

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

Although not highlighted on most church calendars, December 16<sup>th</sup> 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,” they’re called collectively the *O Antiphons*. Dating back to the fourth century, these antiphons address Christ with seven wonderful 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 rehearses the ancient expectancy of the Messiah, because by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour’s first coming, the faithful renew their heartfelt 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 and souls. Each evening during Evening Prayer the corresponding *O Antiphon* is sung or recited before and after the *Magnificat*; but it’s also possible to translate that custom into your personal life a well. For example, 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 for 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 the size of your 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 into family prayer. Crafts and foods are helpful, but don’t allow them to create stress upon yourself if you can’t include them. Here’s the start of a text that you can incorporate into your life starting on the 16<sup>th</sup>:

O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: COME, and teach us the way of peace.

O Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: COME, and redeem us with outstretched arms.

O Root of Jesse, who stands as a sign among the nations, before whom the kings keep silence and unto whom all people will make supplication: COME, to deliver us, and tarry not.

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, who opens and none can shut, who shuts and none can open: COME, and bring forth the captives from prison.

O Dawn of the East, brightness of light eternal, and Sun of Justice: COME, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King of the Nations and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one: COME, and deliver us, whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.

O Emmanuel, God with us, Our King and Lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: COME to save us, O Lord our God.



## *Parish Notices and Updates* \_\_\_\_\_

**ST. MARY’S BRANCH OF ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN** will be meeting on **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**, beginning with Lunch in the Parish Hall at 12:00 noon. A business meeting will follow. The women of St. Mary’s are warmly invited to join them. For more information please speak to Shirley Hupman.

**ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** is held each Friday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Church. We're looking at a series called "Matriarchs & Patriarchs; Prophets & Papyri: the great stories of the Old Testament and how they point us to Jesus." We're planning on concluding our Fall session with a Shared Meal this coming Friday, so come along for the study and stay for lunch afterwards.

**FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS:** Those who wish to place memorial flowers may do so by including a donation through the collection plate. 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 Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.** For more information, please speak to the Rector.

**2023 CHURCH CALENDARS** are still available. **The cost is \$8.00.** These lovely calendars are a great way to keep track of the Church Year as we try to grow in grace. We would be very happy to drop off copies to those who are not able to pick one up. Please let the Rector or Assistant Curate know how many copies you would like.

**OUR PARISH SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS:** As we do each 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. The schedule will be as follows:

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

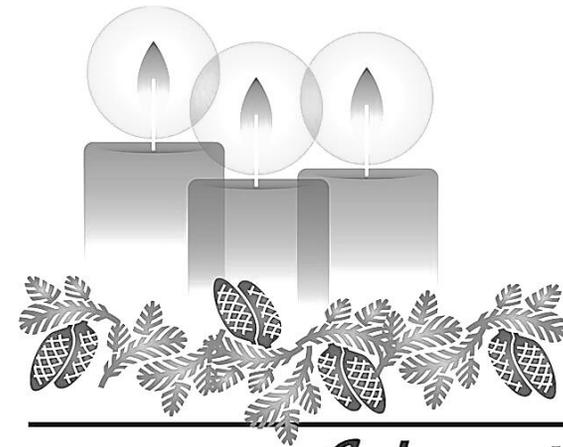


We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown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



*The Anglican Church of Canada*  
*The Diocese of Fredericton*

THE PARISH OF  
ST. MARY, YORK



THIRD 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*

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*December 10, 2022*

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

**4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:**

✠ Psalm 55 | 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: 13-22: *page 368*

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 Prayers: *page 85*

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### DECEMBER 12: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

### DECEMBER 13: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

### DECEMBER 14: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

### DECEMBER 15: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, *Paradise Villa*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

### DECEMBER 16: O SAPIENTIA: an ancient advent anthem

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

### DECEMBER 17: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

### DECEMBER 18: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

*Followed by the Decorating of the Church for  
Christmas by the Altar Guild; all welcome!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer



#### PRIEST & RECTOR

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# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*December 11, 2022*

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

**9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:**

✠ Psalms 11 & 12 | Isaiah 25:1-9 | St. Matthew 25:1-30

**10:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist**

- ♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** **63 (MERTON)**  
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:** *please see the bulletin insert*  
The Epistle: *page 99*
- ♪ **GRADUAL HYMN:** **Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth**  
*please see the bulletin insert*  
The Holy Gospel: *page 99*
- ♪ **Gospel Acclamation:** **Alleluia**  
The Creed: *page 71*  
The Homily
- ♪ **OFFERTORY HYMN:** **293 (ASCENSION)**  
The Prayers of the People: **L: Lord, in your mercy**  
**C: Hear our prayer**
- The Consecration: *page 82*  
Post Communion Prayer: *page 85*
- ♪ **RECESSIONAL HYMN:** **69 (HIGHWOOD)**

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*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.

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