

# St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

**Parish Rector:** The Rev'd Michael Mitchell

**Wardens:** Peter Allen, Louise Holdbrook, Stephen Bower

**Honorary Assistant Organist:** Jim Aulenbach

**Christmas Day 10:00 am** **December 25, 2009**

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**Processional Hymn #118 "O Come All Ye Faithful"**

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**'Emmanuel - God with us!'** (Four advent candles are lit).

- 1: The waiting is over.
- 2: The source of our healing has come near.
- 1: God's promise has been fulfilled.
- 2: The Advent candles are all lit, forming a circle of light that reminds us of God's never-ending love for us.
- 1: Now we light the Christ candle, celebrating the presence of Jesus in our midst, today and always.

**All: Thank you, God, for coming to be with us in the person of Jesus. We rejoice that he lived as one of us, knowing our joys and sorrows, our pains, hopes and dreams. As he came to show your love to us, help us to show your love to others all the year through. Amen.**

## Today's Service is in the Book of Alternatives Services

Greeting and Collect for Purity P 230  
Gloria P 231

Collect of the Day - *Read by Celebrant*

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now 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 Isaiah**

*Reader: Shirley Woods*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. *ISAIAH 52:7-10*

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

### **PSALM 98 - O, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. With his right hand and his holy arm he has won for himself the victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has been openly shown in the sight of the nations. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **R**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. **R**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord. Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein. **R**

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. **R**

### **A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

*Reader: Shirley Woods*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

*HEBREWS 1:1-4*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Lord be with you. **People: And with thy Spirit.**

### The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. *JOHN 1:1-14*

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

<b>Homily</b>	<i>The Rev'd Michael Mitchell</i>
<b>Nicene Creed</b>	P 234
<b>Prayers of the People</b> - Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.	
<b>Confession and Absolution</b>	P 239
<b>The Peace</b>	P 240

### The Celebration of Eucharist

#### **Offertory Hymn # 143** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*The assembly shares 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. **As the gifts are received, all sing:***

**Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.**

## Prayer Over the Gifts

God of peace, your Son Jesus Christ has reconciled us to you. May all we offer you today renew us as members of your household. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

<b>Eucharistic Prayer A, with the Preface for Christmas</b>	P 241
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	P 245
<b>The Breaking of the Bread</b>	P 246

### **Communion Hymns #120** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" **#122** "In the Bleak Mid Winter"

## Prayer After Communion

Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Christmas Blessing and Dismissal

May Christ who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill this Christmas Eve and make you partakers of the divine nature; And the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in joy, to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Recessional Hymn # 138** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

