

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

Anglican Priest and Rector: The Reverend Shirley J. Cole
Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM): Kim Gallant, Dennis Cole

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent - HOPE

Welcome to everyone gathered here today.

A Candle is Burning

(sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of HOPE in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Today's Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

~ Amherst, NS
~ Parrsboro Shore, NS

Provincial Prayer Care

Ecclesiastical Province of Canada
~ Archbishop David Edwards and the Provincial Council

Council of the North

Diocese of Athabasca – Bishop David Greenwood

DCS Cycle of Prayer – St. Elizabeth's, Springfield

Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside



December 8 – 2nd Sunday of Advent–PEACE (blue)

Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Canticle 19 (Luke 1:68-79) page 88;
Philemon 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Readers: Jim E, Sandra H; Jim D, Darlene L; Savannah M, Marie M

Prayers of the People: Sandra H, Doreen C, Doris M

Worship Times: 9 am – St. Thomas' HE

11 am – St. Stephen's MP

11 am – St. Mark's HE

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship Services

4 pm – St. Stephen's HE

7 pm – St. Thomas' HE

9 pm – St. Mark's HE

December 25 - Christmas Day Worship Service

11 am – St. Elizabeth's HE

December 29 Worship Service

11 am – Parish Christmas Carol Service at St. Mark's

St. Elizabeth's Church Council meeting has been postponed.

ScripFund: Deadline to order: December 2. If you wish to place an order, please call Doris Moase.

Meditation and Bible Study will wind up on Thursday, December 5, and will resume again in the new year.

Sing-a-long at Clinton View Lodge – December 5, 2:15 p.m.

Clinton View Lodge worship service will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!

St. Stephen's Church Ladies and Friends Christmas Luncheon

will be held at Lotus Garden Restaurant on Wednesday, December 11, 12:00-1:30 pm. Please feel free to wear red and green, and please bring along a wrapped \$5.00 gift for a fun gift exchange activity. Contact Sandra H (902-836-4751) to add your name to the reservation list.

Nativity: Night of Music will be presented at Harbourfront Theatre on December 21, 7:00 p.m. For free tickets, call the box office.



Thank you to all of you who helped out in any way for the annual Seafarers Shoebox Campaign. All of the items received from each of the churches will be blessed at St. Thomas' worship service this morning and then sent on to Halifax.

Thanks to everyone who donated items for Hillsborough Hospital.

In follow-up from last Sunday's announcements, you will recall a letter from Bishop Sandra, along with additional information stemming from the recent resignation of the Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. In her full letter, she notes the slogan "First mourn, then work for change". She also provided information from the Diocese regarding Vector SAFE FAITH Training and Diocesan SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY training (upcoming and required for some in certain positions within the Parish), as well as the Diocesan pamphlet regarding the Sexual Misconduct Policy. We will be reviewing the material at Parish Council and Church Councils in the new year.

St. Thomas' APP are planning a Christmas Luncheon to be held at the home of Hilda Johnstone (1575 Burlington Road) on December 12, 11:30 a.m. We are having an arranged Pot Luck lunch. Please contact Hilda (902-836-5692, 902-439-0760) or Doreen (902-886-2207, 902-439-3816) with the food dish you might bring to share. Please bring along a small item for the food bank.

The annual Kensington & Area Christian Council **Advent Carol Sing** will be held on Monday, December 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at Kensington United Church. Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit our local Kensington Lion's Club Food Bank. All are welcome!

Christmas Concert with Kirk Neville, Bonnie LaFrance, & Central Queens Musical Friends: Sunday, December 1, 3:00 p.m. at Central Queens United Church, Hunter River. Admission: \$14 at the door. All are welcome to attend!

COLLECT (pg 268)

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility,
that on the last day, when he shall come again
in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS (pg 269)

God of love and power, your word stirs within us
the expectation of the coming of your son.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and sustain us with your promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (pg 269)

God for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life.
Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready
to stand before the Son of Man.
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord.

A READING FROM JEREMIAH 33:14-16

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.”

A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

The First Sunday of Advent **WAITING IN HOPE**



Reader 1: This is the first Sunday of Advent when we read again of God's people waiting for the coming of the Messiah. Advent is the season of waiting and preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Reader 2: This time of waiting is also a time for us to be working for peace among the nations, and peace with each other. It is a time for us to change our priorities as we walk in the light that God gives us.

Reader 1: As part of our Advent waiting, we celebrate Christ's coming by making an Advent wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of the hope Christ brings to the world. The round shape of the wreath reminds us of the unbroken love of God. The green branches speak of new life, and the candles proclaim the light that came into the world with Jesus Christ.

Reader 2: Today we light the first candle. The flickering of the flame reminds us that our waiting is a time of both contemplation and action. **(The candle is lit)**

(unison prayer)

Dear God, through your Spirit you spoke to prophets, and the people prayed and waited for a Messiah to come. Through your Spirit you spoke to Mary and Joseph, and they responded and waited for their child to be born. Through your Spirit, speak to each of us that we may feel your presence and know your will in our Advent waiting this year. Amen.