

First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023: Holy Eucharist lead by Father Gordon Hamilton from the Book of Common Prayer at 10:00am

Processional Hymn:

#114 Lo - He Comes with Clouds Descending

Advent Candle Lighting; First Sunday of Advent:

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens & come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze & causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. **Amen.**

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Collect: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through 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 64: Verses 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God

besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 80



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. **R**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians: Chapter 1: Verses 3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you

to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn:

#108 Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." The Gospel of Christ. **Praise be to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ**

Offertory Hymn:

#96 - Creator of the Stars of Night

Prayer over the Gifts: God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn after Communion:

#94 - Wait for the Lord

Prayer after Communion: God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen

Recessional Hymn: #482 - Come and Journey with a Saviour

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: will be in the Hall Parlour on Wednesday, November 29th.

Spiritual Friendship Study Group: Join us for spiritual friendship, bible study, meditation & contemplative dialogue, every other Wednesday from 7-8pm (next gathering is December 6, 2023). 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

Please note: Some Important Dates for Fall and Winter Services:

Services in the Hall: December 3rd and December 10th

Services in the Church:

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

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

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. Note: last Wednesday 5:30pm Service is December 13, 2023 until after Easter 2024.

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 yarmouthtusketo@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 the bell-ringers will play on **December 28, 2023.**

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 people to our list of 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 are interested or know of anyone who might be interested, please contact warden or the church office at 902-742- 5054 or email at yarmouthtusketoffice@ns.aliantzinc.ca.

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

Christmas Memorial Flowers Will be in the Church: Christmas is just around the corner, and it is time to think about ordering Christmas Flowers for your loved ones. Please call the office (902-742-5054) Monday-Friday and leave your name & contact info to place an order. Last day to place orders is Sunday December 17th, 2023. Please mark Flowers on your cheque. For more information, please contact Shirley Muise 902-881-2090 or Faye Smith 902-742-7464. Thank You from the Altar Guild

Advent Food Collection for the Yarmouth Food Bank: We are planning to use the attached list for this year to support those in need in our community. You can set items aside and bring them each week to leave in or beside the basket. We will arrange to bring them to the Food Bank. If you wish to make a financial donation also, 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).

Musique Royale: upcoming Christmas performances

More information is available at musiqueroyale.com

“A Rose in Winter” Cathedral Choir of All Saints, dir. Paul Halley

Musique Royale welcomes back Grammy Award-winner Paul Halley and his singers from The Choir of All Saints Cathedral for this annual performance of song and story. The choir will be joined by guest artist Alexander Dobson, whose rich and sonorous baritone voice is known to audiences of both opera and oratorio. Each year features carols old and new, and this concert will also feature Dobson in the “Fantasia On Christmas Carols” by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, a piece that depicts the spirit of the season in joyful sound.

Saturday December 9 at 4 pm - St John’s Anglican Church, Lunenburg

Sunday December 10 at 4 pm - The Cathedral Church of All Saint's, Halifax

“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