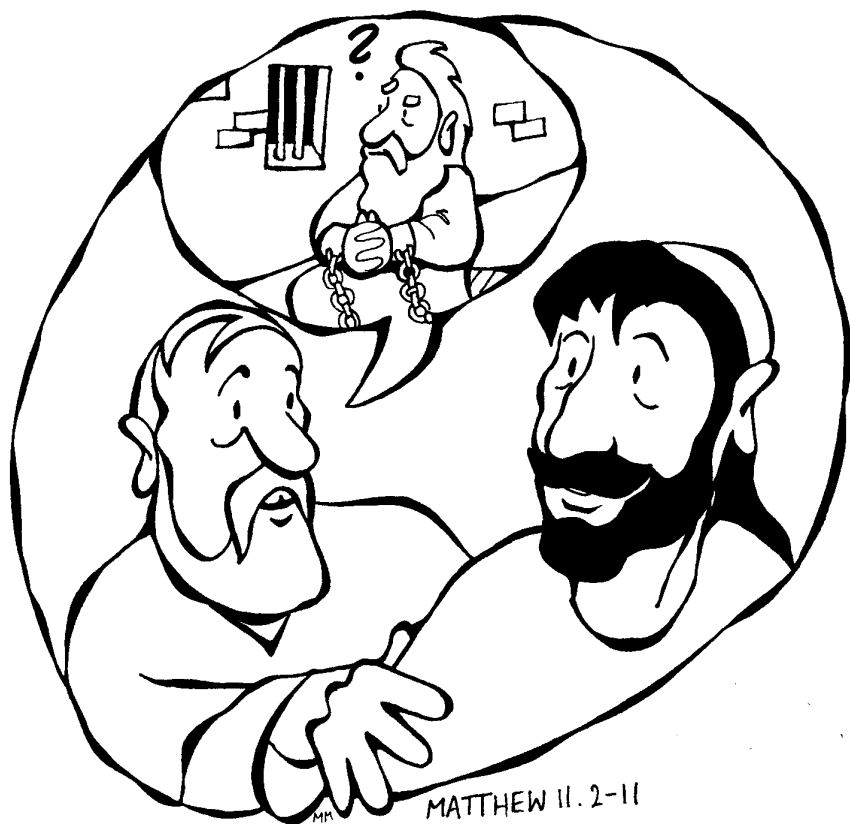


# ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

**DECEMBER 14, 2025**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: JOY**



*Illustration by Rev. Mel Malton*

## THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

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**Parish Office:** 56 Woodleigh Drive, P. O. Box 760, Kensington  
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**December 14, 2025**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: JOY**

### **Worship on December 14**

9 am – St. Thomas' HE  
11 am – St. Stephen's MP  
11 am – St. Mark's HE

### **Today's Readings**

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:4-9; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

### **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

~ Maitland, NS  
~ Stewiacke and Shubenacadie, NS

### **Provincial Prayer Care**

National Indigenous Archbishop Christopher A. Harper  
and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples

**DCS Cycle of Prayer** - St. Peter's, Charlottetown

**Prayer Partner** - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

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Information for Dec. 24, 25, 28, & Jan. 4 bulletins needs to be to the office by 9 am on December 23. Bulletins for Dec. 24, 25, & 28 will be available on Dec. 23. Office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 5.

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For the winter months, bulletins can be picked up in the black mailboxes outside the office door.

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**St. Elizabeth's Church Council** meets on Tuesday, December 16, 7 pm at St. Elizabeth's Church.

## **December 21: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (blue)**

**Worship Times:** 9 am – St. Thomas' MP  
11 am – St. Stephen's HE  
11 am – St. Mark's MP

**Readings:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18;  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**Readers:** Judy M, Jim E; Jean R, Hilda J; Doris M, Martyn C

**Prayers of the People:** Grafton C, Amy M, Bronwyn C

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### **Third Sunday of Advent: JOY**

*(Light the pink candle. The Joy Candle represents the joy of Christ's coming and the celebration of His birth. The pink colour reflects a shift from repentance to joy as we draw closer to Christmas.)*

**Prayer:** God of Joy, we light this pink candle to celebrate the joy You brought into the world through Jesus. Fill our hearts with the same joy that the shepherds and wise men felt upon seeing Christ. May we spread this joy to others, letting it shine through our words and actions. Amen.

### **A Candle is Burning**

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.

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### **Christmas Worship Services**

#### **December 24:**

4 pm – St. Stephen's HE (choir will sing for 20 minutes prior to Service)  
6 pm – St. Thomas' HE  
8 pm – St. Mark's HE

#### **December 25:**

10 am – St. Elizabeth's HC

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### **A Service of Comfort and Hope (Blue Christmas Service)**

Kensington Presbyterian Church -- December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

This special gathering is for anyone who may be experiencing grief, loss, or a difficult season. This service offers a quiet space for reflection, prayer, song, and light in the midst of darkness.

All are welcome.

## **New Year's Spiritual Resolutions**

Having recently received the Church calendars for 2026 reminds us that we will soon be thinking about the New Year and considering New Year's Resolutions. As was voted strongly in favour of, we will be offering 1 Service at 10 a.m. each Sunday for a month in each church, January through March. This means changes from that which many of us have been used to across our whole lifetimes. It will include disruptions to how we are used to doing things. We invite you to consider Spiritual Resolutions for the New Year. This might include the commitment to attend church and participate fully and offer our gifts wherever the Service is; arranging to pick someone up and take them with you when at another Church; continuing to ensure your offering is given to your own Church weekly even when Service is elsewhere; offering positive feedback and suggestions of how to help make this comfortable; making an effort to be a 'greeter' and ensure others are welcomed when coming to your Church; maybe even committing to simply asking "How can I help?" even more regularly.

***This prayer might help:*** Lord, as this New Year dawns, I come to you seeking guidance. Grant me strength to face challenges, relying on Your power and finding my refuge in You, remaining steadfast in faith. Renew my mind, heart, and spirit, transforming me by the Holy Spirit to leave the old and embrace the new You have for me. Fill my heart with love, that I may serve others generously, speak kindly, and live each day in a God-conscious way. Amen

### **Fun Family Day at the New London Community Complex**

Sunday, December 21, 1-4 pm. Entertainment by Tunes & Tales. Bouncy castles, crafts, treats and....Santa is coming for a visit. Admission by donation - all funds go towards the Complex.

### **The Connectors Eight** – Now receiving applications!

This peer learning community begins on Zoom in March, 2026 for lay and clergy participants. Application deadline is January 30.

### **RETREAT: Deepening Faith; Pathways to Peace**

May 29-31 at Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.  
Register at [www.nspeidiocese.ca](http://www.nspeidiocese.ca).

### COLLECT

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 for ever.

### A READING FROM ISAIAH 35:1-10

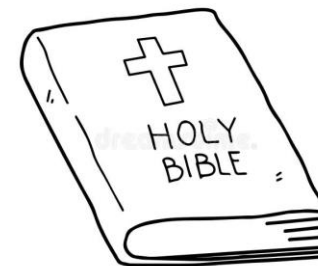
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### PSALM 146:4-9

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
**whose hope is in the Lord their God;**  
Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
**who keeps his promise for ever;**  
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
**and food to those who hunger.**  
The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
**the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**  
The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \*  
**he sustains the orphan and widow,**  
**but frustrates the way of the wicked.**  
The Lord shall reign for ever, \*  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**  
**God our creator and redeemer, inspire your people, in prosperity**  
**or adversity, to turn always to you, eternal source of life, health,**  
**and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### A READING FROM JAMES 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.  
The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth,  
being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.  
You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming  
of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another,  
so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!  
As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets  
who spoke in the name of the Lord.



**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 11:2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

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**

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 for ever.

**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

