

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2024



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER

*Diocese of Fredericton
Anglican Church of Canada*

Bishop
Interim Priest-in-charge
Church Wardens
Parish Administrator
Organist & Choir Director
Sexton

Archbishop David Edwards
Fr Keith Joyce
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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.

10:30 am

Holy Communion

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 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

CP 89

ADVENT WREATH: *Lighting of the Fourth Candle*

*The last of the four outer candles on the Advent Wreath is lit,
along with the prior three which are lit first.*

Prayer for the Fourth Candle *as given by the presider*

Collect for Purity *page 67*

Summary of the Law *page 69*

“Lord, have mercy” (*Kyrie eleison*) *page 70*

Mutual Salutation *page 70*

Collect of the Day *as given by the presider*

THE WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a *Pew Bible p. 756*

A reading from Micah.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labour has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace. [NRSV-A]

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

Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) "Tell Out, My Soul" CP 362

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
 Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
 tender to me the promise of his word;
 in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
 his holy name – the Lord, the mighty one
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
 Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
 proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
 the hungry fed, the humble lifted high
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
 Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
 to children's children and forevermore!

*Text para. Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
 Tune WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949) desc. David Iliff (1939-)
 harm. Derek Holman (1931-2019)*

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Pew Bible p. 976

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'
⁸ When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken
pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-
offerings' (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added,
'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to
establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for
all. [NRSV-A]

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

Gradual Hymn "I Sing a Maid"

- 1 I sing a maid of tender years to whom an angel came,
And knelt, as to a mighty queen,
and bowed his wings of flame:
A nation's hope in her reply, this maid of matchless grace;
For God's own Son became her child,
and she his resting place.
- 2 She watched him grow to manhood's strength
to meet his destiny,
And when the danger of his truth
brought him to Calvary,
She stood by him all powerless to ease his dying pain,
Till in the darkest hour of all, she held her son again.
- 3 And if the song had ended then,
our eyes would fill with tears,
But ah! the song had just begun to echo down the years!
Now lift your voices, hearts, and souls,
to sing with on accord To honor Mary, Mother of
the Christ, the risen Lord!

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

[NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Fr. Keith Joyce

THE EUCHARIST IS CELEBRATED

Offertory Sentence for Advent *page 73*

Offertory Hymn “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” **CP 125**

Prayer over the Gifts *page 74*

Prayers of Intercession

As we kneel or are seated, and as we wait with joy for the glory of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who hears the cries of our hearts, saying, *hear our prayer.*

And so, we pray -

for the Church, especially for David our bishop, Keith our interim priest, for the Anglican and Lutheran churches and other denominations, and the churches here in West Side, that we may always proclaim to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear!”

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

for this parish family, and in thanksgiving for family and friends, that we may wait patiently for the fulfilment of God's promise to us and rely on God's love in all things.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

for an end to war and healing for the nations, that violence and bloodshed may cease, the innocent may be sheltered, terrorism ended, and peace be established in the hearts of all.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

for openness of heart, that we may recognize God in the prophets, and in the experiences and unexpected events of our lives.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

for those everywhere who suffer from the power of nature, those whose lives are impacted by senseless violence, and for the sick and the suffering, remembering especially and

others we pray for, mentioning their names silently or aloud [*pause for this to happen*], that they may know the comforting and healing presence of God.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

for all those who have gone before us, remembering those we would mention silently or aloud [*pause*], that they may come to Zion singing for joy and gladness.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

and now, in the communion of blessed Mary, the God-bearer, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, to Christ our God.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

O come, Son of David, hear our prayers this day, open our eyes to your presence and awaken our hearts to sing your praise, that we may announce in word and deed the good news of your reign. This we pray in the name of the One who came, and is to come again, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *page 76*

Thanksgiving and Consecration *page 78*

~ with Advent Proper Preface *given by the presider*

The Peace *page 83*

Prayer of Humble Access *page 83*

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*

“In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy” CP 580

“Heavenly Message” CP 269

AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord’s Prayer

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 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” CP 120

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
- 3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts
the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear his coming
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,

still the dear Christ enters in.

- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Text Phillips Brooks (1831-1893)

Tune ST. LOUIS, Lewis Henry Redner (1831-1908)

Those serving today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Susan D. Nancy K. & Lori M.
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Margaret Penchoff & Lina Toole
<i>Layreader & First Reader</i>	Brenda Clayton
<i>Second Reader</i>	Marilyn Galbraith
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Presider & preacher</i>	Keith Joyce
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Shayne Galbraith

Those serving in our outreach this week:

Sun, Dec 22, 11:45 am HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen)	School Closed for Christmas Break
Mon, Dec 23, 11:30 am HVHS Lunch Programme delivery (from Large Hall)	School Closed for Christmas Break

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

Good Shepherd's Christmas worship

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 pm CHRISTMAS COMMUNION FOR ALL (BAS)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE
LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 am COMMUNION OF THE NATIVITY (Celtic Eucharist)

Sunday, DECEMBER 29 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:30 am Morning Prayer (BCP)

FOR OUR WORSHIP AND LEARNING

Notes on Today's Scripture Readings

Micah 5:2-5a Micah has told of the humiliation and difficulties Israel must experience in the near future, but he has written that later God will give them victory over their enemies. A shepherd-king will be born of David's line, and put an end to their oppression.

Hebrews 10:5-10 Under Jewish law, each year the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of certain sins, but Christ's sacrifice, his total self-offering, once and for all on the Cross, renders continuation of these sacrifices unnecessary.

Luke 1:39-45 As an angel foretold, Elizabeth is now six months pregnant with John the Baptist, and her relative Mary carries Jesus, foretold to be the Son of God, in her womb. God will make Jesus a king of David's line; he will rule Israel for ever.

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Next Sunday – December 29 *First Sunday after Christmas* Scripture readings 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148:1-6, 13-14; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

NOTICES



Happy Birthday this Week to:
Brian Hughes, December 25

PRAYER

Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes

Ginny Abbott, Lillian Atkins, Diane Cormier, Frances Finley, Ruth Northeast, Elsie Rusling, Kay Upton.

Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home

Andrew Aalund, Paula Baldwin, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Bea Conley, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Ann Hoben, David Maxwell, Pam Melanson, Gordon Morrell, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Bob Sherwood, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Joe Totton, Robbie Wong.

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 22- 28, 2024

Please enjoy a Blessed Holiday.

A blessed and hopeful
LAST DAYS OF ADVENT
to one and all!