



**St. John's Anglican Church**  
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: The Rev. Michael H. Mitchell

*To all who mourn or need comfort  
To all who are weary and need rest,  
To all who seek friendship,  
To all who desire to grow in relationship with God  
To all who yearn to pray,  
To all who need a Saviour, And to all whoever will worship,  
This Church of St. John's opens wide its doors  
and in the name of Christ our Lord, says - WELCOME.*



Welcome to the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a Season of Expectation. Expectations are tricky things. We sometimes expect far too little, or nothing at all. We can become deadened to hope, because the world and its sadness seem to continue plodding along the same old road. Or, we try our best to keep expectations high, but end up expecting the wrong things.

Writing of Advent, scripture scholar Brian Peterson says, "As we enter the season of Advent, the culture around us is expecting booming business, successful shopping, and family gatherings that warm the heart. Our culture wants to start December with upbeat economic projections and high celebrations. Instead, the church begins Advent with a reminder that we and the world are still in need of salvation. Today's scriptures show God's people at the end of their rope and there is an apocalypse. We're looking for manger scenes, and instead we get a crumbling temple. We're looking for that shining star over the stable, and we get the stars themselves falling from the sky. We're ready for a birth, and we are presented with the End. The words, "You better watch out," are probably ringing in our ears from the store music. They now take on a more urgent tone – Christ is coming as Lord of all, so watch out! Keep awake!"

Advent calls us back to hope – a hope that we can't save ourselves – only God alone can do it, in Jesus Christ. As the weeks of Advent unfold, the tone of warning gives way to expectant joy for the coming of a Saviour in the Child Jesus.

Advent moves backwards. It begins at the End, and it ends by moving back to the beginning of the story of Jesus. Let us focus upon waiting in hope for the joyful coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Have a great week!

*Michael+*

**LAY MINISTERS TODAY**

**Lay Readers:** 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer; **Server:** 10:30 am Brooklyn Green  
10:30 am Velvet Eliuk, Holly Mitchell, Susan MacMillan  
**Lectors:** 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer, Laura Roblee; 10:30 am Sunday School  
**Sidespersons:** 10:30 am Penny & Graham Pratt

**NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 6TH**

**Lay Readers:** 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer; **Server:** 10:30 am Eric Pottie  
10:30 am Penny Pratt, Charlene Demone, Graham Pratt  
**Lectors:** 8:30 am Sandra & Ed Jordan  
10:30am Eric Pottie, Christina Pottie  
**Sidespersons:** 10:30 am Hazel & Fred Oliver

# Family Service

**Prelude: Voluntary in D - Alcock**

## Announcements

*Please stand for Processional Hymn*

**Processional Hymn #102** Prepare the Way, O Zion

## The Gathering of the Community

**Celebrant** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**People** **And also with you.**

### The Lighting of the Candle for the First Sunday in Advent and the Blessing of the Jesse Tree

## The Collect of the Day

**Celebrant** Let us pray that our lives will bear witness to our faith.

*The community may pray silently. The celebrant then sings or says the collect.*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."  
*JEREMIAH 33:14-16*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM REFRAIN



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. **R**

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. **R**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly. All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. **R**

*PSALM 25:1-9*

### A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** *1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13*

### Gradual Hymn #94 Wait For the Lord



The Lord be with you. **People** **And also with you.**  
**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**ACCORDING TO LUKE** **People** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man

coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." LUKE 21:25-36  
The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Reflection and Children's Message

**The Apostles Creed** *In song let us confess the faith of our baptism,*

We believe in God the Father, **Refrain: We believe, we believe.**  
We believe he is the Holy One, **R.**  
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Lord, **R.**  
We believe he is God's only Son, **R.**  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; For us he died and was buried; On the third day he rose again.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, **R.**  
We believe in the Holy Church of God, **R.**  
We believe in God's forgiveness, The resurrection from the dead.  
We believe in life everlasting, We believe, we believe. Amen.  
We believe. Amen. We believe.

**The Prayers of the People** *Please kneel or sit for the prayers.*  
**Response: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.**

## Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.  
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*All* Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
pardon + and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace** *All stand, and the celebrant addresses the people.*  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord.*

**The Offertory Hymn #109** When the King Shall Come Again

*Each one as they are able, makes an offering to the Lord for the needs and responsibilities of the Church to be placed on the altar.*

**The Prayer over the Gifts** *Read by celebrant*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*That we might stand in hopeful expectation, we pray:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## LIKE A CHILD

LIKE A CHILD



1. like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend like a
2. like a child we will meet rag - ged clothes dirt - y feet like a
3. like a child born to pray and to show us the way like a



1. child and a friend Je - sus comes like a child we may find claim - ing
2. child on the street Je - sus comes like a child we once knew com - ing
3. child here to stay Je - sus comes like a child we re - ceive all that



1. heart soul and mind like a child strong and kind Je - sus comes
2. back in - to view like a child born a - new Je - sus comes
3. love can con - ceive like a child we be - lieve Je - sus comes

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## Doxology

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
**in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Advent Blessing & Dismissal

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Go in joyful hope to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Recessional Hymn #97 Jesus came, the Heavens Adoring

## Postlude: Allegro in D - James

The Worship has Ended. Our Service Begins.

## NOTICES

### PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance)

In case of illness or absence from the parish, you can still ensure that you are able to make your offering to God and the support of the parish. By using PAR, you are able to do so. Please get your form at the Parish office to sign up. It is a great way to make your contributions to the parish all year long, especially the "snow birds" who will soon be thinking of leaving Lunenburg for the winter months.

Church calendars are \$4.00 and available from Hazel Oliver 634-3236.

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS



It is the tradition at St. John's for parishioners to make a special contribution to the church in memory of Departed Loved Ones at Christmas. The **Discretionary Fund** to help local people in need is extremely low in funding. Donations are greatly appreciated for this fund. As well gifts may be made to the **Memorial Fund**, the Altar Guild for the **Flower Fund**, the **Food Bank** or another Fund of your choice. Kindly contact Mary at the Parish Office no later than December 11<sup>th</sup> so that acknowledgements can be included in our Christmas bulletins. Again this year we are placing a limited number of **Wreaths** in the church for \$25.00 in Memory of Loved Ones.

### ST. NICHOLAS

**CHECK THIS ONE** - The Sunday School will be hosting a time of **fellowship and refreshments** following the 10:30 am service at the Parish Hall in celebration of St Nicholas on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to join in the fun.

The **Ladies Guild** have prepared **Christmas Cranberries** once again this year. They will be available for sale after the 8:30 and 10:30 church services in December.

### WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

Each year members of the parish give something special that will go to some needy person at Christmas. The Salvation Army which administers the Christmas Daddies program requests that the gifts **not** be wrapped. **White Gift Sunday** will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Parishioners are asked to bring gifts suitable for a boy, girl, adult male or adult female.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Sunday School Family Fun night is Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. This is a night filled with fun for the whole family, yes Mom & Dad that means you too! We are going to have crafts, cookie decorating and some munchies. Any questions call Jenn at 640-2088.



The **Mission to Seafarers Christmas Shoe Box Program** helps to make Christmas a little more special for each seafarer when away from home at this special time of year. It would be appreciated if members of this parish would support this program again by preparing a shoe box sized gift that includes a woolen hat, scarf, gloves or mitts, socks, men's toiletries such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush and disposable razor, playing cards, hard candy and a small memento of your community or area. A Christmas card with your return address is optional. The top and bottom of the box can be wrapped separately. You can drop off your shoe box gifts at the church or Parish Office by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Pick up your **Advent/Christmas Newsletter** before leaving church today. As well, the **offering envelopes for 2009** are ready for pick up. It would be appreciated if you could help by delivering to a neighbour or friend.

The **Royal Canadian College of Organists** presents its annual **Carol Festival at All Saints Cathedral on Monday, December 7, at 7 p.m.** (Snow date: December 8) The unofficial launch of the festive season presents local choirs (including members of St. John's) with individual and massed selections of favourite Advent and Christmas music combined with congregational carols in concert with pipe organ and brass ensemble. A free will offering supports RCCO educational projects.

Musique Royale presents **A King's Christmas** with Kings College Chapel Choir directed by Paul Halley on **Friday, December 11 at 7:30 pm.** Narrator is Neil Robertson with special guest soprano Suzie LeBlanc. The concert is repeated at All Saints Cathedral in Halifax on Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 pm. The performance will be recorded by CBC for broadcast on Christmas Day (Radio 1 and 2). Tickets are \$20 (\$10 for students at the door) and are available at Fulton's Pharmacy or through Ruth at 634-9994

The **Symphony Nova Scotia concert with MIR** which took place at St. John's last evening was recorded by CBC in Halifax and will also be heard nationally (Radio 1 and 2) on Christmas Day.

Another special musical event follows our **Service of Lessons and Carols on December 20.** The service is at 10:30 am but you are invited back in the afternoon to enjoy an afternoon of seasonal storytelling and music with **Blue Engine String Quartet** and actress **Shelley Thompson.** Produced by Willpower Theatre in association with St. Cecilia Concert Series, this

performance marries music composed and arranged by Chris Palmer for the Quartet with original short stories by Thompson, first commissioned by CBC Halifax. Palmer weaves Christmas music and popular songs from World War II into the first of these seasonal offerings, December 1945, which moves between a frozen Nova Scotian river and a French battlefield. **Bowls of Cheer**, the second story, is a light-hearted tale of Christmas mis-communications on a Maritime family farm at the turn of the century. Complimentary tickets are available to members of St. John's congregation. Please see Barbara or call 624-0506. It would be a pleasure to share both the Service of Lessons and Carols and the afternoon's presentation with you. A short carol sing will also be included in the afternoon performance.

**Music and Meditation** ~ Wednesdays at noon throughout Advent. The public is cordially invited to attend these half hour presentations. Our guests will be Chris Norman, flute (December 2); Pamela Rogers, mezzo-soprano (December 9); Ernst Family Singers (December 16) and Judith Burdett (December 23)

The **Lunenburg Chorale, Women's Chorus** presents '*Coming to Christmas*' directed by Jane Kristenson with accompanist, Heather Kristenson. Sunday, November 29 at Central United Church, Lunenburg and Monday, November 30 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Mahone Bay both at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at the door or from Rosemary Smith.

The **South Shore Chorale and Bridgewater Fire Dept. Band** will present an evening of entertainment at St. John's Anglican Church Saturday, December 12 at 7:30 pm. A 2<sup>nd</sup> performance will take place at Bridgewater United Church on Sunday, December 13 at 3 pm. Admission is \$12.00, Seniors over 65 \$10.00, Students over 12 \$10.00, under 12 \$5.00. Tickets are available from Band and Chorale members as well as Fulton's Pharmacy, Lunenburg and Sagor's Book store, Bridgewater.

**First Steps Early Intervention** are holding a Ham & Bean Luncheon at St. James Anglican Church, Mahone Bay on December 5 at 11 am - 2 pm. Adults \$9.00, Children 5 - 12 \$5.00, Under 5 Free.

**Diocesan Cycle:** Pray for the Parish of Amherst, Archdeacon Glenn Eason and Terry Lea, Rev'd Charlotte Ross, Assistant Priest, and Dale; the Parish of Parrsboro with Port Greville, Rev'd Tory Byrne.  
**Fisheries:** Adams & Knickle - **Freedom 99**; Clearwater - **Atlantic Preserver**; Tall Ship - **Fryderyk Chopin.** Please pray for inshore lobster fishermen as they prepare for the opening season on Monday.

