

ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

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December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent - JOY

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

Today's Readings

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

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

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Maitland, Stewiacke and Shubenacadie, NS –

- Archdeacon Glenn Eason, Priest-in-Charge, and Terry Lea

Provincial Prayer Care

Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

- Archbishop Anne Germond and the Provincial Council

Council of the North

Diocese of Athabasca – Bishop David Greenwood

DCS Cycle of Prayer – St. Luke's, O'Leary

Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

IN MEMORIAM

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

Our Parents

EARLA ADAMS

Aug. 9, 1932 – Dec. 14, 2003

IVAN ADAMS

April 9, 1920 – June 30, 2006

Our Brother

MARVIN

June 5, 1961 – March 1, 1984

Grandmother

MAME ADAMS

Sept. 19, 1893 – July 7, 1991

*We hold you close within our hearts
and there you will remain,
to walk with us throughout our lives,
until we meet again.*

Always loved and remembered by
Carl and Jessie

IN MEMORIAM

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

Clayton MacLeod

+July, 2017

Arthur K. Campbell

June 20, 1910 – August 19, 1966

Gladys B. Campbell

Sept. 9, 1915 – Nov. 18, 1989

Philip Campbell

Nov. 11, 1951 – Nov. 5, 2010

Baby – sister

August, 1933

Baby – brother

May, 1947

Grandson – Noel Graham

Jan. 20, 2023

*Those we love don't go away;
they walk beside us everyday.*

Always loved and missed by
Grace & family

A READING FROM ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.
“For I, the LORD, love justice;
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.
In my faithfulness I will reward my people
and make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants will be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will acknowledge
that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”
I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.
May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”
They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”
He said, “I am not.”
“Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.”
Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”
John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”
Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”
“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”
This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Third Sunday of Advent
HEALING WITH JOY

Reader 1: On this third Sunday of Advent, we join with the writers of Scripture to sing of hope and healing. With our hearts we praise the Lord, and we are glad because of God our Savior.

Reader 2: Healing takes many forms. People are healed from diseases, social and political injustice are corrected, even the earth itself can be restored to support new life.

Reader 1: Elizabeth recognized that Mary would give birth to a child who would save his people, and Mary sang a song of praise to God. But her song is not a lullaby to soothe people to sleep. Her song is a strong declaration of God's greatness.

Reader 2: God's greatness was shown in Christ and is still active in the world. The child of Mary brought a message of healing that continues as we follow Christ's words and actions.

Reader 1: Today we re-light the first and second candles on our Advent wreath. *(The first and second candles are relit).* The light of these burning candles reminds us that our waiting and dreaming can make a positive difference in our world.

Readers 2: God's desire is for healing and reconciliation. The flame of this third candle reminds that God calls us to be part of the healing of the world

(unison prayer)

Dear God,
so many people need your healing and hope.
In this season of giving, and on every day of the year,
help us to say and to do those things
that continue Christ's ministry of compassion and caring.
Amen.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

December 24 (Advent 4 & Christmas Eve)

11 am – St. Elizabeth's HC

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 (p 270)

God of power and mercy,
you call us once again

to celebrate the coming of your Son.

Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS (p 271)

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (p 271)

Merciful God,
may this eucharist free us from our sins,
fill us with unending joy,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord now and forever.

The Light of the World

John 1:1-18

Word Search

G O A F Z A H G S G O D Z L I
W E W D K A A S R A F L Z P J
N O E Z I J E P Z Q H N S G K
U O R S Z N O P K K W Y G F J
P A S L T X Q H K G R M A N G
V E N I D M G C N L I G H T H
M W W M G O M V B J R K C K M
R P G E Z C S V R B Z V M B M
V B Q N F B O Y R N V I K E L
S O G F N J F B Z A E X C L A
R T I R H I H P Y M N R S I N
D R K C T W V B J E B Z E E L
X U N S E T Y A R C A B N V A
R E E J T P R O P H E T T E B
L T M J N R N I P T I X A D T

GOD	TRUE	PROPHET	WORLD	SENT
MEN	VOICE	JOHN	WITNESS	MAN
LIGHT	BELIEVE	MESSIAH	TESTIFY	NAME

December 24 – Advent 4 & Christmas Eve

Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

Readers: Grafton C, Jim E; Tim O, Jim D, Savannah M, Marie M

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

Worship Times: 11 am – St. Elizabeth’s HC

5 pm – St. Thomas’ HC

7 pm – St. Mark’s HC

9 pm – St. Stephen’s HC

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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. Thanks!

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!!!

**Holiday planning and Coverage**

Revd Shirley will be away December 25th through January 8th.

Both Licensed Lay Ministers Dennis Cole (902 978 0143)-first contact first week, and Kim Gallant (902 432 9007)-first contact second week- will be available to respond to pastoral and other emergencies, supported by Revd Ned Henthorne (Dec. 25-Dec. 30) and Revd Colin Nicole (Dec. 31-Jan 8). These clergy will also check the PCH visitor list during that time. Kim will be staying at the Rectory/coming in twice daily (she is looking after Lucy) and will check phone messages, mailboxes, and respond as necessary.

The Bulletins for Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 will be completed by Dec. 20. Bonnie will be in on Dec. 20 and Jan. 3. Email messages which come in after Dec. 20 will be reviewed by her on the 3rd. Bonnie will not be in on Dec. 27. Anything for the Bulletin on Dec. 31 will need to be in by Dec. 20; otherwise, it will go in the Jan. 7 Bulletin (if in by Jan. 3). Dennis and Kim will be leading Parish Morning Prayer Service at 11am on Dec. 31 at St. Thomas’ together and with cover between them, Morning Prayer Services on January 7- 9am St. Mark’s, 11am St. Thomas’ and St. Stephen’s. They will be in touch with the Church Wardens should there need to be considerations around cancellations because of inclement weather.