

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 21, 2025



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER

*Diocese of Fredericton  
Anglican Church of Canada*

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*Bishop*

*Incumbent*

*Church Wardens*

*Parish Administrator*

*Organist & Choir Director*

*Sexton*

Archbishop David Edwards

The Rev'd Christopher Ketch

Susan Jack, Terry Ricketts

Lori Maker

David Mitchell

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.

**PREPARATION AND PRAISE****Greeting and Opening Sentence***page 3***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-Love**

*"Gracious and loving God, as we gather in the glow of  
this Advent wreath, we are reminded of the incredible love that  
led you to send your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world for  
our salvation. This fourth candle symbolizes the boundless love  
that surrounds and fills us during this holy season.*

*As we approach the celebration of Christ's birth, may the love He  
brought into the world inspire us to love one another more deeply  
and unconditionally. Help us to reflect your love in all that we do  
and to share it with those in need. Let your love shine brightly in  
our hearts, illuminating the path of faith and guiding us in your  
ways.*

*In the midst of the busyness of the season, help us to remember that your love is the greatest gift of all. We thank you for your love, which knows no bounds, and we eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, the ultimate expression of your love for us. In His name, we pray. Amen."*

<b>The Exhortation</b>	page 4
<b>The General Confession</b>	page 4
<b>Prayer for Pardon Through the Cross</b>	page 730
<b>Versicles and Responses, and <i>Gloria Patri</i></b>	page 6
<b><i>The Venite</i></b> (Psalm 95) ( <i>spoken</i> )	page 6

## THE WORD OF GOD

### **First Reading** Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the  
cherubim.
- 2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and  
Manasseh, \***  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 4 O Lord God of hosts, \***  
**how long will you be angered**  
**despite the prayers of your people?**
- 5** You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, \***  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7** Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \***  
**the son of man you have made so strong for**  
**yourself.**
- 17** And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \***  
**show the light of your countenance, and we**  
**shall be saved.**

## **Second Reading** Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [NRSV-A]

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

## **Gradual Hymn** "Rise Up and Shine" CP 157

## **Gospel Lesson**      Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel is written in the first chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew beginning at the eighteenth verse.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ**

**Sermon**    Joyce Mitchell

***The Benedictus*** (spoken) *page 9*

**The Apostles' Creed** *page 10*

**Anthem for the Offering** "*Hope is a Star*"

1      Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
Leading us on till the morning is bright. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

*When God is a child there's joy in our song,  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.*

- 2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
Giving a promise of safety and worth. *Refrain*
- 3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
Telling the world that the Saviour is born. *Refrain*
- 4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart.  
Jesus has come and will never depart. *Refrain*

*Words: Brian Wren (1985)*

*Music: Joan Collier Fogg (1987)*

## THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

**Mutual Salutation, Kyrie, Lord's Prayer** *page 10*

**Suffrages** *page 11*

**Collect of the Day**

*Officiant*      Let us pray.      **REMAIN STANDING**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,  
now fill us with your grace,  
that we in all things may embrace your will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Collects for Peace and Grace** *page 11*

**Prayer for the King and Commonwealth** *page 12*

**Prayer for the Clergy and People** *page 13*

**Prayer for All Conditions of People** *page 14*

**General Thanksgiving** *said together page 14*

**Prayer of Saint Chrysostom** *page 15*

***"The grace"*** *said together page 15*

**Closing Hymn "People Look East" CP 91**

**Those serving for this church's worship and learning  
today:**

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<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Carol Patterson
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Lori McGovern & Carol Patterson
<i>Layreader &amp; First Reader</i>	Joyce Mitchell
<i>Second Reader</i>	Marilyn Galbraith
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist &amp; Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Officiant &amp; preacher</i>	Joyce Mitchell
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Susan Jack

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**FOR OUR WORSHIP AND LEARNING**

**Next Sunday – December 28 *First Sunday after  
Christmas*** Scripture readings Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews  
2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

**NOTICES**

**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](mailto:goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca). Contact Susan Jack ([susan.jack@bellaliant.net](mailto: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, Eric Vaughan, Robbie Wong.

### **Good Shepherd's Christmas worship**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**6:00 pm CHRISTMAS COMMUNION FOR ALL (BAS)**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE**  
**LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**10:00 am COMMUNION OF THE NATIVITY**

**Sunday, DECEMBER 28 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
**10:30 am Holy Eucharist (BAS)**



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

**Brian Hughes, December 25**

### **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 21- 27, 2025**

*Please enjoy a Blessed Holiday.*