

# ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

**Rector:** Reverend Shirley Cole

**For Pastoral Emergencies:** 902-954-1665

**Rev. Shirley's email:** sjcole61@gmail.com

**Parish Office:** 56 Woodleigh Drive

P.O. Box 760 Kensington C0B 1M0

**Office Phone:** 902-836-3303

**Office email:** nlparish@eastlink.ca

**Website:** www.nlparish.org

## **November 26, 2023**

**Last Sunday after Pentecost:  
The Reign of Christ**

*Welcome to everyone gathered here today.  
Please make yourself known to the greeters.*

### **Today's Readings**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

### **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

South Shore Region, Nova Scotia:

~ St. John's, Lunenburg

~ Yarmouth and Tusket

### **Provincial Prayer Care**

Diocese of Fredericton, Archbishop David Edwards

Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces Nigel Shaw and all  
military chaplains

### **Council of the North**

Diocese of Caledonia – Bishop David Lehmann

**DCS Cycle of Prayer** – Christ Church, Kildare

**Prayer Partner** - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside



## **December 3 – First Sunday of Advent (blue)**

**Readings:** Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18;

1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

**Readers:** Sandra H, Grafton C; Doreen Childs, Jim D;

Savannah M, Marie M

**Prayers of the People:** Jim E, Amy M, Doris M

**Worship Times:** 9 am – St. Thomas' MP

11 am – St. Stephen's HC

11 am – St. Mark's MP

~~~~~  
**Next Sunday, December 3, is Food Bank Sunday.**

**“Men of the Harvest” Christmas Concert** – Today at 2:00 p.m.  
St. Paul's Catholic Parish Church, Summerside. Freewill offering.

**Kensington & Area Christian Council** – Monday, November 27,  
7 pm at Kensington United Church.

**FundScrip** order will be placed on December 4. Please contact Doris  
**NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 3** to place your order.

**Ecumenical Christmas Choir Service** – Monday, December 4,  
7:30 p.m. at Kensington United Church. All are welcome!  
(Storm date: December 11). Non-perishable food items will be  
accepted for the Food Bank.

**St. Elizabeth's Church Council** – Wednesday, December 6, 7 pm

**St. Thomas' ACW** will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 7,  
at St. Thomas' Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m. with lunch afterwards.  
Please call Doreen if you are able to attend. Hope to see you there!

**HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone for your contributions to  
Mission to Seafarers Christmas boxes!

We are looking to hire someone to **shovel walkways** at the Rectory  
this winter. Please let us know if you or someone you know might be  
interested. Speak to Rev. Shirley, leave a message at the church office,  
or talk with any of the Church/Parish Wardens.

**St. Stephen's Church Ladies and Friends** Christmas Luncheon at Lotus Garden Restaurant on Friday, December 1, 11:45 – 1:00ish. If you want to share a reading/activity/game, please bring it along. If you'd like to participate in a fun gift swap, bring along a wrapped \$5.00 gift. Please contact Sandra H as soon as possible (902-836-4751) to add your name to the reservation list.

**Hillsborough Hospital** would like our help with Christmas gifts for their residents. They have both male and female patients, and a mix of gifts would be appreciated. They need the usual socks, clothing (new items with tags still attached), toiletries, etc.; but this year would be happy to receive gift cards from Walmart and Tim Hortons. Please have your **NEW** items to your church by December 3.

**Parish Council -- November 20 meeting highlights:**

- Future of Rectory Committee provided report to Council recommending proceeding with Energy Efficiency upgrades, as recommended in recent audit, specifically, after receiving several quotes for various aspects of the work, insulation of attic and basement and installation of a central heat pump. Anticipated costs are in the vicinity of \$30,000, a portion of which will be covered by grants/rebates. The money is available in the building fund and upon completion there should be noticeable reductions in heating costs.
- Cemetery Committee work is commencing with church representatives reviewing together the relevant Diocesan Canon and current practices, and hoping to produce a pamphlet giving overall information about cemetery particulars shared and unique to each church.
- Each of the Churches continues to review its insurance coverage to ensure adequate and accurate.
- Related, the Diocese has forwarded a notice recommending each church request Contractors who provide snow clearing service regarding each church to provide a (POLI Proof of Liability Insurance) and to remain conscious about due diligence regarding clearing snow, salting, railings secure, and so on. Related to that, efforts are underway to provide a secure and watertight box at the Office door to put bulletins and other items for pick up and delivery, rather than using front door entry, over winter months. Related, we are needing to ensure the walkways at rectory are shoveled and iced over the winter. It has been challenging to find someone we can hire for this role, and we will advertise in bulletin about this.
- Diocesan PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) is in use at St Marks, and interest has been expressed by other churches. This has been reviewed and information about the program will be sent in an upcoming bulletin.

- Each of the churches will be collecting email addresses from church members so we can establish an email list for sending out weekly announcements - more information will follow.
- Laura Pidgeon has graciously gifted the rectory with the outside nativity scene she and Bill received from the Parish some time ago.
- Next meeting will be the Parish Annual by the end of February, following the Church Annuals, which will be held mid-January until late February.

**DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES**

**December 3 (Advent 1)**

- 9 am – St. Thomas' MP
- 11 am – St. Stephen's HC
- 11 am – St. Mark's MP

**December 10 (Advent 2)**

- 9 am – St. Thomas' HC
- 11 am – St. Stephen's MP
- 11 am – St. Mark's HC

**December 17 (Advent 3)**

- 9 am – St. Thomas' MP
- 11 am – St. Stephen's HC
- 11 am – St. Mark's MP

**December 24 (Advent 4 & Christmas Eve)**

- 5 pm – St. Thomas' HC (*with treats provided to all in attendance*)
- 7 pm – St. Mark's HC
- 9 pm – St. Stephen's HC (*with choir music before the service*)

**December 25** – No worship services

**December 31** – 11 am – Parish Worship at St. Thomas'

\*\*\*\*\*

**COLLECT**

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Eternal God, by your grace you have raised us up and enthroned us with Christ in the heavenly realms. Receive all we offer you this day, and lead us in those good works for which you have created us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.



### **A READING FROM EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24**

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

### **A READING FROM EPHESIANS 1:15-23**

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 25:31-46**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”