

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

(Congregation established 1913)

December 23rd, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Advent

O LORD, raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

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ADVENT is a coming, not our coming to God, but his to us.

We cannot come to God, he is beyond our reach; but he can come to us, for we are not beneath his mercy.

Even in another life, as St John sees it in his vision, we do not rise to God, but he descends to us, and dwells humanly among human creatures, in the glorious man, Jesus Christ.

And that will be his last coming; so we shall be his people, and he everlastingly our God, our God-with-us, our Emmanuel.

He will so come, but he is come already, he comes always: in our fellow-Christian (even in a child, says Christ), in his word, invisibly in our souls, more visibly in this sacrament. Opening ourselves to him, we call him in: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

(Austin Farrer)

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TODAY AT ST. MARY'S

We wish a warm welcome especially to those who are praying with us for the first time; your presence is a blessing! If you would like to identify yourself, or would like know more about our ministry and mission, please speak to one of the greeters and ask for a welcome card which you may complete and place in the offering plate.

Flowers on the Altar To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jean and Darcy Packwood

Nursery for infants & toddlers is available in the Good Shepherd Nursery.

Godly Play in the Children's Worship Centre for children 3 - 6 years.

Faith Quest (ages 7-13) finish their Road to Bethlehem - Wiseman rotation with a Divine Diversions (games) workshop led by Kate B and shepherded by Emily B. Memory verse prizes.

Coffee and Tea Following the service, please join us for a cup of tea or coffee in the upper hall. Coffee Hosts: Mary and Nat R

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Christmas Eve- December 24

7:00 p.m. Family Worship: "People Look East!" Dramatized Service of Lessons and Carols followed by "Christmas Cheer" in the Parish Hall.

9:00 p.m. Candle Lit Holy Communion and Carols of Christmas

Christmas Day – December 25

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion and Carols of Christmas

Sunday after Christmas – December 30

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion and Carols of Christmas

Feast of the Epiphany- January 6

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion and Carols of Christmas

MORNING PRAYER AT TEN O'CLOCK

Prayer Book, pp.6-5, Psalm 93, 96; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20

HOLY COMMUNION AT HALF-PAST TEN

Ringing of The Advent Bell

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Advent Acclamation (Please stand)

Leader: When the LORD brought back the exiles of Zion,

People: **We thought we were dreaming.**

Leader: Then was our mouth filled with laughter;

People: **On our tongues, songs of joy.**

Leader: Bring back our exiles, O LORD!

People: **As streams in the south.**

Leader: Those who are sowing in tears

People: **Will sing when they reap.**

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost

People: **Bring back our exiles, O LORD as streams in the south.**

Opening Hymn # 106 There's a voice in the Wilderness

Lord's Prayer and Collect for Purity

page 67

Summary of the Law

page 69, 70

The Collect for the Day

Prayer with children

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

R. / **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 145:18-22

(Prayer Book p.517)

Gradual **Advent Prose**

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember our iniquity for ever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy
and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Drop down...

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Drop down...

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Drop down...

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:
fear not for I will save thee:
for I am the Lord thy God, the holy one of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Drop down...

Gospel: John 1:19-30 Response before the Gospel: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Response following the Gospel: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Offertory Hymn: Advent Hymn

Words by: Philip Pasterfield

**When Advent rings its warning chime
We look to awesome Christmastime,
In awe of Mary's ardent faith,
In awe of holy infants' death,
In awe of martyred Stephen's price,
Love's quintessential sacrifice.**

**Through Death to Judgement; Heaven or Hell,
These Advent themes we once heard tell.
When 'good life' means our carnal good
We lose our taste for heavenly food,
John's Advent cry, "Prepare Christ's way!"
Cuts through this world's frenetic day.**

**O come, O come Emmanuel,
Redeem our souls from death and Hell,
Awake in us the sense of sin,
Repentance draw from deep within,
Come Holy Spirit, blazing near,
Restore our hearts to godly fear.**

**Let Love's redemptive urge embrace
The social structures of each place,
Rich assets, squandered by our greeds,
Be turned again to furnish needs,
So may God's will on earth be done,
Its cost accepted, Life begun.**

Invitation, Confession and Absolution
Great Thanksgiving, Peace, Prayer of Humble Access

(Prayer Book p. 76, 77)

Communion Hymn: **Even so, Lord Jesus, Come**

**Even so, Lord Jesus come
Oh divine and glorious son
though we live as your body here on earth
even so Lord Jesus come**

**Gracious Father, Sovereign Lord
your creations one adored
by your hand we receive your majesty
even so, Lord Jesus come**

**Holy Spirit, breath of life
light a path through darkest night
in your care we confess our deepest sigh
even so, Lord Jesus come**

Post Communion Prayer
Blessing
Announcements
Dismissal

(Prayer Book p. 85, 86)

Leader: Judah and Jerusalem fear not nor be dismayed.
People: **Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Leader: Stand still and you shall know the salvation of the Lord.
People: **Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
People: **Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

--- SILENCE ---

Leader: We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord.
People: **In the midst of your temple.**

Hymn # 109 When the King Shall Come Again

** Please observe a moment for silent prayer**

THE WORD OF THE LORD: TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL:

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'

PARISH LIFE NOTES

Special Christmas Offering- Contributions made using the special yellow "Christmas Offering" envelopes and other contributions noted as a "Gift to the Rector" will be given to Claude and his family. If you wish to contribute, cheques should be made payable to Claude Schroeder, with a note on the cheque and /or the envelope that the payment is intended as a gift. Cash in the yellow envelopes will also be considered gifts to the Rector. Contributions using the white "Regular" envelopes and the open offering on Christmas Eve and Day will be used for the ongoing expenses of the parish.

Flower Guild All those who donate Altar flowers please get your forms in before Dec 31st if you still want your spot.

The Mitten Tree (rack) on the landing is ready to be dressed with adult's and children's mittens. Please help keep out the cold. All donations go to Soul's Harbour Mission.

Table in front of the office please find the table for information, updates and more

Update on Envelope Pledges to Date: Thank you so much to those who have prayerfully submitted their pledge forms to indicate how you plan to “support the work of the church at home and overseas” (BCP p. 555.)

To date we have received pledges for a total planned giving of \$6564 per month (\$78 768 over year). When developing our budget for 2019, vestry budgeted a pledge income of \$128,698 per year (or \$10,725 monthly) towards a total required income of \$189,918. So we still have a ways to go!

If you have not submitted a pledge form, we hope that you will do so in the next two weeks.

Thank you for your continued prayer and consideration of an envelope pledge for 2019 in addition to the many other gifts you offer the church.

Carol M, Churchwarden.