

## *From the Rector* \_\_\_\_\_

Fleming Rutledge says that, at this time of year, there are two kinds of Anglicans. One group, walking into church and seeing the purple hangings and hearing lessons about sin, judgement and the cleansing of the Temple, will say “Oh good, it’s Advent!” The other group will say, “But where are the Christmas decorations?”

She goes on to say:

It takes some practice to get used to Advent. Once you do, though, you will never want it any other way. The more the world outside lights its trees, the more sparkle and glitter it throws about... the more you want to immerse yourself in the special mood of Advent... Advent teaches us to delay Christmas in order to experience it truly when it finally comes.

So, for just a moment, let’s pretend that Advent has absolutely nothing at all to do with Christmas; or even, for that matter, nothing at all to do with getting ready for Christmas. For a moment, let’s clear away all the stuff about Christmas preparations; because, if we do, then week’s readings from Holy Scripture will begin to make sense. You see, nothing that we read today has anything to do with the birth of Jesus: we heard no prophecy of its expectation; no account of its details; not even an explanation of its meaning. This week’s readings did not say a thing about Christ’s birth. They did have a great deal to say, however, about how we might prepare for His Second Coming: of how we might make ready to receive Christ by cleansing the spiritual temples of our lives.

In a very serious way, Advent challenges us to live out a mature faith. Even as everything around us rushes headlong into its Christmas celebrations, Advent calls us to take a slower, more measured, more peaceful, more thoughtful pace.

Advent invites us to slow down long enough to think about why we do what we’re doing; to recognize that there’s more to life at this time of year, or any time of year, for that matter, than the things that we can buy or get or even give.

Advent invites us to focus our attention not on seasonal sales or holiday specials but on the eternal purposes that underlie our lives. And, above all, Advent teaches us to look at life, and to live life, with that one gift that most of us speak well of but have very little desire to possess; that one gift we most hope to see in others but are not so ready to see in ourselves - that is, of course, the gift of patience.

Advent places the First Coming of the Christ within the context of the Second, the beginning in relation to the end; and because it holds both of these before us at the very same time, Advent has the power to make sense of the darkness that seems to envelope human life: whether it’s the darkness of hunger or addiction or fear; or the darkness of abuse and neglect.

Advent speaks directly to the human condition - to the fear, the violence, the poverty, the division, the bitterness, the hatred, that stain and poison God’s world. And Advent tells us that it really doesn’t have to be this way; and that, in time - in God’s time - it won’t always be this way.

Advent tells us that even the darkest moments that we encounter are subject to God’s Power - because the Christ who was born in Bethlehem was allowed to grow up to maturity that He might offer His life for our lives.

Advent tells us that, in the end, God will win; that God will come, some time, some day. Which perhaps is the only way in which we can cope with the impatience that fills so much of human life; with the impatience which can sometimes fill our own actions and words. Advent challenges us to put our hope in Christ alone: not whatever it is that seems to be most important to us at any particular moment: not even in all our holiday sales.

Advent is a season that begins in the dark; not just the darkness of our ever-darkening days, but the darkness of human suffering and pain; and in starting there, Advent challenges us to realise that the solution to all of this darkness will not ultimately be found in brighter Christmas lights or cheery seasonal songs; or even brightly coloured gifts. Advent is a time to face the reality of life in all its difficulties and to announce, as the world so desperately needs to know, that the end of the story is not just to be found in more inhumanity.

So, to each of you on this First Sunday in Advent we bring the Good News that God will come again; that His justice will prevail over every human injustice; that he will destroy evil and pain in all its many forms, once and for ever. And to be a Christian is to live each day in that hope; to live each day shoulder to shoulder with those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death and to bear their grief with them; but also to live all our days in the unshakeable, patient, hope of those who know that the dawn will come one day, even if we don’t know when.

And for all of those reasons, I’m happy to say: Oh good, it’s Advent!



## Parish Notices and Updates

**THE MEMBERS OF BACKYARD BRASS**, who have recently been using the Parish Hall for their weekly practices, have agreed to bless us with a short **Concert of Music for Advent and Christmas, on Sunday, December 5th, starting shortly after 11:00 a.m.** We greatly enjoyed their June concert on the Church lawn. This concert will be held in the Parish Hall, with chairs set up to allow for appropriate physical distancing; and public health mandates will require the audience to wear masks. The concert is open to all, including any of those who are not able to attend the morning service; so please plan to join us next Sunday following the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

**RE-LAUNCH OF THE PARISH WEBSITE:** We are very grateful to Delia Martin who has undertaken the development of an entirely new Parish website. We invite you to use the website as a way of keeping up to date with our spiritual and community life here at St. Mary's; and we very much want to hear from you. Your feedback will ensure that the site is both accurate and functional; and your suggestions will help us to develop the site in whatever ways best serve you needs. Please go to: <https://www.stmarysfredericton.ca/> and let us know what you think.

**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 the **Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 19th**. For more information, please speak to the Rector.

**COPIES OF THE 2022 CHURCH CALENDARS**, prepared by our friends at St. Peter Publications in Charlottetown, are now available. **The cost this year is \$8.00.** These lovely calendars are a great way to keep track of the Church Year as we try to grow in grace. Those who are able to attend services are invited to sanitise their hands and pick up the number of copies they wish to have. If you have exact change, you can leave your payment in the basket; or, if you prefer, feel free to just add it to your offering envelope. But our primary concern is that you have them to help shape your year-long journey with the Church, so don't let concerns about how to pay stop you from getting as many copies as you need for yourself and your friends and family.



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



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I grew up only dimly aware of the Advent season. We usually had an Advent calendar, but even in the 1950s, before Christmas had become the consumer feeding frenzy that it is now, the push to celebrate Christmas overshadowed the subtleties of Advent. It is through my affiliation with the Benedictines that I've learned how much the Advent season holds, how it breaks into our lives with images of light and dark, first and last things, watchfulness and longing, origin and destiny.

Kathleen Norris, *The Cloister Walk*, 1996

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### PRIEST AND RECTOR

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

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Visit us at: <http://www.stmarysfredericton.ca/>

# THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*November 27, 2021*

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

## **4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:**

✠ Psalms 123, 124, 126 | Wisdom 12:12-21 | Revelation 5

## **5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist**

Introit Psalm 50:1-7:	<i>page 392</i>
The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:	<i>please see the bulletin insert</i>
The Ten Commandments:	<i>page 68</i>
<i>The Gloria is omitted during Advent</i>	
The Collect:	<i>page 95</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Micah 4:1-7
Psalm 85:1-7:	<i>page 438</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 95</i>
Gradual Psalm 25:1-7:	<i>page 358</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 96</i>
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: <b>Hear our prayer</b>
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>

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 1: ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE**

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

### **DECEMBER 2: ADVENT FERIA**

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

### **DECEMBER 3: EVE OF ST. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA**

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

### **DECEMBER 4: THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

### **DECEMBER 5: THE SECOND 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 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*November 28, 2021*

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

**9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:**

✠ Psalm 9 | Isaiah 1:1-20 | Revelation :1-17

**10:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist**

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The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:	<i>please see the bulletin insert</i>
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**THE CANDLES OF ADVENT**  
**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE**

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 first Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Hope.

Reader: The night is far gone,

**All: The day is at hand;**

Reader: Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness,

**All: And let us put on the armour of light.**

*The Lighting of the First Candle*

Reader: Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord;

**All: Hosanna in the Highest!**

Officiant: As we stand, let us pray.

**All: Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus in nigh.**

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

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