

# *THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT-HOPE*

*November 30, 2025*



## CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER

*Diocese of Fredericton*

*Anglican Church of Canada*

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*Bishop*

Archbishop David Edwards

*Incumbent*

The Rev'd Christopher Ketch

*Church Wardens*

Susan Jack, Terry Ricketts

*Parish Administrator*

Lori Maker

*Organist & Choir Director*

David Mitchell

*Sexton*

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 today**

*\* Since the Litany is very comprehensive in prayer, has a strong penitential character, and is very creedal in expression, we will omit the usual Prayers of the People, Confession, and Creed.*

*\* **Also**, beginning this Sunday and continuing throughout the rest of Advent, we will omit the “Glory to God” at all services. This marks the ongoing penitential aspect of Advent.*

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**10:30 am**

**Litany and Holy Communion**

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The liturgy is from *The Book of Common Prayer* and other sources.

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP**

**Welcome**

**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.**

**Processional Hymn “Let There Be Light”**

**CP 572**

**ADVENT BEGINS**

In Advent we get ready for Jesus to come back to earth. We also get ready to celebrate Christmas, that Jesus was born in Bethlehem many years ago.

The circle of the Advent wreath tells us that there is no beginning or end to God. The evergreen speaks of continuous new life in Jesus Christ. The candlelight tells us that Jesus is the light of God in the world.

The violet/purple colour of the candles helps us to think very seriously about ourselves before a loving and holy God. Advent prepares us to meet God in Jesus Christ: we prepare for His second coming, we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation which is Christ's first coming – God with us, in human form, and we prepare for His coming to us in our daily living.

And so, we now bless the Advent wreath and its candles for its use this year.

### **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art the true light that lightest everyone that cometh into the world: bless, we pray thee, this wreath and its candles which we shall light in preparation for thy coming; and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of thy love that we may receive thee with joy and gladness, and evermore stand fast in the faith. Who livest and reignest, world without end. **Amen.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

*The first of the four outer candles on the Advent Wreath is lit.  
The presider then continues with the following prayer.*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, death swallowed up in victory brings the light of your Son to illumine our minds and enliven our hearts with hope. Make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that we may be ready to meet you in him, active in his service and joyful in his praise; the Alpha and the Omega, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Litany**  
**Collect of the Day** *as given by the presider*

*page 30*

## THE WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

### First Reading      Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

**2** The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

**2** In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

**3** Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

**4** He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

**5** O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord! [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***Psalms 122***

**1** I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
**2** **Now our feet are standing \***  
**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**  
**3** Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself.

- 4      **To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord, \***  
         **the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the name of the Lord.**
- 5      For there are the thrones of judgement, \*  
         the thrones of the house of David.
- 6      **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \***  
         **"May they prosper who love you.**
- 7      Peace be within your walls \*  
         and quietness within your towers.
- 8      **For my brethren and companions' sake, \***  
         **I pray for your prosperity.**
- 9      Because of the house of the Lord our God, \*  
         I will seek to do you good."

## **Second Reading**    Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.  
[NRSV-A]

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

## **Gradual Anthem**    *"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"*

## **Gospel**                Matthew 24:36-44

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew

## **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>36</sup> ‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon** Fr. Christopher Ketch

## **THE EUCHARIST IS CELEBRATED**

<b>Offertory Sentence for Advent</b>	<i>page 73</i>
<b>Offertory Hymn</b> “Hark, a Herald Voice Is Sounding” <b>CP 108</b>	
<b>Prayer over the Gifts</b>	<i>page 74</i>
<b>Thanksgiving and Consecration</b>	<i>page 78</i>
~ with Advent Proper Preface <i>given by the presider</i>	
<b>The Peace</b>	<i>page 83</i>
<b>Prayer of Humble Access</b>	<i>page 83</i>

## **THE COMMUNION**

*While the church receives communion, in silence take the time to reflect or pray or sit quietly and to enable others to do so, and/or at any time to join in the singing of the following music:*

**“Lamb of God” CP 685** *page 84*

## ***“While We are Waiting, Come”***

- 1      While we are waiting come  
While we are waiting come  
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel  
While we are waiting come
- 2      With pow'r and glory come  
With pow'r and glory come  
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel  
While we are waiting come
- 3      Come Saviour quickly come  
Come Saviour quickly come  
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel  
While we are waiting come

## ***“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring” CP 97***

### **AFTER COMMUNION**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray.

**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 them that 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.**

#### **An Advent Closing Acclamation Prayer**

The night is far spent, the day is at hand,  
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light.

Come, O Lord, comfort the soul of your servant  
**Even so, Lord, come.**

The light of life send upon us;  
The joy of peace send upon us;  
The gladness of goodwill send upon us.

**In judgement and justice draw near,  
in your merciful loving kindness draw near  
with the blessing of peace draw near.**

O wisdom of God, sweetly ordering all things,  
flowing from the glory of the Almighty,  
making all things new, kind to all,  
making them friends of God.

**Come and comfort the soul of your servant  
for to you do I lift up my soul.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, come  
**at evening time, with light**

And in the morning, with your glory  
**to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

He who receives our prayers says:  
Surely I come quickly  
I am the root and offspring of David  
I am the bright and morning star.  
**Amen, even so, come Lord Jesus.**

**Blessing**      *as given by the presider*

## **THE CHURCH DEPARTS TO WITNESS AND TO SERVE**

### **Dismissal**

We wait for your loving kindness, O God.  
**In the midst of your temple.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
**And all flesh shall see it together.**



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

Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
**Who made heaven and earth.**

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Closing Hymn “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus” CP 88**

### **Those serving today’s worship and learning:**

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<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>	Margaret Penchoff & Ann Stone
<i>Layreader &amp; First Reader</i>	Paul Desjardins
<i>Second Reader</i>	Sherry Desjardins
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist &amp; Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Presider &amp; preacher</i>	Christopher Ketch
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Susan Jack

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### **Those serving in our outreach this week:**

<b>Sun, Nov 30, 11:45 am</b>	Sharon/Chris Titus
HVHS Lunch Programme	Brian Burpee
preparation	Patti Vaughan
(Large Hall kitchen)	Carol Patterson
<b>Mon, Dec 1, 11:30 am</b>	Ken Lewell
HVHS Lunch Programme delivery	Linda Lewell
(from Large Hall)	

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

**THIS WEEK**

**Mon, Dec 1, 6:00 pm**

Tintinnabula Hand Bell Choir (Small Hall) For more info contact Lynn Adams at 506 635-8474

**Wed, Dec 3, 10:00 am**

Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677

**Wed, Dec 3, 7:00 pm**

Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**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

**Sun, Dec 14, 10:30 am**

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

### **FOR OUR WORSHIP AND LEARNING**

**Next Sunday – December 7 *Second Sunday of Advent***

Scripture readings Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

### **NOTICES**

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***Happy Birthday this Week to:***

Logan Miller, December 1

Emily Dixon, December 5

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

**Please have your Christmas Memorials** into the office no later than **Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>**, so that they will be in the bulletin in time for Christmas Eve. Thank you!

### **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.

### **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!

## **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.

**Saint John Mission to Seafarers Prayer Cycle**

In November, we pray for harmony among the variety of nationalities and cultures onboard ship.

**Parish Cycle of Prayer**

**Week of November 30- December 6, 2025**

**Mon:** Mike and Tanya Dixon, Jenna and Emily

**Tue:** Joshua Divahar

**Wed:** Rick and Beverly Doiron and Family

**Thur:** Ernest and Catherine Ellingwood

**Fri:** Our Altar Guild and its ministry.

*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 ('I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.) and 22:13 (I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.) 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.

## About Advent

### What Does Advent Mean?

In liturgical Christianity, Advent refers to the period of four weeks leading up to Christmas. It begins on the Sunday closest to November 30 (St. Andrew's Day) and ends on December 24. It is a time of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming” or “arrival,” which translates to the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the young boy Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6<sup>th</sup> century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the feeding-box in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of

the world. The Advent season was not explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas until the Middle Ages.

### **What Does Advent Symbolize?**

Advent symbolizes the church's present situation in these "last days" (Acts 2:17 - *"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."* Hebrews 1:2 - *"but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds".*) as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom.

The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.

*By The Rev'd Justin Holcomb, an Episcopal priest*

A blessed and hopeful  
**SEASON OF ADVENT**  
to one and all!