

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 24, 2017

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

## 8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✦ Psalm 33 | Isaiah 30:8-21 | Revelation 14:13-15:4

## 9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 19:1-6:	page 351
The Lighting of the Advent Wreath <i>The Gloria is omitted during Advent</i>	
The Collect:	page 102
The Old Testament Reading:	Isaiah 40:1-9
Psalm 25:1-6:	page 358
The Epistle:	page 102
Gradual Psalm 145:18-22:	page 517
The Holy Gospel:	page 103
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:	63 (Merton)
The Lighting of the Advent Wreath <i>The Gloria is omitted during Advent</i>	
The Collect:	page 102
The Old Testament Reading:	Isaiah 40:1-9
Psalm 25:1-6:	page 358
The Epistle:	page 102
Gradual Psalm 145:18-22:	page 517
The Holy Gospel:	page 103
♪ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:	Alleluia
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
♪ OFFERTORY HYMN:	229 (Picardy)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
♪ HYMN DURING COMMUNION:	65 (St. Stephen)
Post-Communion Prayer:	page 85
♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	No Crowded Eastern Street <i>please see the bulletin insert</i>

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



## From the Rector

*During the last two weeks of Advent here at St. Mary's we use intercessions based on the traditional O Antiphons. This week I'm sharing the following article to help explain the background of these lovely prayers of expectation.*

**Praising the Names of Jesus: The Antiphons of Advent:**  
Jeanne Kun

It is especially in the final week of Advent that our attention is fixed on the



messianic promises proclaimed by the ancient prophets of Israel. A distinctive feature of the Liturgy of the Hours in this week preceding the Christmas vigil is the antiphon sung at Vespers (evening prayer) before and after the recitation of the Magnificat. Originally incorporated into the monastic office in the Middle Ages, these antiphons, often called the "Greater Antiphons" or the "O Antiphons", are also echoed in the daily lectionary as the verse for the gospel acclamation during this week. They add a mood of eager expectation to the liturgy that builds throughout these seven days and climaxes at Christmas.

The O Antiphons have been described as "a unique work of art and a special ornament of the pre-Christmas liturgy, filled with the Spirit of the Word of God". They "create a poetry that fills the liturgy with its splendor", and their composer shows "a magnificent command of the Bible's wealth of motifs". The antiphons are, in fact, a collage of Old Testament types of Christ. Their predominant theme is messianic, stressing the hope of the Savior's coming. Jesus is invoked by various titles, mainly taken from the prophet Isaiah. The sequence progresses historically, from the beginning, before creation, to the very gates of Bethlehem.

In their structure, each of the seven antiphons follows the same pattern, resembling a traditional liturgical prayer. Each O Antiphon begins with an invocation of the expected Messiah, followed by praise of him under one of his particular titles. Each ends with a petition for God's people, relevant to the title by which he is addressed, and the cry for him to "Come".

The seven titles attributed to Jesus in the antiphons are Wisdom (*Sapientia* in Latin), Ruler of the House of Israel (*Adonai*), Root of Jesse (*Radix*), Key of David (*Clavis*), Rising Dawn (*Oriens*), King of the Gentiles (*Rex*), and Emmanuel. In Latin the initials of the titles make an acrostic which, when read backwards, means: "Tomorrow I will be there" ("Ero cras"). To the medieval mind this was clearly a reference to the approaching Christmas vigil.

Today the O Antiphons are most familiar to us in the hymn "O come, O come Emmanuel". Each verse of the hymn parallels one of the antiphons. In addition to their use in the Liturgy of the Hours and the gospel acclamation, they have been popularly incorporated into church devotions and family prayer. An Advent prayer service for use at home, in school, or in the events of parish life can be built around the singing or recitation of the antiphons, accompanied by the related Scripture readings and prayers. They can be prayed at family dinner times or with the lighting of the Advent wreath, with a short explanation of their biblical background. The titles can also be depicted by simple symbols - for example, on banners and posters or in bulletin illustrations - to help us to reflect on these Advent themes.

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



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When you see the light, do not forget Him who gave it to you; when you see the sky, the earth, the sea and all that is in them, marvel at these things and glorify their Creator; when you put on clothing, acknowledge whose gift it is and praise Him who in His providence has given you life. In short, if everything you do becomes for you an occasion for glorifying God, you will be praying unceasingly. And in this way your soul will always rejoice.

Peter the Damascene (12th c.)

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*Priest and Rector*

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

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## *Parish Notices and Updates* \_\_\_\_\_

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is on 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.



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### **DECEMBER 24: 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

#### **DECEMBER 26: ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR**

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

#### **DECEMBER 27: ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

#### **DECEMBER 28: THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

#### **DECEMBER 30: THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

#### **DECEMBER 31: 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*

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