** Please encourage your child(ren) or grandchildren to get involved by speaking to Rev. Randy or one of our Sunday School teachers, Stephanie Smith or Lori Gosse. We only have three weeks to prepare.

**Congregational participation is welcome for our 4:00 pm Family Service on Christmas Eve.** We always look forward to members of the parish sharing their gift of music and song at Christmas, and would love to have you perform again this year. We welcome all musical instruments, and, if you play piano, we have just tuned the church piano in preparation for Christmas and it sounds terrific. If you would like to do something at the service, please let Rev. Randy know as he prepares the liturgy.

**We are now into the month of December**, which means parishioners have just a few more Sundays to get their yearly offerings into the church before our books close for the year. Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, will be the final Sunday to get your envelopes in for 2023 to be receipted. All offerings after this date will be receipted for 2024. Your faithful support of St. Philip's parish enables us each year to meet our financial obligations, and remain a strong and viable parish. With your generous support we will end 2023 on a strong financial footing and embark on a new year together. Thank you for all you do!!

**March 17, 2024** - The date of the bishop's visit to our parish for Confirmation is Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Please keep the young people in prayer as they prepare for this special day.

**December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Scriptural Sentence**

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

**1st Reading**

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Canticle 18

Page: 86

**(Rev. Russell Osmond)**

**2nd Reading**

1<sup>st</sup> Thes 5: 16-24

**(Joan Osmond)**

**Gospel**

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

**(Deacon Ed Bonnell)**

**Collects & Prayers**

**Collect** – 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.

**Prayer over the Gifts** – 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** – 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

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Celebrating the Birth of Jesus**

**Scriptural Sentence**

*"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

**(Canon Don Morgan)**

**2nd Reading**

Titus 2: 11-14

**(Todd Martin)**

**Gospel**

Luke 2: 1-20

**(Deacon Ed Bonnell)**

**Collects & Prayers**

**Collect** – 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 for ever. Amen.

**Prayer over the Gifts** – 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 for ever. Amen

**Prayer after Communion** – 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

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Day**

**Scriptural Sentence**

*"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 62: 6-12

Psalm 97

Page: 835

**(Harve Hiscock)**

**2nd Reading**

Titus 3: 4-7

**(Ruth Hiscock)**

**Gospel**

Luke 2: 8-20

**(Deacon Ed Bonnell)**

**Collects & Prayers**

**Collect** – O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Prayer over the Gifts** – Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord now and for ever. 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

**December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**The Epiphany of Our Lord**

**Scriptural Sentence**

*"We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."*

**1st Reading**

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

Pages : 797-798

**(Brenda Harding)**

**2nd Reading**

Ephesians 3: 1-12

**(Betty Lewis)**

**Gospel**

Matthew 2: 1-12

**(Deacon Ed Bonnell)**

**Collects & Prayers**

**Collect** – Eternal God, who by a star led wisemen to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; 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** – Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

**Prayer after Communion** – God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen