

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER

*Diocese of Fredericton
Anglican Church of Canada*

<i>Bishop</i>	Archbishop David Edwards
<i>Incumbent</i>	The Rev'd Christopher Ketch
<i>Church Wardens</i>	Susan Jack, Terry Ricketts
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Lori Maker
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Sexton</i>	Larry Totton

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We acknowledge that the land on which
we gather is the traditional unceded
territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet)
and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

Please note for our worship

- * Due to the **credal nature** of the Litany, and its **comprehensiveness in prayer and confession, the Creed, the Prayers of the People, the Confession, and the Comfortable Words** are omitted in today's liturgy.
 - * Also, keeping in mind the penitential aspect of Advent, the **"Glory to God"** (*Gloria in Excelsis*) is omitted, as it will be throughout Advent.
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10:30 am

A Service of the Word

From Supplementary Texts (2001) to *The Book of Alternative Services*.

THE GATHERING OF THE CHURCH

Greeting

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought
us together to praise you for your goodness and to
ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand
in the week that is past, and your purpose in the
week to come; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Advent Introductory Response

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
**Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again,
That your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
And grant us your salvation.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Hymn of Praise “*Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement*” **CP 111**

Please remain standing.

ADVENT WREATH: *Lighting of the Second Candle*

Advent 2 – PEACE AND JUDGEMENT

Reader 1 Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday for peace in light of judgement. Last week we remembered that Jesus is our hope in the face of death.

THE FIRST CANDLE IS LIT.

Reader 2 Peace is one of God’s gifts. We need God’s peace in our world, in the Church, in our families, and in our hearts.
This peace is real because it comes through Jesus’ death on the cross. Christ’s death on the cross gives healing and forgiveness in the face of God’s judgement of us, and of the world. Jesus himself, as a person, is our peace.

Reader 1 We light the second candle today. It reminds us about God’s peace which we receive in knowing Jesus.

THE SECOND CANDLE IS LIT.

Reader 2 There is a famous prayer which asks God to help us express His peace and other Godly characteristics to the world. So now let us pray this prayer.

Reader 1 Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

All **Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, let us grant pardon;
where there is doubt, let us show faith;
where there is despair, let us give hope;
where there is sadness, let us bring joy;
and where there is darkness,
let us shine your light.**

**Help us always to seek your peace, O Lord,
and to be your peacemakers in the world. Amen.**

PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED FOR PRAYING THE LITANY.

Litany of The Advent

God the Father, God the Son,
God the Spirit, Three in One,
Hear us from thy heavenly throne:
Spare us, Holy Trinity.

Jesu, King of boundless might,
Jesu, everlasting Light,
Jesu, Wisdom infinite:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Thou whose wisdom all things planned;
Held by whose almighty hand
All things in their order stand:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Jesu, sole-begotten Son,
Jesu, high and holy One,
Jesu, greatest Cornerstone:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

God with us, Emmanuel,
Coming down as Man to dwell,
Vanquisher of death and hell:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Jesu, Sun of Righteousness,
Jesu, Mercy fathomless,
Jesu, ever near to bless:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Saviour, full of truth and grace,
Leaving thine eternal place,
To restore our fallen race:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Jesu, Father of the poor,
Jesu, Guard and Refuge sure,
Jesu, Holiness most pure:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Word by whom the worlds were made,
In a lowly manger laid,
Taught on earth a lowly trade:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Jesu, Healer of complaints,
Jesu, Strength of the one that faints,
Jesu, Teacher of the Saints:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Good Physician, come to cure
All the ills that we endure,
And to make our nature pure:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Jesu, Fount with blessings rife,
Jesu, Bulwark in the strife,
Jesu, Way and Truth and Life:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Only Hope of those who pray,
Only Help while here we stay,
Life of those who pass away:
Hear us, Holy Jesu.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Thou art fairer than the children of this earth.
Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God,
who sent your servant John the Baptist

to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,
inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth,
to turn our disobedient hearts to you,
that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge,
that we may stand with confidence before his glory;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People

Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Officiant

Thank you, Father,
for making yourself known to us
and showing the way of salvation
through faith in your Son.
We ask you now to teach and encourage us
through your Word,
so that we may be ready to serve you;
for the glory of the One in whose name we pray,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

Amen.

(from *A Prayer Book for Australia*,
Anglican Church of Australia 1999)

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 9 They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.
 10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
 peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be
 glorious. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1 Give the king your justice, O God, *
 and your righteousness to the king's son;
 2 **That he may rule your people righteously *
 and the poor with justice;**
 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
 and the little hills bring righteousness.
 4 **He shall defend the needy among the people; *
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the
 oppressor.**
 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
 from one generation to another.
 6 **He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
 like showers that water the earth.**
 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall
 be no more.
 18 **Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
 who alone does wondrous deeds!**
 19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever! *
 and may all the earth be filled with his glory.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name’;

¹⁰ and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

¹¹ and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him’;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

[NRSV-A]

Hear God’s word for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”* **CP 106**

1 There’s a voice in the wilderness crying,
A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,

The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places,
Where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
Get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
The coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
The works of men decay,
The power and pomp of nations
Shall pass like a dream away.

3 But the word of our God endureth,
The arm of the Lord is strong;
He stands in the midst of nations,
And He will right the wrong.
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
And fold the lambs to His breast;
In pastures of peace He'll lead them,
And give to the weary rest.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places,
Where the Lord our God may go!

James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961)

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Hear the Holy Gospel written in the third chapter
of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew
beginning at the first verse.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon Heather Masson

Offering Hymn “*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*” CP 117

Officiant Let us pray.

All **Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

All **Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise
for all you have done for us.**

**We thank you for the splendour
of the whole creation,
for the beauty of this world,
for the wonder of life,
and for the mystery of love.
We thank you for the blessing
of family and friends,
and for the loving care
which surrounds us on every side.
We thank you for setting us tasks
which demand our best efforts,
and for leading us to accomplishments
which satisfy and delight us.
We thank you also for those
disappointments and failures
that lead us to acknowledge
our dependence on you alone.
Above all, we thank you
for your Son Jesus Christ;
for the truth of his word
and the example of his life;
for his steadfast obedience,
by which he overcame temptation;
for his dying, through which
he overcame death;
for his rising to life again,
in which we are raised
to the life of your kingdom.
Grant us the gift of your Spirit,
that we may know Christ
and make him known.
And through him,
at all times and in all places,
may we give thanks to you in all things.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

<i>Officiant</i>	And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
<i>All</i>	Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the risen and ascended Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn “When the King Shall Come Again” CP 109

Those serving for this church’s worship and learning today:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Bev Doiron & Sharon Titus
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Bill Sherriff & Judy Galbraith
<i>Layreader & First Reader</i>	Heather Masson
<i>Second Reader</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Officiant & preacher</i>	Heather Masson
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Susan Jack

Sun, Dec 7, 11:45 am HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen)	Janet Brown Terry Ricketts
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Mon, Dec 8, 11:30 am
HVHS Lunch Programme delivery
(from Large Hall)

Terry Ricketts
Tim Ricketts

Who's serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.

THIS WEEK

- Mon, Dec 8, 6:00 pm** Tintinnabula Hand Bell Choir (Small Hall) For more info contact Lynn Adams at 506 635-8474
- Wed, Dec 10, 10:00 am** Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677
- Wed, Dec 10, 7:00 pm** Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798
- Thurs, Dec 11, 2:00 pm** L.I.F.T. [Ladies in Fellowship Together] (Small Hall) For more info contact Janet Brown at 506 657-7707

LOOKING AHEAD

- Sun, Dec 14, 10:30 am** Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

FOR OUR WORSHIP AND LEARNING

Next Sunday – December 14 *Third Sunday of Advent*
Readings are as in the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

NOTICES

Happy Birthday this Week to:



Isabelle Goguen, December 10

***“Remember you are a Child of God through
Baptism”***

Food Bank

Please remember the **West Side Food Bank** with a toonie or a loonie in the can in the Narthex, or a donation in a special envelope marked with your name or number. We aim to support the Food Bank by at least \$ 200/month!

Christmas Baskets:

Our giving tree is now set up in the Narthex. The tags on the tree are items you can buy for our Christmas baskets. Some have grocery items, and others have first names and ages of children for whom you can buy Christmas gifts such as pyjamas or books. All items will need to be brought to the church on or before Sunday, December 14, 2025, our Services of Lessons and Carols, so those packing the boxes for our Christmas families can have time to prepare them for pick up or delivery. Thanks in advance to all who contribute to this worthy cause.

Your Offerings

In order to reduce costs, we have ordered fewer sets of offering envelopes for 2026. If you want to continue using envelopes, please leave a note in the offering plate or contact the office to let Lori know. If you would like to switch to E-Offering (weekly or monthly withdrawal from your bank account) there are pamphlets in the Narthex that explain how to set it up. It is also possible to do Interact E-Transfers to goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca. Contact Susan Jack (susan.jack@bellaliant.net, 506-333-9931) or the office (506-635-8145) for assistance or questions.

PRAYER

Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes

Ginny Abbott, Diane Cormier, Frances Finley, Ann Hoben, Ruth Northeast, Elizabeth Parks, Elsie Rusling, Arlene Trask

Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home

Andrew Aalund, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Kaye Mallory, Pam Melanson, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Bob Sherwood, Mark Slader, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Dennis Totton, Joe Totton, Robbie Wong.

Prayer Shawls - if you know someone in our parish who is in great need for prayer and would find comfort in a shawl made with love and care. Contact Ngaire Nelson at 506-672-8666 or the church office at 506-635-8145.

OUR PARISH PRAYER TREE

A team of volunteers is available upon request, to pray for you or your loved one (with their permission) daily, for two weeks. These prayers will be treated with the strictest confidence. Prayer-requests should be short and to the point, and will be passed on verbatim. The Lord knows what we need best! A follow-up of thanks or an update encourages our intercessors in their ministry.

To initiate the prayer-tree ministry please call your request to our “Captain”, Ngaire Nelson 672-8666

Saint John Mission to Seafarers Prayer Cycle

In December, we pray for the ministry and mission we are privileged to do and we give thanks for Jesus Christ's birth.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Week of December 7- 13, 2025

Mon: Barb Ellis
Tue: Ruth Ferguson
Wed: Doug and Sharon Fillmore, Sarah and Sophie
Thur: Kevin and Holly Fitzpatrick, Meredith & Andrew
Fri: Saint John Community Christmas Exchange.

Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.

The Alpha and the Omega

This is the Advent symbol of Jesus from Revelation 1:8 and 22:13: "I am the alpha and the omega [the first and the last, the beginning and the end], says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, Alpha and Omega. Not only does this symbolize the One who came and who will come again, it also emphasizes the continuity of God's work in history throughout both the Old and the New Testaments.

Jesus as the "Alpha and Omega" is that he was at the beginning of all things and will be at the close. It is equivalent to saying he always existed and always will exist. It was Christ, as second Person of the Trinity, who brought about the creation: "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:3), and his Second Coming will be the beginning of the end of creation as we know it (2 Peter 3:10). As God incarnate, he has no beginning, nor will he have any end with respect to time, being from everlasting to everlasting.

