



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



Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found
favor with God.
Luke 1:30

Friends, we gather for a Service of Lessons and Carols on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. This Service calls us to a joyful expectation as we draw near to Christmas Eve.

Our scriptures remind us that God desires to be intimate with humankind. God desires to be known not merely in the signs and power of nature, or in some obscure manner, but God seeks to dwell among us in human flesh.

The Angel Gabriel communicates God's desire to a young Jewish girl by the name of Mary. It is the message "Do not be afraid." Mary responds with a resounding 'yes' to God and models great faith for us. The same Angel also comes to Joseph in a dream and says: "Don't be afraid, Joseph." It's the same message God has given to God's servants from the beginning: "Do not be afraid. God is with you." God truly is with us. Let us open our eyes to see.

Our world is full of humble, ordinary people living in obscure hamlets, and yet some of these have changed the course of the world. Mary is shown to be the first person coming from such an ordinary milieu who by a simple phrase of her YES turned around the course of the world. Her YES to God, her "Here I am," gave to her and to us, Jesus, the Son of God. It made possible the "Here I am, I come to do your will," of Jesus. Her YES and the YES of Jesus call us and the whole church today to give our unconditional YES to God. Let us ask in this eucharist that we may join Jesus and Mary in their YES. Then we can change the course of the world today. God bless you and have a wonderful week.

Mitchell

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Sharon Green
10:30 am Susan MacMillan, Penny Pratt, Graham Pratt
Lectors: 8:30 am Roxie Smith, Shirley Woods
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Jim & Viola Green **Server:** Brooklyn Green

LAY MINISTERS DECEMBER 27

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhower
10:30 am Sharon Green, Susan MacMillan, Charlene Demone
Lectors: 8:30 am Ben & Roxie Smith
11:00 am Sharon Green, Susan MacMillan, Holly Mitchell
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Jim & Viola Green **Server:** Eric Pottie

Service of Lessons and Carols

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude – Chorale Preludes on Christmas Carols

Please stand for Processional Hymn

Processional Hymn #114 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Candle Four

'We Wait upon the Lord with Love' - Please refer to the Blue Bulletin Insert.

Bidding Prayers

The Celebrant leads the congregation in the Bidding Prayers.

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.

First Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11

The prophet Isaiah announces the Advent of the Lord.

Reader: Penny Pratt

Prayer

God our hope, hear again the cry of exiles, imprisoned in a dark land of war, hunger, and intolerance. Come among us with strength and healing and bring us back to the world of your just and holy purpose. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem: 'Blessed Be that Maid Marie' – trad. English

Congregational Hymn #137 What Child is This

Second Lesson: St. Luke 1:11-17.

Reader: Graham Pratt

The Archangel Gabriel brings glad tidings to Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist.

Prayer

Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people wisdom to see your purpose, and openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem: Gabriel's Message - "A Basque Carol"

Third Lesson: St. Luke 1:26-33.

Reader: Susan MacMillan

The Archangel Gabriel brings glad tidings to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Prayer

Pour out your grace in to our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the Incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Hymn # 102 CP "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Fourth lesson: Micah 5:2-4

Reader: Hazel Oliver

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem

Prayer

God of small beginnings, you bring strength out of weakness and hope out of fear. By the power of your Spirit, make us, your children, followers and partners in the grand design of your kingdom of love, rooted and reveal in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Solo Anthem 'Away in a Manger' – soloist Mary Meisner

Fifth lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: Fred Oliver

Isaiah foretells the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace



Prayer

God of light, in the midst of the darkness of our lives may the light of your Son shine brightly, so that we may be light for this world. For are the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Amen.

Congregation Hymn: #121 CP "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Sixth lesson: St. Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Rosemary Smith

Saint Luke the Evangelist describes the birth of the Saviour

Prayer

God of the homeless, come and be born anew in our hearts, that our lives may be like stables and mangers ready to receive your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem: 'Hurry Hurry Yonder' - Wagner

Seventh lesson: St. Luke 2:8-20

Reader: Eric Pottie

The shepherds receive joyful tidings and proceed to Bethlehem

Prayer

God of the shepherds, who heard the angels sing: 'Glory to God in the highest,' may we be like the shepherds and draw near to your son Jesus and then be ready to be his glad heralds in all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregation Hymn #148 CP 'See Amid the Winter's Snow'

Eighth lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reader: Emily Pottie

The prophet declares the glory of the Lord's light and anticipates the worship of the Magi.

Prayer

God of glory, in Jesus your Son, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us. Through your church, draw all nations to your light, and rulers to the brightness of your dawn. May your light dispel evil and hatred in our world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregational Hymn #150 On This Day Earth Shall Sing

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. *Read by Celebrant.*

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 for ever. Amen.

The Offertory

Offertory Hymn: # 139 CP - The First Nowell

Parishioners share in gathering the offering of God's people. 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.

Prayer Over The Gifts

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.

Advent Prayers of the People Litany - Page 119 (BAS)

Blessing & Dismissal

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; And the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Celebrant Go in joyful hope to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn # 138 CP – Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Postlude – The Magnificat – J.S. Bach

NOTICES

COMBINED ANGLICAN/LUTHERAN SERVICE

A combined Anglican/Lutheran church service will be held at St. John's on Sunday, December 27. The service begins at 11 AM (Please note the time) and everyone is warmly invited to attend the service. Our Sunday School children and parents are encouraged to come out for this service.

Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2009 and Christmas Newsletter. As well please deliver those of family members and friends.

ANNUAL REPORTS

It is time once again to start preparation of **Committee Reports** for our Annual Report. We are asking that **all reports be emailed to Mary** at the Parish Office. It would be a huge help and truly appreciated if you would adopt this change. We are thinking that a family member or friend could help you if your computer skills are, shall we say dull? Many thanks to all.

Please note:

- The last date to make a contribution for **2009 income tax receipts** is Sunday, December 27.
- The next Baptism will take place January 3, 2010. Please call the office if anyone desires baptism for an adult or a child.
- Please bring a bell to the Christmas Eve Services which are being held at 4 pm and 10 pm. It would be wonderful if you would be able to donate your bell to the church for future Christmas Eve services.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th - Christmas Eve (Thursday)

4:00 pm - Christmas Family Eucharist with Children's Pageant and St. John's Ringers

10:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Sung Eucharist (BAS) with Choir, Brass Ensemble, Handbells and Organ

December 25th - Christmas Day (Friday)

10:00 am - Holy Eucharist (BCP) - with music

Happy 85th birthday wishes are extended to Gordon Winters on December 23rd. Gordon does things in fine style because 62 years ago he married Ruth on his birthday. St. John's Parish want to extend birthday and anniversary greetings to the Winter's. May God continue to bless you both.



Concerts and Music at St. John's

Please join us this afternoon at 2 pm for **Bowls of Cheer** – an afternoon of seasonal storytelling and music with **Blue Engine String Quartet** and actress **Shelley Thompson**. A short carol sing concludes the performance. Complimentary tickets are available for members of the congregation from Barbara or Jane following this morning's worship service. Do join us in the church hall after the performance 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 concludes this Wednesday at noon with Judith Burdett (December 23). The public is cordially invited to attend this half hour presentation.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Most Rev'd Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop of Myanmar and Bishop of Yangon and Suffragan Bishop of Yangon, The Rt. Rev'd Joseph Than Pe.

Diocesan Cycle: Pray for the **Parish of Pugwash and River John**, Glenn Eason, Priest-in-Charge, and Terry Lea, Rev'd Bill Cook, Assistant Priest and Rev'd Kathryn Cook, Deacon; **Parish of St. John's, Truro**, Rev'd Lori Ramsey and Robert Cullen, Rev'd Gary Yetman, Assistant Priest, and Diane.

Local Ministerial: The Congregation of St. Norbert's Roman Catholic Church and Father Joseph Christianson.

Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - Cachalot I; **Clearwater** - Tenacity; **Tall Ship** - The Caledonia.

Please pray for the Congregation and Rector of All Saints Anglican Church, Whitby, Ontario. Their 140 year old church was devastated by fire earlier this week.



Have a blessed week and we look forward to welcoming you back next Sunday.



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