

From the Rector _____

Roland MacGregor, who lives in New Mexico, talks of what it is like to hear and see and feel and smell the desert come to life after a heavy rain shower:

Cactus overnight sprout flowers delicate like that of a crocus; toads sing in chorus the joy of their redemption through the night; and the mesquite gives the cooled air a fragrance that glorifies God.

The metaphor of the desert is often used in Scripture to speak of the dryness of human life; life filled with fear and doubt; with bitterness and anger; of the emptiness of lives which seem hopeless and without meaning. That's what the desert is without water; dry, harsh; and that's what life is without hope.

But just as the desert is real, so is its renewal, its redemption; and just as Christ has brought that redemption so we are called to be the signs of that redemption to a dry and thirsty world; signs that the Kingdom of God has come; that life can be joyful; that in Christ there is healing and wholeness; that in him life can be beautiful.

How can we be signs? Well, by showing the world what it means to live together as the Family of God; by showing a mutual respect for all of God's People; by giving generously of our time and treasure; by practicing patience rather than vengeance; by looking for joy and peace in a world which is all too ready to seek division and disorder.

Can the desert bloom? It can when the rains come. Can life blossom with joy? It can when the refreshing reign of God's Kingdom comes; when redemption comes; when the Kingdom of God is allowed to take root and grow into it. Won't you try this day to be a sign of that Kingdom?



Parish Notices and Updates _____

FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS: Those who wish to place memorial flowers may do so by including a donation through the collection plate or by dropping it off at the Rectory. Please ensure that your donation includes the names of those in whose memory the flowers are being placed, as well as complete information regarding the donor(s); and to help us to include that information in the Christmas bulletin, we'll need to know by next Sunday, the *Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 19th*. For more information, please speak to the Rector.

OUR PARISH SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS: As we did last year, we plan to have two Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day, as well as Celebrations on the Holy Days following Christmas. Our current seating arrangements allow us a maximum of approximately 40 people at any service; so we can accommodate 80 on Christmas Eve (less than half of what might usually attend) and 40 on Christmas Day. The schedule will be as follows:

- * Friday: **Christmas Eve – December 24:** 5:30 & 7:00 p.m.
(with carols)
- * Saturday: **Christmas Day – December 25:** 10:00 a.m.
(with carols)
- * Sunday: **St. Stephen's Day – December 26:** 10:00 a.m.
(with carols)
- * Monday: **St. John's Day – December 27:** 12:00 noon
- * Tuesday: **Holy Innocents' Day – December 28:** 12:00 noon
- * Wednesday: **Christmas Feria – December 29:** 7:00 p.m.

As we did last year, we are asking everyone who wishes to attend services over the week to let us know which services they plan on attending so that we ensure that we have seating available. Please speak to me or drop me a note or email so that I can put your name on the list. Between the many different services we should not have trouble accommodating all those who wish to attend but please be in touch as soon as possible to ensure that our reservation list is accurate.

NO-BOWLING TOURNAMENT: Our sisters and brothers in the Parish of Marysville have been working incredibly hard through the year to raise funds for the Fredericton Community Kitchen's student hunger programme. As you may know, the pandemic has prevented them from organising their annual diocesan-wide bowling tournament for the past two years but the need for funds has not stopped. So they took upon themselves the responsibility of raising funds by donation and recycled beverage containers; and the total raised by the end of October was an incredible \$8166.81!!! We congratulate our parish neighbours on an exceptional job. And we hope that public health conditions will allow another tournament to be organised in the Spring!

THE PARISH TREASURER, ALLAN AGNEW, has prepared the 2022 Church Offering envelopes, which are available for pick up in the Narthex. If you would like to have your offering envelopes dropped off at your home, please let Allan or the Rector know and they will arrange to deliver them. If you're not currently using regular envelopes, Allan would be pleased to help set that up.

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

Officiant: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,

All: **And ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Reader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Joy.

Reader: This is how one should regard us, as servants of God;
All: And stewards of the mysteries of God.

The Lighting of the Third Candle

Reader: Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,
All: Which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Officiant: As we stand, let us pray

All: **Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.**

A candle is burning, a candle of joy.

**A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

"A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986.
Music is "Cradle Song" [Hymn Book 734] by W. J. Kirkpatrick.

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton
THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



The Season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God's [back] fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon.

Jan L. Richardson,

Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas

PRIEST AND RECTOR

The Venerable Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.

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THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 11, 2021

*Our King and Saviour draws
near! O come, let us worship!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalms 60 & 61 | Isaiah 41 | Revelation 17

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 33:1-6: *page 367*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *please see the bulletin insert*

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect: *page 99*

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 33:20-22: *page 369*

The Epistle: *page 99*

Gradual Psalm 80:1-3: *page 433*

The Holy Gospel: *page 99*

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

The Prayers of the People: L: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer

The Consecration: *page 82*

Post Communion Prayer: *page 85*

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi’kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 15: ADVENT EMBER DAY

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 16: O SAPIENTIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

DECEMBER 17: ADVENT EMBER DAY

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

DECEMBER 18: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 19: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

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THE CORPORATION OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK, gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Anglican Foundation of Canada for our Renewing St. Mary’s Project.



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021

*Our King and Saviour draws
near! O come, let us worship!*

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalms 11 & 12 | Isaiah 38:9-22 | Revelation 3:7-end

10:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 33:1-6: *page 367*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *please see the bulletin insert*

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