

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

December 2nd, 2018

First Sunday in Advent

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 Ghost, now and ever. Amen

The liturgical year is not an idle discipline, not a sentimentalist's definition of piety, not an historical anachronism. It is Jesus with us, for us, and in us as we strive to, make His life our own. It is a goad and a guide to the kind of personal spirituality that is worthy of the Jesus whose commitment to the Word of God led Him all the way to the Cross and beyond it – to Resurrection. (Joan Chichester)

Advent! A holy season in which we connect again with our “inconsolable longing,” as C.S. Lewis called it our yearning for the One who is to come and is also, mysteriously, the One who has come already – come as a child, come as fellow-sufferer, come as Saviour, and yet whose coming, already achieved, we hold at bay from ourselves, so that we have to learn afresh each year, each day, how to let Him come to us again.” (Malcolm Guite)

If we want to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming, we, like Saint John the Baptist, must detach ourselves from all the goods of the earth...to retire into the interior desert of our heart, far from creatures to await the coming of Jesus in deep recollection, silence, and solitude, insofar as the duties of our state in life permit. (Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen.)

TODAY AT ST. MARY'S

Our Advent collect in the Book of Common Prayer speaks of casting off darkness and putting on light -- as we keep our eyes on Christ, who came to us first in great humility, and will be returning in glory. We will be exploring this theme of turning from the dark into the light during the introits of our Advent services. We will begin each Sunday morning in the darkened church, reminding us that the world, in rejecting God, fell into darkness. Next, we will hear the proclamation of the light that Christ brought into our darkness, to banish sin and death. The bell is our calling, to wake up from sleep, and follow Christ by casting off our sinful nature and putting his nature, the armour of light. Our introit, "The Advent Prose" chanted to a haunting melody, consists of verses from Isaiah and are a plea from the prophets, the patriarchs, the whole church, who together await the Messiah. The imagery unites things heavenly and earthly as the heavens prepare for the Saviour to descend and the earth prepares to welcome him. As rain comes from the sky and quenches the earth, only to evaporate, so too the Messiah will descend to save his people and ascend into heavenly glory. We recall past sins and seek forgiveness, as we await the birth of Christ for our redemption and the whole of creation.

Flowers on the Altar In loving memory of our dad Heinz Sobek by Ina and Yvonne.

Nursery for infants & toddlers is available in the Good Shepherd Nursery. Leader: Sandra D

Godly Play in the Children's Worship Centre for children 3 - 6 years. "Today's story is 'The Ten Best Ways to Live' Deuteronomy 6:4-6.

Faith Quest (ages 7-13) worship and serve in church today.

Finger Food Lunch Following the service, please join us for finger food and birthday cake in the upper hall.

November Birthdays Today we are celebrating November Birthdays, Baptism and Wedding Anniversaries. Thank you to the Schmidt-Sobek Family for bringing cake.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Tuesday	10:30 am Forever in Motion Senior Exercise
Wednesday	8:30 am Morning Prayer; Men's Breakfast
	10:30 am Parent and Tots Group
	5:30 pm Study Group
Thursday	9:30 am Woman's Time Out Bible Study
Next Sunday	10:00 am Morning Prayer
	10:30 am Holy Communion

MORNING PRAYER AT TEN O'CLOCK

Prayer Book, pp.6-5, Psalm 146, 147; Isaiah 1:1-9; 2; Peter 3:1-10

HOLY COMMUNION AT HALF-PAST TEN

Ringling of The Advent Bell

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Advent Acclamation

Leader: I look from afar

People: **And lo I see the power of god coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.**

Leader: Go out to meet Him and say:

People: **Tell us, are you the one who is to reign over your people Israel?**

Leader: High and low, rich and poor; one with another.

People: **Go out to meet Him and say:**

Leader: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, that leads Joseph like a sheep.

People: **Tell us, are you He that is to come?**

Leader: Stir up your strength, O Lord and come.

People: **To reign over your people Israel.**

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

People: **I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.**

Opening Hymn # 114 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lord's Prayer and Collect for Purity

page 67

Summary of the Law

page 69, 70

The Collect for the Day

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Psalm: 85:4-7

(Prayer Book p.438)

The Epistle: Romans 13:8-14

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

Gradual

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-13 Response before the Gospel: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**
Response following the Gospel: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon
Nicene Creed

Intercessions Leader: Maranatha (Response: **Amen, Come Lord Jesus**)

Offertory Hymn: # 97 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Invitation, Confession and Absolution (Prayer Book p. 76, 77)
Great Thanksgiving, Peace, Prayer of Humble Access

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 (Prayer Book p. 85, 86)
Blessing

Announcements

Dismissal

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 # 88 Come, Thou Long- expected Jesus

** Please observe a moment for silent prayer**

THE WORD OF THE LORD: TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING:

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL:

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their

cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers.

PARISH LIFE NOTES

St. Mary's Organ Club Our Organist, Valerie Hall, is extending an invitation to anyone wishing to listen to the Postlude and learn more about the organ, or the repertoire being played, to come up after the service into the chancel area and be seated until the music has finished. All are welcome.

Worship Service at Wascana Rehabilitation - will take place this Sunday, December 2, at 1:30 pm. in the chapel. A team from St. Mary's leads the service and porters residents to the chapel. We invite you to share in this outreach. Please call Rem for more information.

Women of the Dawn Project Kid Care Christmas Dinner will be held at St. Mary's on Thursday, Dec. 13 starting at 5 pm. Members of St. Mary's Parish Family are invited.

The Feast of St Nicholas Parish Celebration. December 8th from 3-6 pm. Schedule: 3-4:30 pm- welcome, snacks, and activities, 4:30pm- St Nicholas liturgy. 5-6 pm- supper, Ethiopian style. In honour of St. Nicholas' mission to care for the poor, you are invited to bring men's socks, gloves, small toiletries (especially small Kleenex packs), and small boxes of chocolates to give to Marian Centre. Beeswax candles for sale to support Danielle K's IVCF mission to international students at McGill University. **If you would like to help out please sign signup sheet on table by the office.**

Apocalypse and Prophecy: Advent Lections Study Group

When: 5:30-7:30 pm Wednesdays in Advent (Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19)

Where: St. Mary's, in the lounge. The four Advent lessons from Luke's gospel in the Revised Common Lectionary fit together to form a theme of apocalyptic prophecy.

How does Luke tie the babe in the manger to the end of the world as we know it? Join us on Wednesdays at 5:30 for a light supper followed by a Bible study of Luke's Gospel lessons for Advent. We'll round out our evenings with Compline. All are welcome!