



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.*

Rector's Message



Friends, the Third Sunday of Advent is also known as **Gaudete Sunday**, from the Latin word that means 'Rejoice'. We rejoice because the celebration of Christmas is near, and because the one foretold by John the Baptist has come into the world to save us from our sins.

Our liturgy speaks to us, people who are too often so sad, of God as the Lord of the dance: the Lord is happy to come among us: God will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival. We are not used to thinking of the 'Lord of the Dance,' yet it is a beautiful biblical image of God. It is a feast for the Lord to be with us. Is it a feast for us too? Let us open ourselves to the joy of the coming and lasting presence among us of the Lord himself. He comes to us with his peace, his love, and his forgiveness, not only on the great feast of Christmas but in every Eucharist and every day when we are willing to make God's love and peace grow in us and in our world. Lord, we are happy that you are here among us.

John came to testify to the light. He pointed out the Messiah by his exclamation, "*Behold, the Lamb of God!*" John was the voice for the Eternal Word of God, announcing His coming through his message of repentance.

No matter what our personal circumstances, we are invited to Rejoice, for the Lord is near. Rejoice, the Lord is here. Rejoice, here with us is the Lord Jesus. Now with him we can give proper thanks to our Father. Have a great week. Michael+

LAY MINISTERS TODAY
Lay Readers: **8:30 am** Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Sharon Green, Roger Demone, Holly Mitchell
Lectors: **8:30 am** Gill Osmond, Shirley Woods **10:30 am** Grace & Ron Swan
Server: Alex Knickle; **Sidespersons:** Fred & Hazel Oliver
NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 20th
Lay Readers: **8:30 am** Sharon Green
10:30 am Susan MacMillan, Sheila Morris, Penny Pratt
Lectors: **8:30 am** Laura Roblee, Shirley Woods
10:30 am Rosemary Smith, Louis Quennelle; **Server:** Brooklyn Green
Sidespersons: Jim & Viola Green

The Holy Eucharist

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude: Prelude on 'This Endris Nyght' - Willan

Please stand for Processional Hymn

Processional Hymn #95 O Come, Divine Messiah

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.

All **And also with you.**

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

'We Wait in Joyful Expectation' - Please refer to the Bulletin Insert.

The Collect of the Day *Read by celebrant.*

Celebrant Let us pray in joyful expectation.

God, source of all happiness, your Son Jesus Christ brought to us and to all, glad tidings of your pardon and life. Our hearts remain restless until they find rest and peace in you. Let your joy be our joy, your love be our love, your acceptance of us be our welcome to all our brothers and sisters. With Jesus in our midst, may our communities be happy and be a foretaste, even in trials, of the lasting joy you have prepared for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord. **ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20**

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



CANTICLE - (ISAIAH 12:2-6)

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, and he will be my Saviour. **R**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his name is exalted. **R**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

Anthem - Be Peace on Earth by William Crotch

~ Guest Soloist - Judith Burdett

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

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

Gradual Hymn #107 Prepare the Way of the Lord

Gospel

Reader 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**



John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them,

"Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. **LUKE 3:7-18**

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles Creed *Let us confess the faith of our baptism:*
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.*

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn #624 O Thou Who Camest from Above

Representatives of the parish present the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist. 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.*

Lord, God of life and happiness, your Son Jesus won the joy of his resurrection through painful suffering and death. With him we want to accept tensions and pain without losing our inner peace, to possess without attachment and to love without complete fulfillment, to cherish ourselves without deserting others, to work for the future without reaping results and to encounter Christ, without knowing him fully. Let this be our offering to you that brings us your joy for ever and ever. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer #S 3

Sung Setting "The Mass of Creation" by Marty Haugen.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface for Advent

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. We praise you Lord, with all the angels, in their song of joy.

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power, God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost. Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. *(Sung)*
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving. May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours almighty Father, now and forever. *People Amen. (Sung)*

The Lord's Prayer

In joyful expectation, we join with Christians everywhere, saying:

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says:

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
All Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and says,

The gifts of God for the People of God.
All Thanks be to God.

The Communion

**Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Bread of life, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Prince of Peace you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

The celebrant and people then receive communion.

The body of Christ (given for you). The blood of Christ (shed for you).
The communicant responds each time, Amen.

*This community of faith,
welcomes to the Lord's table
all who are baptized and who wish to be nourished
with the Body and Blood of Christ.*

During Communion, hymns may be sung and silence may be kept.

Communion Hymn:

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel**

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray. *Standing, the community prays in silence.*

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**

Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,

All **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.**

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 # 108 Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding

Postlude: Agincourt Carol – arr. Healey Willan

An Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, come into our world and heal its wounds;
Come into our homes and make them holy;
Come into our work and make it fruitful;
come into thy church and save it from falling;
Come into our minds and keep them clear;
Come into our lives and make them good;
Come quickly, Lord Jesus.
Amen

NOTICES

Our **Annual Service of Lessons and Carols** with St. John's Chancel Choir takes place next Sunday morning at 10:30 am. In the afternoon please join us at 2 pm for **Bowls of Cheer** – an afternoon of seasonal storytelling and music with **Blue Engine String Quartet** and actress **Shelley Thompson**. Bowls of Cheers is a performance that 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. A short carol sing concludes the performance. Complimentary tickets are available for members of the congregation. Please see Barbara or call 624-9994 for tickets. It would be a pleasure to share both the Service of Lessons and Carols and the afternoon's presentation with you. Do join us in the church hall afterwards for hot apple cider.

Special music before the **Family Service on Christmas Eve at 4 pm** will include St. John's Ringers and a carol sing prior to the service. Music before **Holy Eucharist at 10 pm on Christmas Eve** will include St. John's Ringers and a brass quartet.

A King's Christmas with Kings College Chapel Choir directed by Paul Halley and the **Symphony Nova Scotia concert with MIR** were taped by CBC for broadcast and can be heard on Christmas Day (Radio 1 and 2).

Music and Meditation ~ Our series continues each Wednesday at noon throughout Advent. Coming up: Ernst Family Singers (December 16) and Judith Burdett (December 23). The public is cordially invited to attend these half hour presentations.

PLEASE NOTE:

The **Ladies Guild** have prepared **Christmas Cranberries** once again. They are available for sale after both church services in December.

Help an African Grandmother Raise a Child Orphaned by AIDS - Christmas Donation Cards from the Stephen Lewis Foundation available for purchase this Christmas season.

They have a picture of children from the Girl Child Network and the note inside says, "I wanted to give you a gift that is truly meaningful by making a donation in your honour to the Stephen Lewis Foundation". The money raised from the sale of the cards goes to HIV/AIDS related projects in Africa supported by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The foundation doesn't put a firm price on the package of 5, the suggested price is \$60. and for individual cards, \$15. An income tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more can be arranged. TO PURCHASE PLEASE CALL SUKI STARNES 634-4436.

Church Calendars for 2009 are available for \$4.00 from Hazel Oliver. Please call 634-3236.

2ND ANNUAL LUNENBURG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Christmas dinner and two hours of festivities take place on December 25 at 1 pm at Lunenburg Fire Hall. Seating is limited. Tickets cost \$10.00 and are available at Fulton's Pharmacy. Those needing a ride or more information, call Graham Pratt at 634-9260. Volunteers are needed for this event. Please call 640-2372 or email marquise@eastlink.ca



Birthday greetings are extended to Lizzie Miller. She celebrates her 89 th birthday on Thursday, December 17. Happy Birthday Lizzie!

It is time once again to start preparing your Committee Reports for the 2009 **Annual Report**. Please email them to Mary at the office: stjohnslunenburg@eastlink.ca

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Rt. Rev'd Gary Weatherill, South Australia.
Diocesan Cycle: Pray for **The Parish of Maitland**, Rev'd Beverly DeVouge; **The Parish of Stewiacke and Shubenacadie**, Rev'd Lloyd Ripley.
Local Ministerial: The Congregation of Central United Church and Rev'd Grace Caines-Corkum.
Fisheries: **Adams & Knickle** - Freedom 99; **Ocean Choice** - Destiny; **Clearwater** - Atlantic Preserver; **Tall Ship** - Bluenose II

A little boy about 10 years old was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?" "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply. The lady took him by the hand and went into the store and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel.

He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with a towel. By this time the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, my little fellow, you feel more comfortable now?" As she turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand, and looking up in her face, with tears his eyes, answered the question with these words: "Are you God's Wife?"

Have a blessed week and we look forward to welcoming you back next Sunday. Here are our phone numbers if you should need us in the meantime.

PARISH CONTACTS

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PARISH WARDENS

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Barbara Butler 624-0506

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Sandra MacDonald 634-4657

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Louis Quennelle 527-0122

HERITAGE George Munroe 634-3356

PROPERTY Raymond Francis 634-8487

HALL Wayne Dodge 634-4885

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ACW Barbara Nowe 634-4473

ACW CATERING Patty Tanner 543-3474

LAY READERS Roger Demone 543-5753

SERVERS Sheila Morris 634-3713

YOUTH Alex Knickle 543-7010

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTACT

Jennifer Green-Heisler 640-2088

NURSERY

Jennifer Green-Heisler 640-2088

TOUR PROGRAM Peter Allen 634-4668

FOOD BANK

Bruce & Louise Holdbrook 634-3510

MEALS ON WHEELS

Hazel Oliver 634-3236

PLANNED GIVING

Jim Eisenhauer 634-4713

PWRDF Sharon Green 634-8269

REGIONAL COUNCIL Betty Lou Olivier, Barbara Eisenhauer, Charlene Demone

SYNOD DELEGATES Louis Quennelle, Grace Swan, Helen Chandler

ST. JOHN'S ARTS ALLIANCE

Ruth McConnell 634-9994

SEXTON Rod Francis 640-2021

CUSTODIAN Jim & Viola Green 634-4564

WEBSITE Ruth McConnell 634-9994

NEWSLETTER

Janice & Brian Kenefick 764-2145

*I PRESS ON TOWARD THE
 GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR
 WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME
 HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS!
 (PHILIPPIANS 3:14)*