

ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

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December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE

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

Today's Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8



Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Springhill, NS – The Rev. Dr. Brian Spence, Rector

Lantz, NS – The Rev. Dr. Jane Magrath, Rector, and Wendy Carroll

Provincial Prayer Care

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Council of General Synod

Council of the North

Diocese of Athabasca – Bishop David Greenwood

DCS Cycle of Prayer – St. John's, Ellerslie

Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent (blue/violet)

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Readers: Grafton C, Jim E; Jean R, Hilda J; Martyn C, Barb C

Prayers of the People: Jim E, Lola MO, Savannah M

Worship Times: 9 am – St. Thomas' MP

11 am – St. Stephen's HC

11 am – St. Mark's MP

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**THANK YOU to everyone who donated gifts and items to Hillsborough Hospital.**

For safety precautions and convenience during the winter months, there are 2 new black mailboxes located on the outside railing of the ramp going into the office. If you are picking up bulletins or have anything to drop off, please use these mailboxes.

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

St. Thomas' will be holding a **brunch potluck** following 9 am Church on December 17. All are welcome!

St. Thomas' parishioners are invited to join in the purchase of **poinsettias** for Christmas in memory of loved ones. If you wish to help with this, please see Lola or Susan. Thanks!!!

Some students at Three Oaks Senior High School are collecting new and gently used blankets, winter clothing, boots, hats, coats, mittens, for those in need. Their group is called The Cozy Cause, and drop-off locations are Summerside Medical Centre and Three Oaks School. Thank you for your generosity!

IT'S TIME once again to think about preparing **ANNUAL REPORTS!**

# IN MEMORIAM

The Bulletins used within the Parish  
are given to the Glory of God  
and In Loving Memory of

**WILLIAM (BILL) PIDGEON**

*+December 14, 2021*

*Your spirit lives as Christmas nears  
Memories remembered of other years  
Old joys recalled among the cheer  
Of you and family no longer here  
Within our hearts we hold you dear  
In our thoughts throughout the year.*

Lovingly remembered  
by Laura & families



### **A READING FROM ISAIAH 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,

that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert

a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever."

You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

### **A READING FROM 2 PETER 3:8-15a**

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day  
is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord  
is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.  
Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,  
but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will  
disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire,  
and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people  
ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look  
forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring  
about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt  
in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward  
to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.  
So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this,  
make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace  
with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation.

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 1:1-8**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,  
the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way"—

"a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him."

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a  
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean  
countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.  
Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.  
John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around  
his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message:  
"After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose  
sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you  
with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Second Sunday of Advent  
**DREAMING OF PEACE**

**Reader 1:** On this second Sunday of Advent, we hear stories of the dreams and longings of God's people. The Hebrew people dreamed of a king who would rule with justice and peace. The apostle Paul had a dream that all people would belong to God. John the Baptist invited people to dream with him about the coming of God's reign.

**Reader 2:** We share these dreams that can lead to life-changing action.

**Reader 1:** God's people have long dreamed of the coming of peace, justice, and faithfulness to God's ways. In our own time we dream of equality and good life for everyone. Such dreams come from God and inspire us to work for justice and peace.

**Reader 2:** With John the Baptist we dream of making crooked paths straight, of making smooth highways broad enough for all God's people to move on together in peace and harmony.

**Reader 1:** Our actions can help build that highway. God's dream can become our dream.

**Reader 2:** Last week we lit the first candle. Its flickering flame reminded us that our waiting is to be both contemplative and active. ***(The first candle is relit)***

The flame of the second candle reminds us that just as candles can be given a flame, so God's dreams can become real in our world.

***(The second candle is lit)***

***(unison prayer)***

Loving God, give us the desire, the willingness, and the courage to be part of your dream for a world made new. We pray in the name of Jesus, your dream incarnate. Amen.



**DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES**

**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'

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**COLLECT** (p 269)

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS** (p 270)

God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (p 270)

Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

