

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 9, 2018

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

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalms 96 & 97 | Isaiah 5:1-16 | St. Matthew 24:29-end

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit: Psalm 80:1-7: *page 433*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect: *page 97*

The Old Testament Lesson: 2 Kings 22:8-10; 23:1-3

Psalm 119: part 17: *page 493*

The Epistle: *page 97*

Gradual Psalm 50:1-6: *page 392*

The Holy Gospel: *page 98*

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: **499** (St. Denio)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect: *page 97*

The First Lesson: 2 Kings 22:8-10; 23:1-3

♪ PSALM: *please see the bulletin insert*

The Epistle: *page 97*

♪ GRADUAL HYMN: **73** (Irish)

The Holy Gospel: *page 98*

♪ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia**

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

♪ OFFERTORY HYMN: **All my Hope on God is Founded**

please see the bulletin insert

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

C: Hear our prayer

page 82

♪ HYMN DURING COMMUNION: **61** (St. Thomas)

Post-Communion Prayer: *page 85*

♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN: **60** (Helmsley)

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



From the Rector _____

Life often seems like a brief interlude between rushing and waiting, especially at this time of year. People rush to airports only to stand waiting in line. We hurry off to Christmas sales and, again, stand in line waiting. Whether we like it or not, (and I suspect that most of us don't!) waiting involves a necessary slowing down even as everything else in our lives seems to be speeding up; a slowing down even as we wait and hope for something better.

The season of Advent invites us to slow down even as we live in expectation of the coming of Christ: the many and various ways in which Christ has come and will yet come again: His future arrival at the end of all history; His coming in history as an infant boy, which will be our focus at Christmas; and His continual entry into our personal histories each and every day by Grace and the Holy Spirit: in Sacrament and in Word.

Stress at Christmas may seem unavoidable, but Advent offers us some alternatives: an Advent wreath on the table, with its increasing brightness as a new candle is lit each week; an Advent calendar to mark the days of waiting; a brief passage from Holy Scripture read with the evening meal.

These are anti-stress devices, things offered to help restore our souls gently and graciously. But above all we can slow down enough to recall a God who loves us so much that He offers us this time to prepare, a time to wait, a time to remember that underneath all that seems to be crumbling is a firm foundation, built by the One who has come and will yet come again.

The Custom of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice – that time in the year when the sun reaches its southern most point in the heavens and the days are the darkest and gloomiest. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels, and hung them up, decorated with lights and greens, in their celebration halls. There they waited for the return of their sun-god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought. Celebrations culminated in the 'nativity' of the sun – the turning point of the year.

As Christians, we use the same custom to anticipate the true feast of light and life: the nativity of our Saviour Christ. We light one more candle on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam's sin and watch with growing hope as each candle is lit, as we hear and think about the words of the prophets, including John the Baptist, and Mary, our Lord's mother, who help us to prepare for His saving birth.

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



Advent starts with ... images of stars falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens being shaken] so we would not forget that darkness cannot stop God. ... Yes, there is darkness. It hurts when someone close to us dies. Our hearts break when a friend abandons us. The pressure to succeed smothers us at times and we don't know if we will ever see the light of day. The one who comes may come right in the midst of that darkness. Darkness does not stop him from making all things new. True, the one who comes may not bring simple happiness. The one who comes will bring meaning.

Michelle Thomas-Bush (<http://www.d365.org/followingthestar/>)

Priest and Rector

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

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Parish Notices and Updates

IF YOU'VE NOT YET PICKED UP YOUR CHRISTMAS LETTER, you should find it on the table in the narthex. Please speak to the Rector if you're not able to locate your copy.

ST. MARY'S BRANCH OF ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN will be meeting on **Monday, December 10th**, beginning with their annual Christmas Luncheon and gift exchange in the Parish Hall at 12:00 noon. The women of St. Mary's are warmly invited to join them. For more information please speak to Doreen Lawrence at 458-5402 or the Rector.

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held every **Friday, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Rectory. We've resumed our study of the Gospel according to St. Luke. Everyone is warmly invited to join us; and if your schedule only permits you to attend occasionally, please plan to join us when you can.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH CORPORATION (Wardens and Vestry members) are reminded of the meeting next Sunday 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.

OUR RECENT PARISH BAZAAR AND CHICKEN PATTIE TEA was a great success. In spite of several other events in the city and a small reduction in the number of visitors, more than \$2300.00 was raised to support out mission and ministry here at St. Mary's; and the support of a large and enthusiastic volunteer crew made the work a pleasure as well. Thanks so much to our many different team leaders for ensuring a smooth and efficient operation; thanks to those who offered their time and talents; and thanks to all those who came out to support the event. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

CHURCH CALENDARS FOR 2019 ARE NOW AVAILABLE on the table in the Narthex for a very reasonable \$7.00. These lovely calendars are an ideal way of keeping track of the Church Year and are excellent small gifts for friends at Christmas. Please speak to the Rector if you can't locate them.

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 20th.** For more information, please speak to the Rector.

AS THEY DID LAST YEAR, THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH VESTRY have designated \$1000 from parish funds to be given to local and international missions; and they are again asking the young people in our Sunday School

and their families to decide how those funds will be spent. Last year half was given to Fredericton Homeless Shelters and half was divided between international development projects carried out by Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and World Vision. The Sunday School will soon be doing their mission 'Christmas shopping' *but anyone who would like to make a donation to add to the funds available can do so through the collection plate, designating the additional donation as "Sunday School Mission project."* If you have any questions, please speak to Janice.

ALLAN AGNEW, OUR PARISH TREASURER, is preparing the 2019 offering envelopes, which should be available on December 16th. Current envelope holders will be 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.

WITH THE RECENT ARRIVAL OF WINTER WEATHER, everyone is reminded that we have a weekly Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m. If you're ever concerned that driving conditions may make it difficult to attend one of the two celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning, make plans to attend on Saturday. Please speak to the Rector if you have any questions; and plan to join us any Saturday evening if this time is more suitable for your schedule.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 12: ADVENT FERIA

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 13: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

Followed by time for personal prayer in the Church

DECEMBER 15: THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 16: THE THIRD 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