

From the Priest in Charge _____

The following Advent reflection titled “Advent Waiting” was written by The Rev’d. Canon Jon Lownds, and I am grateful for his permission to use it as this week’s bulletin column. NJS+

“The Meaning is in the Waiting” by Paula Gooder is the Advent 2023 Diocesan Study book choice and being discussed in an online / Zoom conversation. After reading the Introduction and first chapter, I decided to join the conversation. Early the next morning, while reflecting on and praying about the book and discussion, a question “occured” to me - imagine you are in a waiting room, what are you doing? Where is Jesus and what is He doing?

The obvious answer to the first question - “sitting in a chair watching and waiting for ... the bus to arrive ... was dissatisfying”. The answer to the second - where is Jesus? - even more so - “He’s in the washroom cleaning the toilets”. Now to be fair I need to tell you a story.

A long time ago, before children, we (Ada, my wife, and I) met an Episcopal priest, the Rector of St. Paul’s, North Andover, Massachusetts, who invited us to stay with him if we were in the area. As it happens, we did - another story. While visiting he asked if we brought evening wear - suit or sport coat and dress pants, dress shirt and tie for me, dress or such for Ada.

Well we had and so he took us to The Andover Inn for dinner, and I immediately understood. This was a formal dining room and there was an enforced dress code. All the staff were dressed in tuxedos. There was a man dressed in a tux with tails playing a grand piano in one corner of the large room, and the staff had a desk on the far wall opposite us some distance away.

During dinner my attention was drawn to a couple sitting nearby as she opened a small evening bag and took out a cigarette case. (I said this happened a long time ago.) There were matches in the ashtray on the table, and her companion was reaching for the matches when a waiter appeared with a lighter already lit. As I said, the desk was on the opposite wall some distance away, and he did not draw attention to himself as he moved across the room to attend to his customers. While watching this I heard in my inner ear, “that’s what it means to wait on me”.

Ever since that experience I have been and am convinced that waiting on the Lord is a verb implying active attention to Jesus, focus on Jesus, awaiting His instruction, direction, indication of need and desire.

Some years later we were at a buffet restaurant that prided itself on immediate service - a sip of water from the glass and someone was there

to refill it. Now I like hot coffee and wait staff that attend to that ‘need’ rate high in my estimation. But here the service was oppressive! I found myself covering my glass to try to avoid service I did not want.

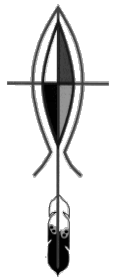
The result is prayer advice - pray for direction, wait for direction, follow direction, leave the rest to Him. John the Apostle quotes Jesus as saying, “My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me.” (John 10:27). Luke the Evangelist quotes Jesus as saying, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23). While thinking about the waiting room, these Bible passages came to mind. Reflecting on them I realized that sitting and waiting for Jesus to show up is not what Advent is all about.

Some time ago I heard a reflection on Matthew 9:38 - “ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest” - noting that the Lord hired the harvesters and sent them out, they did not go on their own. Somewhere in the writing of Oswald Chambers he cautions about working ‘for’ Jesus, not ‘with’ Jesus. (Matthew 7:22-23) It doesn’t turn out well.

Borrowing on the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester. “Lord, please let me see and hear you more clearly, love you more intensely, follow you more closely, walk where you lead, do what you want, when you want, the way you want, and to, for and with whom you want, today and every day.” This requires living in the moment, actively watching and listening, and responding as appropriate. In short, this is waiting and watching in the same way waiters and waitresses do every day. And that reminds me of something else we are told Jesus said: “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

*

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.



Parish Notices and Updates _____

COPIES OF THE 2024 CHURCH CALENDARS remain available for \$9 in the Narthex.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS! All are welcome to join the Fredericton North Heritage Assoc. this **Tuesday, December 12th at 2pm** in the Hall. A presentation on Christmas Past by Koral Lavorgna, a Christmas reading from Walter Long's book and Carols by the Doucette sisters are all a part of the celebration. A light lunch will be served.

We hope you will be able to join us **next Saturday** for our **ADVENT CHILDREN'S GATHERING** in the Parish Hall, **December 16th, from 10am to 1pm.**

THE ST. MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION is collecting donations for **Women in Transition House** here in Devon. A list of possible donation items is in the Narthex, and includes specific items and/or sizes. Please speak to Adele Knox for more information. *The next meeting is Dec. 16th at 1pm.*

The **GREENING OF THE CHURCH** will take place next Sunday, Dec. 17th, after the service.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Please ensure the outside of the envelope is clearly marked "*Christmas Flowers*" and includes the name(s) of those in whose memory the flowers are being placed, as well as complete information regarding the donor(s). To ensure this information is included in the Christmas bulletin, please submit by **Monday, December 18th.**

THE PARISH TREASURER, ALLAN AGNEW, has prepared the **2024 Church Offering envelopes**, which are available for pick up in the Narthex. Those who have arranged for our automated e-Offering programme have not been assigned a box of envelopes. E-Offering users who wish for a box of envelopes are asked to let Allan know so that a box can be assigned. And, if you're not currently using regular envelopes, Allan would be pleased to help set that up.

BIBLE STUDY will meet for the last time before Christmas break on Friday, December 15th, resuming Jan. 12. It's not too late to come along!



*Please join us in the Parish Hall
following the 11:00 a.m. Celebration
for Coffee and Conversation.*

*The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton*

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



The word of God teacheth lowliness of mind; it teacheth us to know ourselves. If we learn not humility, we learn nothing. Although we seem to know somewhat, yet know we not in such sort as we ought to know.

John Jewel

EVE OF THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday, December 9, 2023

*Our King and Saviour draweth nigh:
O come, let us worship.*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalms 48, 49 | Isaiah 19.1-17 | Revelation 11

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 80.1-7: *page 433*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *see handout*

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collects: *pages 97, 95*

The Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 22.8-10; 23.1-3

The Epistle: *page 97*

Gradual Psalm 50.1-6: *page 392*

The Holy Gospel: *page 98*

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

The Intercessions: *Ÿ. Lord, in thy mercy*

R. Hear our prayer

The Consecration: *page 82*

Post Communion Prayer: *page 85*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 11: ADVENT FERIA

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, *Neill Hall*

DECEMBER 12: ADVENT FERIA

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

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

DECEMBER 13: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 14: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

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

DECEMBER 15: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

DECEMBER 16: EVE OF ADVENT III

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 17: THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:45 a.m. – Morning Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, *All Saints, Marysville*

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the Hall

2:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, *St. Thomas', Stanley*

*

PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Rev'd. Nicholas Saulnier
(506) 588-3304 (*cell*) | (506) 305-8990 (*home*)
nicholas.saulnier@anglican.nb.ca

780 McEvoy Street, Fredericton NB E3A 3B7
(506) 472-4661 | www.stmarysfredericton.ca

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10, 2023

*Our King and Saviour draweth nigh:
O come, let us worship.*

11:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♫ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	61 (ST. THOMAS)
Lighting of the Advent Wreath	<i>see handout</i>
<i>The Gloria is omitted during Advent</i>	
The Collects:	<i>pages 97, 95</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	2 Kings 22.8-10; 23.1-3
♫ PSALM 50.1-6	<i>page 392</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 97</i>
♫ GRADUAL HYMN:	103 (ALBANO)
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 98</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	♫ Alleluia ♫
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♫ OFFERTORY HYMN:	65 (BRISTOL)
The Intercessions:	℣. Lord, in thy mercy ℞. Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
♫ HYMN AFTER COMMUNION:	232 (ST. AGNES)
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>
♫ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	60 (HELMSLEY)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 11: ADVENT FERIA

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, Neill Hall

DECEMBER 12: ADVENT FERIA

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

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

DECEMBER 13: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 14: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

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

DECEMBER 15: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

DECEMBER 16: EVE OF ADVENT III

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 17: THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:45 a.m. – Morning Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, All Saints, Marysville

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the Hall

2:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, St. Thomas', Stanley

*

PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Rev'd. Nicholas Saulnier
(506) 588-3304 (*cell*) | (506) 305-8990 (*home*)
nicholas.saulnier@anglican.nb.ca

780 McEvoy Street, Fredericton NB E3A 3B7
(506) 472-4661 | www.stmarysfredericton.ca