

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 16, 2018

*Our King and Saviour draws near;  
O come, let us worship!*

## **8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:**

✠ Psalms 11 & 12 | Isaiah 25:1-9 | St. Matthew 25:1-30

## **9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist**

Introit: Psalm 33:1-6: *page 367*

### **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*The Gloria is omitted during Advent*

The Collect: *page 99*

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 13: *page 343*

The Epistle: *page 99*

Gradual Psalm 80:1-3: *page 433*

The Holy Gospel: *page 99*

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

The Prayers of the People: L: Lord, in your mercy;

**C: Hear our prayer**

The Consecration: *page 82*

Post-Communion Prayer: *page 85*

**9:45 a.m. – Sunday School: Parish Hall  
Time with Fr. Stockall**

## **10:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist**

♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: **62** (Veni Emmanuel)

### **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*The Gloria is omitted during Advent*

The Collect: *page 99*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

♪ PSALM: *please see the bulletin insert*

The Epistle: *page 99*

♪ GRADUAL HYMN: **321** (St. Cecilia)

The Holy Gospel: *page 99*

♪ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia**

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

♪ OFFERTORY HYMN: **293** (Ascension)

The Prayers of the People: L: Lord, in your mercy;

**C: Hear our prayer**

The Consecration: *page 82*

♪ HYMN DURING COMMUNION: **247** (Eisenach)

Post-Communion Prayer: *page 85*

♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN: **67** (Winchester New)

*Please join us in the Parish  
Hall following the 10:30  
Celebration for Coffee &  
Conversation.*



## Parish Notices and Updates

**MEMBERS OF THE PARISH CORPORATION** (Wardens and Vestry members) are reminded of the meeting today starting at approximately 12:15 p.m. Those who are unable to attend are asked to convey their regrets to the Rector or the Vestry Clerk.

**ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** has started its Christmas break. Please plan to join us when we resume in January.

**FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS:** Those who wish to place memorial flowers may do so by including a donation through the collection plate. Please ensure that your donation includes the names of those in whose memory the flowers are being placed, as well as complete information regarding the donor(s); **and to help us to include that information in the Christmas bulletin, we'll need to know by this coming Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.** For more information, please speak to the Rector.

**ALLAN AGNEW** has prepared the 2019 offering envelopes, which are available this morning. Current envelope holders have been assigned their current numbers. If you're not currently using envelopes and would like a box for next year, please let Allan know. And if you're not currently using e-offering please have a word with Allan about how that can be set up.



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**DECEMBER 19: ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE** (anticipated)

2:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, *Paradise Villa*

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

**DECEMBER 20: ADVENT FERIA**

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

*Followed by time for personal prayer in the Church*

**DECEMBER 22: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

**DECEMBER 23: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

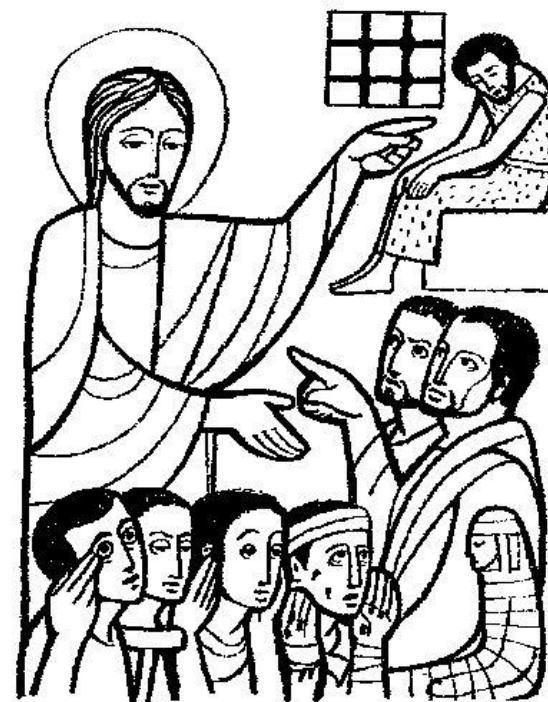
8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

*Followed by Coffee and Conversation in the Parish Hall*

## The Anglican Church of Canada The Diocese of Fredericton THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



For now we feel the world spin round  
On some momentous journey bound -  
Journey to what? to whom? to where?  
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,  
Your world is journeying to the birth  
Of God made Man for us on earth.'

*Advent 1955, John Betjeman*

*Priest and Rector*

The Revd. Canon Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.

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## *From the Rector*

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**Mission Matters!** Christ has told us that when we feed the hungry and give something to drink to the thirsty, when we welcome the stranger and clothe the naked, and when we visit the sick and those in prison, those acts of kindness and mercy are offered not just to those in need but to Christ as well. I want to take this weekend's column to share some of the ways in which the people of St. Mary have worked in recent weeks to carry out this great responsibility that Christ has given us.

**First**, on December 6<sup>th</sup> a large and enthusiastic team prepared and served Christmas Dinner to about 60 residents of the Tannery Court Housing Co-operative. Tannery Court operates three subsidised apartment buildings on the north-side of Fredericton; and for the fourth year in a row we were asked by the administration to host their annual Christmas Dinner. As we have experienced previously, this allows us to reach out to and care for a disadvantaged segment of our local population, one which we don't often find entering our doors. Each year the dinner has been a privilege to be a part of and our team of nearly 20 volunteers represented St. Mary's and Christ very well.

**Secondly**, that same week a few volunteers from the Parish purchased and delivered a new chest freezer to Bishop's Court to be used by Fredericton's new *Out of the Cold* emergency shelter programme. The funds for this will come out of our Parish commitment for local and international mission. The freezer will allow the operators and volunteers at the shelter to have small snacks readily available for those who are staying overnight. In the coming weeks I will be speaking to you about how we might help provide some of those snacks.

**Thirdly**, last Sunday the members of the Sunday School did their mission 'Christmas shopping' on behalf of the Parish. The young people chose a wide range of international mission development items, including the purchase of chickens and goats and the provision of clean water. **Please take a moment to look at the display that they prepared to show how they spent those funds.** In addition to the freezer mentioned above, they chose to support the local Housing First initiative. Your donations have allowed them to exceed the \$1000 originally committed by the Parish Vestry by \$175. Any additional donations that come in now will be used to augment the priorities established at the young people.

**Fourthly**, this past week our Mothers' Union branch collected gift cards to be given to the operators of Fredericton's Women in Transition House and our Anglican Church Women branch made a donation to Grace House, Fredericton's women's homeless shelter. This support provided by these two parish organisations has been part of their annual ministry for many years and serves to help some of our most at-risk friends and neighbours.

**Finally**, I want to include a brief description offered by a member of St. Mary's who is volunteering at the *Out of the Cold* Shelter. It's a powerful testimony to

what Christ means when He talks about finding our lives whenever we're willing to lose ourselves in Him:

*From the moment I walked in the backdoor I could feel the warmth. It was nice to be in a home and not in a building with an institutional feeling. My job was to do their laundry and to serve refreshments either while the guests waited to see the nurse on duty or when they joined me in the kitchen for homemade cookies and drinks.*

*There are three jobs for volunteers to do on the evening shift. One is to greet the guests at the door and guide them to the living room to check in with the nurse. Second is to give them their own totes with their bedding and take them to their rooms. Third is to just let the guests know when the showers are free.*

*My favorite parts of the evening were to wash their clothes, offer a blanket and a drink while they waited to check-in and to share a glass of juice, a cookie and conversation around the kitchen table.*

*I actually had to make myself leave and so look forward to seeing them again and hearing how they're doing.*

*I feel I can't fully describe it. Sitting around the table just made me feel like we are all the same. We all want and need the same thing. To give one of the ladies a blanket because she was sick and cold and then to hear say, no one has ever served me before. Hearing that told me that I didn't want to be anywhere else doing anything else.*

I could go on to list any of the many other things that we do here at St. Mary's to care for others in the name of Christ – the weekly Wednesday Hot Lunch programme readily comes to mind, but these seasonal projects highlight our efforts to respond faithfully to the ministry that Christ has left to us. Thanks to all those who are helping to make this happen!

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When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman (1899-1981), *The Mood of Christmas*