

# St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

(Congregation established 1913)

**December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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*Some rise on eagles' wings, this one is plain,  
Plain English workmanship in solid oak.  
Age gracefully it says, go with the grain.  
You walk towards an always open book,  
Open as every life to every light,  
Open to shade and shadow, day and night,  
The changeless witness of your changing pain.  
Be still the Lectern says, stand here and read.  
Here are your mysteries, your love and fear,  
And, running through them all, the slender thread  
Of God's strange grace, red as these ribbons, red  
As your own blood when reading reads you here  
And pierces joint and marrow... So you stand,  
The lectern still beneath your trembling hand.*

*The Lectern- (Malcolm Guite)*

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*The investigation and true knowledge of the Scriptures requires a good life and pure soul and the virtue that is consonant with Christ, so that the mind, in following this path, may be enabled to reach and comprehend what it desires, as far as it is accessible to human nature to learn about the Word of God...The one who wishes to comprehend the mind of those who speak of God needs to begin by living the kind of life that washes and cleanses the soul and then go to the saints themselves, approaching them by imitation of their deeds, so that becoming aligned with them through a common way of life, he may come to understand the things that have been revealed to them by God.( Athanasius of Alexandria)*

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## 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 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.

**Nursery** for infants & toddlers is available in the Good Shepherd Nursery. Leader: Yvonne S- S

**Godly Play** in the Children's Worship Centre for children 3 - 6 years. "Today's story is 'The Ark and a Tent for God' Exodus 40: 1-9. Leaders: Sandra D, Myka D.

**Faith Quest (ages 7-13 )** continue their Road to Bethlehem rotation. Len G will lead and Eleonore S will shepherd a King's Theatre workshop- selfies! Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

**Coffee and Tea** Following the service, please join us for a cup of tea or coffee in the upper hall. Coffee Hosts: Mike D

### 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
Next Sunday	10:00 am Morning Prayer
	10:30 am Holy Communion

## MORNING PRAYER AT TEN O'CLOCK

Prayer Book, pp.6-5, Psalm 148, 149; Isaiah 5:1-7; 2; Peter 3:11-18

## HOLY COMMUNION AT HALF-PAST TEN

Ringling of The Advent Bell

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Advent Acclamation ( Please stand )

Leader: A voice cries: In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord!

People: **Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up

People : **and every mountain and hill brought low.**

Leader: The uneven ground shall become level

People: **and the rough places a plain.**

Leader: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

People: **and all flesh shall see it together.**

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

People: **In the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Opening Hymn # 116 Your Kingdom Come- On Bended Knee

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

The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13

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

Psalm: 50:1-6

*(Prayer Book p.392)*

## 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...**

Gospel: Luke 21:25-33 Response before the Gospel: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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

Sermon  
Nicene Creed  
Intercessions

Offering & Gathering of Pledges for 2019

Offertory Hymn: # 100 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

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 # 108 Hark, a Herald Voice Is Sounding**

*\* Please observe a moment for silent prayer\**

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD: TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING:** Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise thee among the Gentiles, and sing to thy name"; and again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and further Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, he who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**GOSPEL:** Luke 21:25-33

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

## PARISH LIFE NOTES

**2019 Pledge Forms.** Thank you to all who returned pledge forms today. For those who haven't done so, please be encouraged to follow up by sending/ dropping off your form into the church office, or by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday

**Decorating Bee.** Next Sunday after worship we are looking to set up and decorate the tree in preparation for Christmas. If you are able to help, please be in touch with Gwyn C S. Families with children are welcome!

**Intercessions Book .** You are invited to write down the names of persons you wish to have included in the prayers at the Holy Communion in the intercessions book (located on the table with the collection plate and bread and wine,) under the following headings: Travellers, Special Need, The Departed. Please do this before the service begins. You may also submit names via e mail or phone to the church office during the week.

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

**Wool-** please see Norma if you are interested in wool, fine wool to knit for little ones.

**Poinsettia pick up** will be at St. Mary's on Thurs. December 13th from 6.00pm until 7.00pm. Thanks so much for your support.

**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 St. Cuthbert's regional team,** along with the Wardens from each of the nine congregations in our region, are attempting to discern the future of the Anglican Church in the city of Regina. We have formed two prayer groups, each of whom meet briefly every month to provide prayer support for this process. You are welcome to attend either one. Our next meetings will be Monday, Dec 10 at 1:30 pm or 6:30 pm at the Synod office. Questions can be directed to Kate B.

### **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!

**Mission opportunity** - we are again feeding the hungry at Souls Harbour soup kitchen by helping to serve and clean up after the evening meal on Thursday, December 13 between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Please join us! Souls Harbour soup kitchen is located on the 1800 block of Halifax street. Parking is on the street or behind the building in the alley. If you can help out, please advise Sandra D.

**Welcoming Party and Celebration.** On behalf of the five families of Rev. Nathaniel Athian Deng Mayen (Yar Chol Mayen Thieel), Chol Deng Gieet (Amor Akoi Jurkuch), David Angeth Deng (Diing Manyuon), Akon Nyieth Akon (Akuol Buol), and Dr. Atem Agau (Victoria Sumo Geu), your presence will be highly appreciated as you share happiness with the families and to thank God for the protection and safe arrival of the families and wives of our brothers from Africa. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17, NRSV).

Expected in attendance are friends and relatives to the families, with special recognition and appreciation to All Saints Anglican Church, Regina, that co-sponsored Amor Akoi Jurkuch with Nathaniel, St. Mary Anglican Church, the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, and the Living Hope Alliance Church who have in one way or the other have been pivotal in the support, resettlement and integration of the families in Regina.

**Address:** Hill Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3720 Hill Ave, Regina

**Day and Date:** Saturday, December 15, 2018

**Time:** 19:00 – 22:00 P.M

**Anglican Journal Subscriptions.** The Anglican Journal is a nationwide newspaper of the Anglican Church of Canada that is sent out free of charge once a month along with the Sask Anglican which shares news from the 3 Anglican Dioceses in the province of Saskatchewan. Anyone wishing to receive a new subscription or cancel an existing one is asked to contact Yvonne in the parish office at 522-6052 or [stmarysanglican@sasktel.net](mailto:stmarysanglican@sasktel.net).

**The Wardens, Incumbents and Interims group** met for the eleventh time on November 27, 2018. As with the October 24, 2018 meeting, Incumbents and Interims are seen as important participants in these meetings and were invited to attend. Key discussion was about:

- o feedback from the town hall;
- o reports from buildings and finances subcommittees. The facilities were studied based on criteria. All facilities have relative merits;
- o working on scenarios for the future;
- o striking a steering committee and a vision group; and,
- o the timing and content of congregational meetings.

The wardens, incumbents and interims will meet again on January 9, 2019.