

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 2016

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

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 9 | Isaiah 1:1-20 | St. Matthew 24:1-28

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 25:1-7: *page 358*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Ten Commandments: *page 68*

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect and Epistle: *page 95*

Gradual Psalm 85:4-7: *page 438*

The Holy Gospel: *page 96*

The Creed: *page 71*

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:** **59** (St. Thomas)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Ten Commandments: *page 68*

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Gloria: *page 86*

The Collect and Epistle: *page 95*

The Holy Gospel: *page 96*

♪ **Gospel Acclamation:** **Alleluia**

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

♪ **Offertory Hymn:** **186** (St. Oswald)

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

C: Hear our prayer

The Consecration: *page 82*

♪ **Hymn during Communion:** **232** (St. Agnes)

Post-Communion Prayer: *page 85*

♪ **Recessional Hymn:** **548** (Stuttgart)

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

✧

From the Rector _____

All the themes of the four Sundays in Advent are presented to us in our Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Advent.

Today, the Church reminds us of the duty of preparation, both for the celebration of Christ's first coming at Christmas, and for his second coming at the end of all time. As opposed to shopping and office parties, we are told to prepare by prayer and love for one another. We are given examples in this morning's Gospel both of preparedness, in the disciples and the crowd who greet the Messiah as He enters Jerusalem, and unpreparedness, in the work and worship of the Temple.

The next lesson of Advent is that the coming of Jesus Christ occurs according to the Scriptures, in fulfillment of the clear and explicit prophecy of God. So in today's Gospel, Matthew highlights for us how Jesus' startlingly humble entry into Jerusalem was a fulfillment of the prophecy given through Zechariah. Christ came in fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures; Christ will come again in fulfillment of the same sure promises. So we are bound to prepare for the Advent of God, and we do so first by attending to, and reading of, the written word of the Scriptures.

The third message of Advent is that we are prepared for Christ's Advent by the ministry of his Church. So in today's Gospel, two disciples are sent ahead to

prepare the way for Jesus' coming: a lovely symbol of our own role as members of the Body of Christ, the Church, to prepare our own hearts, and the hearts of others, to know and greet the Christ whenever He comes to us.

Finally, the fourth lesson is that Christ himself prepares us and is ever present among us, as both Saviour and Judge. His coming is both salvation and judgement. When he comes into Jerusalem, the crowd acknowledges him as the Royal Messiah. "Hosanna!" they cry, "Save, we beseech thee", "Save us, Lord." But the same coming of Jesus is to those who were in the temple, where Jesus overturned the tables and proclaimed judgment.

These are then the four lessons of our four Advent Sundays: the Duty of Preparation; Preparation by the Word; Preparation by the Church; and Preparation by Christ himself. And the degree to which we are able to carry out our work of preparation throughout the four weeks of Advent will shape our ability to enjoy our celebration of His First Coming as we await with eager expectation His Second.

Some of you may be familiar with *The Advent Conspiracy*, a recent development in the efforts of Christians around the world to be more intentional in their Christmas preparations. The four tenets of the 'Conspiracy' are: Spend Less; Give More; Love All; and Worship Fully; which together will serve to put the focus of this joyful time more fully on Christ and how Christ calls us to share the Good News of His birth with our families, friends, and neighbours. A copy of this year's Family Guide has been placed on the table in the Narthex (and I can easily forward a pdf version to anyone who asks me); and more information is available at: www.adventconspiracy.org. Have a look at this positive and encouraging programme for personal and spiritual growth. It may help shape what you and your family do this year and for years to come!



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NOVEMBER 30: ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 3: THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 4: THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

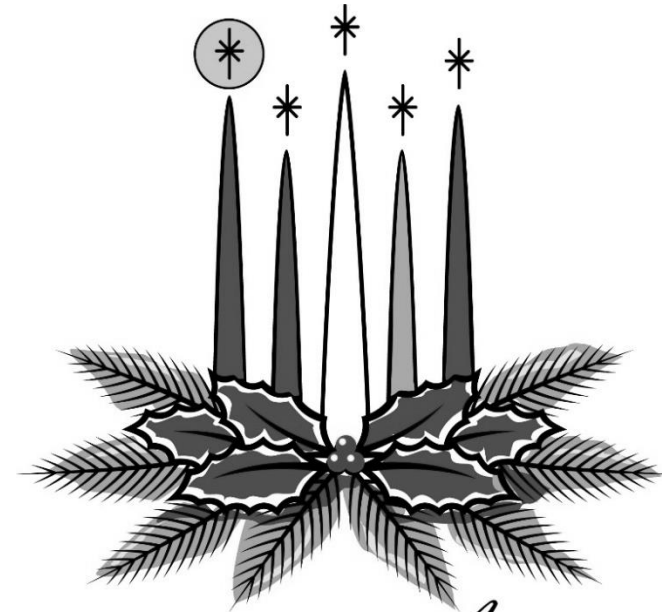
9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Diocese of Fredericton

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY (YORK)



1ST SUNDAY OF Advent

The second coming says that the ultimate word in history is the triumph of God, the reign of God's kingdom, the eternal and lasting rule of the good. Here is where our Advent meditation rests. By faith we are promised that evil will be judged and done away with and all will be made whole. This is the vision we want to carry with us as we view the news and visit the hospitals, psychiatric wards, and prisons of our world. Christian hope is an optimism about life that is grounded in Christ and celebrated again and again in the liturgy of the church.

Robert Weber

Priest and Rector

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

Rectory: 770 McEvoy Street, Fredericton NB E3A 3B7

454.0245 (rectory) | 472.4661 (office) | 461.7685 (cell) | kevin.stockall@bellaliant.net

Visit us at: <http://www.stmarysfredericton.ca/>

Honorary Assistant

Fr. David Mercer

Organist

James O'Neill

Pastoral Assistant

Rick Bungay

Parish Notices and Updates

New Brunswick Community Harvest Gardens will be holding their annual Fall Harvest Pot Luck here at St. Mary's this afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. They also wish to invite the people of the Parish of St. Mary (York) to join them. The theme this year is "Food from many Cultures." Bring along your favourite dish to share. Recipe cards are requested so that people with allergies can eat with confidence. They hope to see you there!

The Rt. Revd. David Edwards, Bishop of Fredericton, will be in the Parish of St. Mary (York) to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on *Sunday, December 11th*. *As part of the Bishop's visit we welcome anyone who would like to make a reaffirmation of their Confirmation and Baptismal promises.* If you would like to do that in the presence of the Bishop, or if you have any questions as to what that means, please speak to the Rector.

St. Mary's weekly Bible Study "Faithful and True: a Look at the Women in Holy Scripture," is held each *Friday at 10:00 a.m.* at the Rectory. 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.

We're planning our 3rd Annual PARISH ADVENT PARTY, *with a visit from St. Nick*, for pre-school and school-age kids (and their families!), on **Saturday, December 3rd** from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Hall. There will be Games and Crafts for all ages, with activities for younger children; and the decorating of St. Nicholas Cookies. Everything will wrap up with a Family Supper. Plan to join us on the 5th and please feel free to invite your friends.

Breakfast, Craft & Bake Sale: Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Nasonworth warmly invites you to attend their 3rd Annual Breakfast, Craft and Bake Sale on, *Saturday, December 3rd* from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Please join us next Sunday, December 4th, following the 10:30 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist for our monthly **Shared Meal**. Members of both congregations are warmly encouraged to gather with their sisters and brothers in Christ as we share the peace and joy which are have in Jesus Christ.

St. Mary's Mothers' Union branch is looking for contributions of new or gently-used baby monitors for *Women in Transition House*, Fredericton's emergency shelter for abused women and their children. Those who are able to help are asked to please bring their contributions to church **by December 4th** and Mothers' Union will have a box in the hall for you to place them. *Or, if you would prefer to make a financial donation to assist Mothers' Union with the purchase of baby monitors, please speak to Adele Knox or Karen McKay.*

If you like to knit, St. Mary's Mothers' Union branch invite you to share with them in a project that've recently started. They're knitting *Comfort Bears* to be given to children at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital. Instructions have been posted on the Mothers' Union bulletin board in the hall. Feel free to pick up a copy and get knitting!

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 Sunday, December 18th. For more information, please speak to the Rector.

O Emmanuel

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

Malcolm Guite

Allan Agnew, our Parish Treasurer, is asking those who have changed their mailing address since the beginning of the year to let him know your new address so that he can correctly address your 2016 tax receipt. Please speak with him soon or email him at allanagnew@bellaliant.net. He will also soon be preparing your 2017 envelopes, which are now available in the Hall. Those with 2016 envelopes will automatically be assigned the same number for next year. If you're not currently using the envelopes and would like a box for next year, please let Allan know.

E-OFFERING: Did you forget your envelope this weekend? Instead of digging in your wallet for collection why don't you set up E-Offering and forget about the hassle. E-Offering is an electronic offering that debits from your bank account. It is easy, no fuss and customizable. You can set up weekly, monthly and with any amount. Adjustments are easy to make. Please pick up a slip from the table in the narthex if you are interested or speak to Allan Agnew if you have any questions.

***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath
The First Sunday in Advent***

(You are encouraged to use this liturgy for lighting the Advent Wreath in your own home this coming week)

Reader A: Rejoice with me and say with me,
***Congregation:* Let us go into the house of the Lord.**
Reader A: We are standing on holy ground
***Congregation:* For this is where we praise God.**

Scripture: *Isaiah 2:1-5*
Reader B: This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Reader A: As we light the first Advent candle, we do it in the spirit of peace.

Reader B: As we stand, let us pray.
O God, as we enter into this season of Advent, may we be examples of your peace in the world. Help us to walk in your light. **Amen.**

**A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus in nigh.**

"A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986. Music is "Away In A Manger" by James Murray 1887. Adapted from Services for the Advent Wreath by Robert Jarboe, CSS Publishing Co, 1998.

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