

From the Rector _____

In every way possible, the Season of Advent is a season of hope: the hope of salvation; hope for deliverance from all that binds us and worries us; hope for healing and wholeness; for reconciliation and restoration; hope for a better world and a better life, for us and for all humanity. In Advent we hear again what God has promised to His people throughout the ages in Holy Scripture. And in hearing again those promises as we prepare to celebrate the gift of the Christ, we are encouraged to believe and trust and hope in those promises.

Advent tells us that we have not been forgotten in our captivity; that when we feel abandoned; when we feel that the darkness will overwhelm us; when we begin to think that it's more than we can handle, that we're too tired, not just because of this pandemic but in all the other ways in which we can grow tired and discouraged, Advent tells us that God has not forgotten us:

Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Because we know, even in the face of all *the signs in the sun and in the moon and in the stars* that Christ speaks of in this week's Gospel; *the distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear* that he warns will come; we know that Christ is here, as he has promised; and because he is here, and because he has promised to come again in glory, we can walk and live and love and hope in that light which all the darkness of this world can never put out.

Raise your heads to hear again God's promises, Jesus tells us; to be reminded, as we need to be reminded from time to time, that God is firmly in charge; that in time, in his time, all things will be fulfilled and revealed; *the crooked paths will be made straight and the rough places plain*; that, in time, there will be reconciliation and peace. Raise your heads to see how God is working in your life even now, to bring happiness and healing and hope, even as so many other things work to bring sorrow and sadness and struggle.

Advent tells us of God's Promise to come to our rescue - first in the birth of His Son Jesus and second in His return in glory: to right all wrongs and to heal all pain.

And Advent tells us to slow down that we might hear those words of hope; that in hearing that we might believe; that in believing we might have life.

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.

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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!!! The funds were recently turned over to the Community Kitchen for their essential work with students. I know that the people of St. Mary's join me with me in offering our sincere congratulations to our parish neighbours on an exceptional job. And we hope that public health conditions will allow another tournament to be organised in the Spring!

Parish Notices and Updates —

PLEASE JOIN US IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the Sunday morning Service for a Concert of Music for Advent and Christmas by the members of Backyard Brass in the Parish Hall. Chairs have been 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 shortly after 11:00 a.m.

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.

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 CATHEDRAL BRANCH OF ACW ARE HOSTING A CHRISTMAS TEA on Wednesday, December 8th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Cathedral Memorial Hall. Tea and sweets will be served along with a display of Nativity scenes to enjoy. Donations of toiletries for Grace House and Liberty Lane will be gratefully received. Proof of vaccination and photo ID are required, and masks must be worn unless seated and eating. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Griffiths at 455-7203 or jmmgriffiths@gmail.com.

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



Advent starts with ... images of stars falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens being shaken, so we would not forget that darkness cannot stop God. Yes, there is darkness. It hurts when someone close to us dies. Our hearts break when a friend abandons us. The pressure to succeed smothers us at times and we don't know if we will ever see the light of day. The one who comes may come right in the midst of that darkness. Darkness does not stop him from making all things new. True, the one who comes may not bring simple happiness. The one who comes will bring meaning.

Michelle Thomas-Bush (<http://www.d365.org/followingthestar/>)

PRIEST AND RECTOR

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

Rectory: 770 McEvoy Street, Fredericton NB E3A 3B7

454.0245 (rectory) | 472.4661 (office) | 461.7685 (cell) | kevin.stockall@bellaliant.net

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 4, 2021

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

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalms 22:22-31 & 23 | Isaiah 19:1-17 | Revelation 11

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 80:1-7: *page 433*

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

The Collect: *page 97*

The Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 22:8-10; 23:1-3

Psalm 119 part 17: *page 493*

The Epistle: *page 97*

Gradual Psalm 50:1-6: *page 392*

The Holy Gospel: *page 98*

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 8: THE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 9: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

DECEMBER 10: ADVENT FERIA

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

DECEMBER 11: THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 12: THE THIRD 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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 5, 2021

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

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 119 parts 11 & 12 | Isaiah 11:1-10 | Revelation 2:18-3:6

10:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 80:1-7: *page 433*

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ANGLICAN
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

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 Second Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Peace.

Reader: Whatever things were written in former days
All: Were written for our learning;
Reader: That we through patience and the comfort of the Scriptures;
All: Might have hope.

The Lighting of the Second Candle

Reader: Heaven and earth shall pass away;
All: But my words shall not pass away.

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 peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

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

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