

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17, 2017

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

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalms 11 & 12 | Isaiah 28:9-22 | Revelation 3:7-end

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 33:1-6:	page 367
The Lighting of the Advent Wreath <i>The Gloria is omitted during Advent</i>	
The Collect:	page 99
The Old Testament Reading:	Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 33:20-22:	page 369
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 thy 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 <i>The Gloria is omitted during Advent</i>	
The Collect:	page 99
The Old Testament Reading:	Isaiah 35:1-10
♪ PSALM:	<i>please see the bulletin insert</i>
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.*



From the Rector

*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 images from this week's Old Testament reading, from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, may seem foreign to those of us firmly entrenched in our usual winter wonderland, but Roland MacGregor, who



lives in New Mexico, talks of what it's like to hear and see and feel and smell the desert come to life after a heavy rain shower:

Cactus overnight sprout flowers delicate like that of a crocus; toads sing in chorus the joy of their redemption through the night; and the mesquite gives the cooled air a fragrance that glorifies God.

The metaphor of the desert is often used in Holy Scripture, which should come as no surprise to us when we recall the experience of God's people in their long journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. And whenever that image is used, it's intended to speak of the dryness of human life lived without God's grace: life filled with fear and doubt; with bitterness and anger; the emptiness of lives which seem hopeless and without meaning.

That's what the desert is without water; dry, harsh; and, as Holy Scripture reminds us over and over again, that's what life is without hope.

But just as the desert is real, so is its renewal, its redemption, as MacGregor tells us so poetically; and just as Christ has brought that redemption to all humanity, so we are called to be the signs of that redemption to a dry and thirsty world; signs that the Kingdom of God has come in Jesus Christ; signs that life can be joyful; that in Christ there is healing and wholeness; that in his life can be beautiful.

But, in practical terms, what does it mean to be signs of hope? How can we be signs of that redemption?

Well, by showing the world what it means to live together as the family of God; by showing a mutual respect and concern for all of God's People; by giving generously, and without resentment, of our time and treasure; by speaking and acting with compassion; by steadfastly refusing to surrender to the temptation to live for our own ends and not for the common good.

Can the desert bloom? According to those who know better than I, it can, when the rains come.

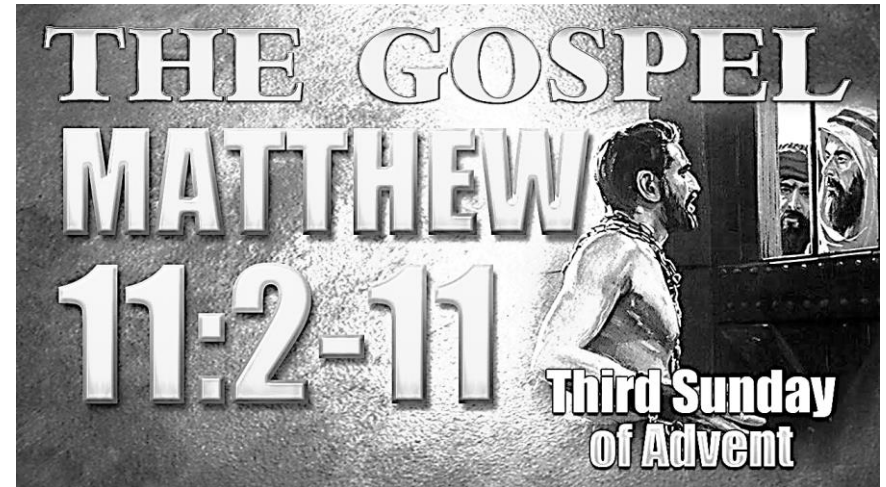
Can life blossom with joy? It can, when redemption comes; when the Kingdom of God is allowed to come into it.

Won't you try this day to be a sign of that Kingdom?

In Advent spirituality we are also called on to meditate on the birthing of Christ in our hearts. In this matter we are dealing with the conversion of life, the movement away from the old life lived under the power of evil to the new life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. True conversion is a turning from one way of life to another. Christ calls us to be converted to him.

—Robert Weber

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



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*

Priest and Rector

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

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Parish Notices and Updates

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 21st.** For more information, please speak to the Rector.

SINCERE THANKS ARE OFFERED to the many hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers from St. Mary's who assisted with our recent Christmas Dinner in the Parish Hall for the residents of Tannery Court. Tannery Court is a low-income housing co-operative that supports independence and recovery for those at risk of homelessness with three buildings here on the northside. A delicious meal was served amidst a warm and welcoming environment; and so many of the residents spoke afterwards of their sincere gratitude. Thanks so much for helping us reach out to some of the residents of our community most in need of good nourishment and support!

MANY THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL who did some 'Christmas Shopping' on behalf of everyone here at St. Mary's. At their November meeting the Parish Vestry designated \$1000 for mission, half for local needs and half for international. The \$500 for local mission will go to Fredericton Homeless Shelters, who operate Grace House (for women) and S. John House (for men) and Brunswick Transition House. Two weeks ago the Sunday School looked at the mission catalogues from the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and Plan Canada. From PWRDF they chose to buy a goat, to purchase a 20kg bag of seed for a small farmer, to help fund a vaccination clinic for a community, and to buy food supplements for 100 children in Burundi. From Plan Canada they purchased 3 hens and a rooster, a farm load of animals, HIV tests kits and training for a female health worker. In many cases, their contributions will be matched on a six to one basis by Global Affairs Canada, so the impact of their work will be many times greater! Thanks so much to the children for taking the time to make such excellent choices and, in the process, learn about some of the very serious needs of children and families around the world as well as our neighbours here in Fredericton; and thanks to the Parish Vestry for helping to make the funding available.

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY has started its Christmas Break. Plan to join us when we resume in January.

ALLAN AGNEW, OUR PARISH TREASURER, has prepared the 2018 offering envelopes, which are now available in the Parish Hall. If you're not currently using envelopes and would like a box for next year, please let Allan know.

A FEW 2018 CHURCH CALENDARS ARE STILL 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.

LIBERTY LANE IS A SAFE HOUSING AND OUTREACH CENTRE here in Fredericton for women and their children trying to restart their lives free from the threat of abuse. Your support for their Kenny House Capital Campaign would be greatly appreciated. To donate or to learn about Kenny House, go to libertylane.ca or call 451-2120.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 20: ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

2:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, *Paradise Villa*
6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 21: ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
Followed by time for personal prayer in the Church

DECEMBER 23: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer
5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 24: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 p.m. – Family Eucharist on the Eve of the Nativity
with our Second Annual Pop-Up! Pageant
9:30 p.m. – Carol Singing
10:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist on the Eve of the Nativity

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist on the Morning of the Nativity