

From the Rector

Although not highlighted on most church calendars, December 16 is an unofficial red-letter day. This date marks the beginning of the *O Antiphons*, seven precious jewels of our Liturgy, counting down the last seven days before Christmas with building hope and anticipation. Because each antiphon begins with the vocative article “O,” this group of antiphons are called the *O Antiphons*. Dating back to the fourth century, these antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of the Christ:

1. *O Sapientia* (Wisdom)
2. *O Adonai* (Lord and Ruler)
3. *O Radix Jesse* (Root of Jesse)
4. *O Clavis David* (Key of David)
5. *O Oriens* (Dawn of the East)
6. *O Rex Gentium* (King of the Gentiles)
7. *O Emmanuel* (God with Us)

When the Church celebrates Advent each year she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. The outward preparations for Christmas can be distracting; and by this time we have often lost focus on the true meaning of Advent preparation. But the *O Antiphons* beckon us to refocus, relax, and invite Christ to come into our hearts. Each evening during Evening Prayer the corresponding *O Antiphon* is sung or recited before and after the *Magnificat*. Adding elements to your meals is a way that you might incorporate the *O Antiphons* into your family life, as Florence Berger wrote in *Cooking for Christ*:

Another old custom which we revived is giving family treats. In the monasteries long years ago, the different monks furnished extra treats on these days before Christ’s birthday. The gardener gave the community some of his finest dried or preserved fruits on December 19 when he called on Christ: “O Root of Jesse, come to deliver us and tarry not.” The cellarer unlocked the best wine or his treat as he called: “O Key of David, come, and come quickly.” Finally, on December 23, the abbot gave his extra gift to the brothers. Expense accounts which are still extant show how generous and extensive a list of foods were used on the abbot’s “O” day.

The idea can be adjusted according to ages and size of the family, assigning a day to a family member, going from the youngest to oldest, so that they can provide a special treat for that *O Antiphon* day. It doesn’t need to be fancy nor always a food treat. Family members can keep it a secret until dinner time (although Mom and Dad may have to help the youngest). The ideas are numerous, but all depend on time and energy, especially during this

busy time of year. But keep things simple; the most important part is to incorporate the antiphons in family prayer. Crafts and foods are helpful, but don’t allow them to create stress upon yourself if you can’t include them: *O Come; O Come, Emmanuel!!!!*



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 today. 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. *Additionally, I will also be celebrating the Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve at All Saints’ Church in the Parish of Marysville at 4:00 p.m. Members of St. Mary’s are welcome to attend this celebration if it is more convenient for their schedules. Please speak to me if you would like to attend the celebration at All Saints’ on Christmas Eve.*

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE

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 fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love.

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

All: And again I say, Rejoice.

Reader: There stands one among you,

All: Whom you do not know.

The Light of the Fourth Candle

Reader: Behold the Lamb of God,

All: Which takes away the sin of the world.

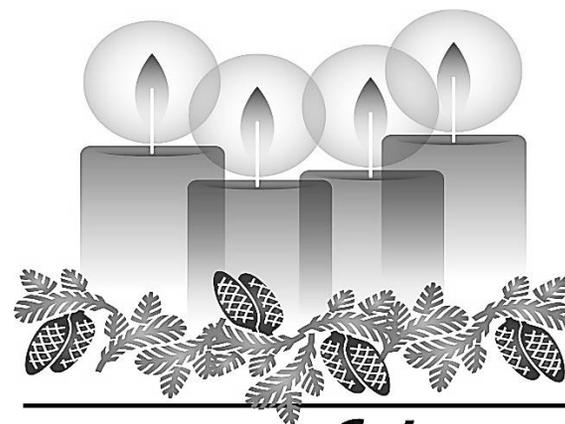
Officiant: As we stand, let us pray

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 love,
a candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

"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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

We are faced with the shocking reality: Jesus stands at the door and knocks, in complete reality. He asks you for help in the form of a beggar, in the form of a ruined human being in torn clothing. He confronts you in every person that you meet. Christ walks on the earth as your neighbor as long as there are people. He walks on the earth as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you and makes his demands. That is the greatest seriousness and the greatest blessedness of the Advent message. Christ stands at the door. He lives in the form of the person in our midst. Will you keep the door locked or open it to him?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

A Testament to Freedom: the essential writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRIEST AND RECTOR

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

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2021

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

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalm 94 | Isaiah 50:4-10 | Revelation 22:6-end

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 19:1-6: *page 351*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *please see the bulletin insert*
The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect: *page 102*

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-9

Psalm 145:8-13: *page 516*

The Epistle: *page 102*

Gradual Psalm 145:18-22: *page 517*

The Holy Gospel: *page 103*

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 22: ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE (transferred)

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 23: O EMMANUEL

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. – *Holy Eucharist, All Saints, Marysville*

5:30 p.m. – Family Eucharist for the Nativity

7:00 p.m. – Family Eucharist for the Nativity

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist for the Nativity

DECEMBER 26: ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 27: ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

12:00 noon – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 28: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

12:00 noon – Holy Eucharist

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2021

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

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 33 | Isaiah 30:8-21 | Revelation 14:13-15:4

10:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 19:1-6: *page 351*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *please see the bulletin insert*
The Gloria is omitted during Advent

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