

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

Anglican Priest and Rector: The Reverend Shirley J. Cole

Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM): Kim Gallant, Dennis Cole

Office Administrator: Bonnie LaFrance

Office phone: 902-836-3303

December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent - JOY

Welcome to everyone gathered here today.

A Candle is Burning

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

A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.

Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Today's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 65:17-25; Canticle 3 (Isaiah 12:2-6, pg 76); Luke 1:5-25; Luke 1:26-38; Canticle 19b (Luke 1:68-79, pg 89-90); John 1:1-14; Luke 3:7-18

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Maitland, NS

Stewiacke and Shubenacadie, NS

Provincial Prayer Care

Diocese of Quebec, Bishop Bruce Myers

Council of the North

Diocese of Athabasca – Bishop David Greenwood

DCS Cycle of Prayer – St. Thomas', Spring Brook

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

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 & missed
by Laura & families



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 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent–LOVE (blue)

Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46-55;

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Readers: Sandra H, Grafton C; Hilda J, Tim O; Martyn C, Barb C

Prayers of the People: Jim E, Lola MO, Savannah 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 Service at St. Mark's

Thomas Haslam will be guest speaker, and the combined choirs will provide music.

For safety precautions and convenience, starting next week (and during the winter months) we will use the 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!

Christmas letters are now available in our churches. Because we are unable to mail these letters, we are asking that you take your own, plus any others for your friends and neighbours. Thank you!

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!!!

St. Stephen's choir will be singing carols for 20 minutes before church on Christmas Eve. All are welcome!



A READING FROM ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!
15 The LORD has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.
16 On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,
“Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.
17 The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”
18 “I will remove from you
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,
which is a burden and reproach for you.
19 At that time I will deal
with all who oppressed you.
I will rescue the lame;
I will gather the exiles.
I will give them praise and honor
in every land where they have suffered shame.
20 At that time I will gather you;
at that time I will bring you home.
I will give you honor and praise
among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes
before your very eyes,”
says the LORD.

A READING FROM ISAIAH 65:17-25

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.
19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.
20 “Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach a hundred
will be considered accursed.
21 They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
22 No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.
For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy
the work of their hands.
23 They will not labor in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
they and their descendants with them.
24 Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.
25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent’s food.
They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,”
says the LORD.

A READING: CANTICLE 19b (Luke 1:68-79) page 89-90

Bless'd be the God of Israel, the ever-living Lord,
who comes in pow'r to save his own, his people Israel.
For Israel he raises up salvation's tow'r on high
in David's house who reigned as king and servant of the Lord.
Through holy prophets did he speak his word in days of old,
that he would save us from our foes and all who bear us ill.
To our ancestors did he give his covenant of love;
so with us all he keeps his word in love that knows no end.
Of old he gave his solemn oath to Father Abraham;
his seed a mighty race should be and bless'd forevermore.
He vowed to set his people free from fear of ev'ry foe
that we might serve him all our days in goodness, love, and peace.
O tiny child, your name shall be the prophet of the Lord;
the way of God you shall prepare to make his coming known.
You shall proclaim to Israel salvation's dawning day
when God shall wipe away all sins in his redeeming love.
The rising sun shall shine on us to bring the light of day
to all who sit in darkest night and shadow of the grave.
Our footsteps God shall safely guide to walk the ways of peace.
His name forevermore be bless'd who lives and loves and saves.

Margate Pastoral Charge "Downhome Christmas Concert"

will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2:00 p.m. at Southwest River
United Church in Margate. Freewill offering at the door; all proceeds
to Camp Abegweit. Come and enjoy music, skits, singing, cookies &
cider, and fudge sale. All are welcome!

Comfort and Hope Service (Blue Christmas)

Looking for a quiet, reflective service to get you ready for Christmas?
Are you struggling with grief or carrying a heavy burden? Do you know
of others who are struggling and you're seeking a way to pray for them?
All are invited to attend the Comfort and Hope Service on Saturday,
December 21, 7:00 pm at Kensington Presbyterian Church,
to hear scripture, sing, pray, and light candles.

