

ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

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December 31, 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

Today's Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

~ Northumberland, NS

~ St. John's, Truro, NS

Provincial Prayer Care

Diocese of Montreal – Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson

Council of the North

Diocese of Athabasca – Bishop David Greenwood

DCS Cycle of Prayer – St. Peter's, Foxley River

Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

January 7 – The Baptism of the Lord (white)

Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Readers: Sandra H, Grafton C; Doreen Cole, Jean R;

Doris M, Norma T

Prayers of the People: Jim E, Lola MO, Bronwyn C

Worship Times: 9 am – St. Mark's MP

11 am – St. Thomas' MP

11 am – St. Stephen's MP

Service Schedule:

Reminder- all three services January 7th will be Morning Prayer with LLM's Kim Gallant and Dennis Cole Leading Worship.

January: 9am St. Marks, 11am St. Stephens and St. Thomas'

February: 9am St. Stephen's, 11am St. Mark's and St. Thomas'

March: 9am St. Thomas 11am St. Stephen's and St. Mark's

- January 7th is the first Sunday of the Month- please support our continuing **donations to the Food Bank** on the first Sunday of the month.

- **Clinton View Service** - Wednesday, January 10th, 10:30 am.

All are welcome and appreciated!

- **Rectory Committee Meeting** (tentative)- 7 pm, Thurs., January 11th.

- **Bible Study** resumes Wednesday, January 17th at 9:30, at the Rectory and online. Please call the office and leave an email address if you would like to be added to the list, so you have readings and the Zoom invite.

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical Service** will be held on January 21st at 10:30 a.m. at Kensington United Church, with a storm date for the following Sunday. This will replace our regular Sunday Worship Services on January 21st. This year it is the Anglicans turn to preach!

- Deadlines for **Annual Reports** and actual **Annual Meetings** are fast approaching. Annual Reports for St. Thomas are due by January 17th and for the other churches by January 24th.

Using last year's schedule as a guide, Annual Meetings are as follows (all at 7 p.m.):

- St. Thomas' - Mon., Jan. 29th - Alt. Mon., Feb.5th .

- St. Stephen's - Thurs., Feb. 8th - Alt. Thurs., Feb.15th .

- St. Mark's - Mon., Feb 12th - Alt. Mon., Feb 19th .

- St. Elizabeth's - Tues., Feb. 20th – Alt. Thurs., Feb 22nd

- Parish- Tues., Feb. 27th - Alt. Thurs., Feb. 29th .

Holiday planning and Coverage

Bonnie will be in the office on January 3.

Revd Shirley will be back on January 8.

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.

Dennis and Kim will be leading 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.

St. Thomas' APP, Anglican Powering Potential (new name – formally ACW Anglican Church Women) will be cleaning the church hall on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024, 9:00-9:30 am.

If you could help us we would appreciate it.

St. Thomas' APP, Anglican Powering Potential (formally ACW Anglican Church Women) will be meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, at 10:00 am in the church hall for our Annual Meeting. If anyone would like to attend for the social part you are quite welcome. We do a collection at our meetings, but there is no membership fee to attend any of our meetings or functions. All people within the Anglican Church are members. Any questions, please contact Doreen Cole 902-886-2207.

A READING FROM ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

PSALM 72: 1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice. May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

A READING FROM EPHESIANS 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery

of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

A READING FROM MATTHEW 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.