

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023: Holy Eucharist lead by Father Doug Chard from the Book of Alternative Services at 10:00am in the Church

Processional Hymn:

#5 - Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Third Sunday of Advent:

December 17, 2023

Reader 1: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen**

Light three candles of the Advent wreath, including a pink or rose candle.

Collect: God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah: Chapter 61: Verses 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former

devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 126



The Lord has done great things for us.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev. **R**

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians: Chapter 5: Verses 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Hymn:

#397 - Praise the one Who Breaks the Darkness

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

Offeratory Hymn:

#101 - Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Prayer over the Gifts: God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn during Communion:

#107 - Prepare the Way

Prayer after Communion: Merciful God, may this Eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen**

Recessional Hymn:

#383 - Jesus Shall Reign Where 're the Sun

NOTICES:

Holy Communion Gluten-free Wafers are now available: Gluten-free wafers are available for those who require them. Please speak to the Priest before the Service.

Parish Repairs: A sheet for your input and comments is available on the Greeter's Table.

Wednesday Eucharist: The last Wednesday 5:30 Eucharist until Easter 2024 will be in the Hall Parlour on Wednesday, December 13th.

Services in the Church:

December 17, 2023, 3rd Sunday of Advent @ 10am (BAS)

December 24, 2023, 4th Sunday of Advent @ 10am (BCP)

Christmas Eve Family Service December 24, 2023 @ 4pm

Christmas Day Morning Prayer December 25, 2023 @ 10am

Services move to the Hall for the Winter beginning December 31, 2023 until Easter 2024.

Hanging of the Greens - Decorating for Christmas: The hanging of the greens will be Sunday, December 17th, following our 10am Sunday Service in the Church. Please stay and help to get our Church ready for Christmas. Thank you from the Altar Guild

Donation Opportunities:

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR): A diocesan direct debit program of automatic monthly bank withdrawals. To apply, go to <https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/resources/pages/par-program>.

Electronic Transfer: We accept e-transfers directly into the Parish bank account at BMO. Please use the office e-mail yarmouthtusketooffice@ns.aliantzinc.ca.

Bottle Deposit Fundraiser: We have an account at Paper Chase Bottle Exchange, Hardscratch Road. Drop off cans & bottles & ask to put the proceeds on the Holy Trinity account.

Bell Ringing Event: We are pleased that Amy Fevens will play on **December 28, 2023 from 6:30 to 7:30**. Please tell others so they can enjoy our unique way of communicating in Town. It is wonderful to have citizens & visitors attend & thank our bell-ringers in person.

A Call for Bellringers: The bells of Holy Trinity Parish have been ringing out over Yarmouth for over 100 years. For some, the sound is a call to hear the Word of God. For others, the bell tones have a calming effect and reduce the stress of daily life. We have added new bell ringers. That is wonderful. There are 11 heavy bells that weigh around 11,000 pounds. People think it takes a lot of strength to ring them. But actually, the wooden handles you move to ring each note can be operated by a child. We want to build on this momentum. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the church office at 902-742- 5054 or email at yarmouthtusketooffice@ns.aliantzinc.ca.

Spiritual Friendship Study Group: Join us for spiritual friendship, bible study, meditation & contemplative dialogue, every other Wednesday from 7-8pm (**next gathering is January 17, 2024**). We gather to explore together how God lives in & through us as we consider the teachings and their application to everyday life. In community, we intentionally consider our lives as Christians through study, meditative prayer and dialogue. Peace, Carolynn Barko.

Sunday School Advent Project:

As we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child, we are encouraging Sunday school students to do some chores at home to earn money to buy farm animals for families in need through PWRDF during Advent. Members of the congregation can also participate. Just mark your donation for the Sunday School Advent Project.

Thank you, Julie Chandler

The Primates World Relief and Development Fund Resources, Programs and Support Opportunities can be found on their website: pwrdf.org

Musique Royale: upcoming Christmas performances: Info at musiqueroyale.com

“A Chorister’s Christmas” Capella Regalis Choirs, dir. Nick Halley

Join us for a unique musical celebration of Christmas with music animated by the spirit of the Winter Solstice. Directed by Nick Halley, the choir will weave together works from a 12th-century female composer, early folk music from Appalachia (USA), traditional German and French carols, and instrumental-choral tributes to the coming of light in the darkness. Saturday December 16 at 4 pm - St John’s Anglican Church, Lunenburg

Handel's Messiah - Ensemble Ménestrel

For music lovers around the world, Handel's Messiah brings families together to begin their Christmas celebrations. Annually, it’s the single most performed piece of classical music worldwide (The Guardian). Artistic director and soprano Janelle Lucyk congregates emerging historical performance specialists from Canada and beyond to create this pocket-sized "Messiah-on-the-go", which also features soprano Ariadne Lih, mezzo-soprano Sarah Myatt, tenor Kerry Bursey and bass Matthew Li as soloists.

Friday December 22 at 7 pm - Wolfville Baptist Church, Wolfville

Saturday December 23 at 7 pm - St John’s Anglican Church, Lunenburg

Christmas Memorial Flowers Will be in the Church:

Please mark Flowers on your cheque. Thank You from the Altar Guild

The flowers & plants in the Church & Hall are given to the Glory of God
In loving memory of the following family and friends:

In memory of the Dearly Departed in 2023: November: Robert Charles Manuel

Inez and John Derevjanik, Anthony Carpentieri and Maria and Enrico Mangiarotti in loving memory by Ms. Joanne Derevjanik.

In loving memory of Ena, Reginald Miller, Althea, Jennette, Hubert, Loretta, and Dean by Sandra & Charles Blake.

In memory of my-in-laws - Bradshaw Family - Rev. Canon A.G. Bradshaw and wife Margaret, and six children, including my husband, Malcolm - and my family: parents J. Eldon Ford and Helen, and brothers Henry, and St. Clair by Shirley I. (Ford)) Bradshaw.

In loving memory of Elizabeth and Paul Mazier by Dave & Chelle Warner.

Charlie and Gerry Britain in loving memory by Ellen and Family.

Gordon Kendell in memory by Phyllis, Brett, Tina, and Patricia and all the Family.

Ardith & Clar Patten and Carole Peter Koopmans in loving memory by Roanne Collier & Family.

Walton & Josina Warner, F. Maxwell & Edith Rowe and Cheryl Elaine Hardy in loving memory by David and Chelle Warner.

Wesley and Maggie Hillyard and Amber, nephew Zachary Langille and Earl Douglas Boutilier in loving memory by the Hillyard family.

In loving memory of Isaac Sheppard, Cameron Forbes, and Sheldon Chapman & Lena Darrigan by Joan and Mike Fields.

In loving memory of Lois J. Smith by sons Chuck and Calvin, daughters Donna, Carolyn, and Shelly.

In loving memory of my Wikeem & Emin Family by Georgina Bent.

In loving memory of Edith Burns, Grace Hamilton, Dora Flynn, Estee Lanier, Robert Hamilton, Fred Flynn, Charles Lanier, and Merv Parsons given by Gordon and Carol-Lynn Hamilton.

In loving memory of Parents, George & Bernice Deal & Brother Paul Deal by Linda Cain.

Given in memory of previous Altar Guild Members of Yarmouth and Tusket Parishes who have passed on to their eternal home by the Altar Guild.

Advent Food Collection for the Yarmouth Food Bank: We are using the attached list this year to support those in need in our community. You can set items aside and bring them each week to leave beside the tree. We will arrange to bring them to the Food Bank. If you wish to make a financial donation, please make a cheque out to the Yarmouth Food Bank or Yarmouth Fuel Bank and we will deliver it for you (a charitable receipt will be provided to you from the Food Bank or Fuel Bank).