

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

*Unto us a child is born;
O come let us worship!*

CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist of the Nativity

♫ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	75 verses 1-5 (Adestes Fideles)
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 107</i>
The Lesson:	<i>Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7</i>
♫ GRADUAL HYMN:	734 (Cradle Song)
The Holy Gospel:	<i>St. Luke 2:1-20</i>
♫ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (refrain only):	747 (Iris)
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♫ OFFERTORY HYMN:	82 (St. Louis)
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
♫ HYMN DURING COMMUNION:	739 (Silent Night)
♫ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	77 (Mendelssohn)



And in the Incarnation the whole human race
recovers the dignity of the image of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist on the Morning of the Nativity

DECEMBER 26: ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 27: ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 28: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 29: THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 30: THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages!

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the Hall



If New Testament Christianity is to reappear today with its power and joy and courage, men must recapture the basic conviction that this is a Visited Planet. It is not enough to express formal belief in the "Incarnation" or in the "Divinity of Christ"; the staggering truth must be accepted afresh--that in this vast, mysterious Universe, of which we are an almost infinitesimal part, the great Mystery, Whom we call God, has visited our planet in Person. It is from this conviction that there springs unconquerable certainty and unquenchable faith and hope. It is not enough to believe theoretically that Jesus was both God and Man; not enough to admire, respect, and even worship Him; it is not even enough to try to follow Him. The reason for the insufficiency of these things is that the modern intelligent mind, which has had its horizons widened in dozens of different ways, has got to be shocked afresh by the audacious central Fact--that, as a sober matter of history, God became one of us.

J. B. Phillips (1906-1982), *New Testament Christianity*

MEMBERS OF ALL THREE CONGREGATIONS ARE INVITED TO A PRESENTATION regarding the proposed entrance and kitchen renovation on *Sunday, January 6th*, following Coffee & Conversation. Come join us as we review the design concept and see how proposed plan can serve as a solution to several building issues that we wrestled with in recent years. For more information please speak to one of the wardens, James & Thomas, or the Rector.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Everyone is warmly invited to join us for a *Parish Breakfast* on *Sunday, January 13th* between our two Sunday morning Celebrations. It's our hope that members of both congregations will gather together as members of one Parish Family. The breakfast will start at approximately 9:45 a.m. and run to about 10:30. We'll be looking for some members of the 10:30 congregation who will work during the first service to prepare a delicious, as well as members of the 9:00 a.m. congregation who will help with clean up during the second service. You'll hear more over the next couple of weeks but, in the meantime, please mark your calendars so that you'll be sure to join us on the 13th!

The Song of the Shepherds

Richard Bauckham

We were familiar with the night.
We knew its favourite colours,
its sullen silence
and its small, disturbing sounds,
its unprovoked rages,
its savage dreams.

We slept by turns,
attentive to the flock.
We said little.
Night after night, there was little to
say.
But sometimes one of us,
skilled in that way,
would pipe a tune of how things were
for us.

They say that once, almost before time,
the stars with shining voices
serenaded
the new born world.
The night could not contain their
boundless praise.

We thought that just a poem —
until the night
a song of solar glory,
unutterable, unearthly,
eclipsed the luminaries of the night,
as though the world were exorcised
of dark
and, coming to itself, began again.

Later we returned to the flock.
The night was ominously black.
The stars were silent as the sheep.
Nights pass, year on year.
We clutch our meagre cloaks against
the cold.
Our aging piper's fumbling fingers
play,
night after night,
an earthly echo of the song that
banished dark.
It has stayed with us.

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



The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the incarnation.

James I. Packer, *Knowing God*

Priest and Rector

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

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