

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

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December 1st, 2019

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.

TODAY AT ST. MARY'S

GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY BE TO HIM FOR EVER!

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: Starr.

Godly Play in the Children's Worship Centre for children 3 - 6 years. Today is Virtual Christmas Pageant Preparation. Leaders: Ginny, Myka.

Faith Quest (ages 7-13) stage and photograph scenes of the nativity for their Virtual Pageant. Leader: Kate Shepherds: Eleonore, Katherine, Kaidan and Heidi. Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6b And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Coffee and Tea following the service will be served in the upper hall. Coffee Host: Lois, Pat and Marian.

The Intercessions Book on the table with the bread and the offering plates has space for you to write in the names of people you wish us to remember in prayer this morning, and throughout the week. Prayers will be offered for travelers, those in special need, and the departed.

MORNING PRAYER AT TEN O'CLOCK

Prayer Book, pp.6-5, Psalm 146, 147; Amos 1. 1-5, 13-2.8; 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

HOLY COMMUNION AT HALF-PAST TEN

The Advent Bell (*Please stand*)

The Lighting of the 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**

Collect for Purity.

(Prayer Book p.67)

Summary of the Law, Lord have mercy and Collect

(Prayer Book. P.69,70)

* Welcoming of Enquirers into Baptism. *

The Presentation

Sponsor: I present Kelli who wishes to follow the way of Christ.

I also present Alex and Kelli who wish their children Owen and Claire follow the way of Christ.

The presider asks of the Inquirer, or of the parents who speak on behalf of a young child,

What do you seek (for your child)?

Answer...

Presider: What do you ask of this community?

Answer...

Presider: God gives the light of life to everyone who comes into the world, so that those who seek may truly find, and may live in God's joy for ever. You have followed that light; you have come to seek the face of the Lord

Are you ready to seek God's face by sharing with us and with your children in the Church's worship of God and service to the poor, and in seeking to know the way of Christ?

Answer **I am.**

Presider: Dear friends in Christ, will you care for Alex and Kelli and their family and support them by prayer and by example?

People **We will.**

Presider Will you help them *to* grow in the knowledge and love of God and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord?

People **We will.**

Presider Will you share with them as God gives you opportunity, your own experience of life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Thanksgiving and Signing
The Handing on the Gospel
Calling to be a Hearer

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm

Gradual: **96 Creator of the Stars of Night**

Gospel

Sermon

Nicene Creed

(Prayer Book p. 71)

Intercessions: (Sung response: **Come Quickly, Lord in Mercy Come**)

Offertory Hymn: # 97 **Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring**

Offertory Anthem

Invitation, Confession and Absolution

(Prayer Book p. 76, 77)

Great Thanksgiving, Peace, Prayer of Humble Access *(Prayer Book pp. 78 ff)*

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**

Thanksgiving after Communion

(Prayer Book p. 85, 86)

Gloria

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**

THE WORD OF THE LORD: TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord. **R./ Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 122

I WAS glad when they said unto me, / 'We will go unto the house of the LORD.'

Behold, our feet now stand / within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM is built as a city / that is at unity in itself;

Whither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD, / as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the LORD.

For there were set the thrones for judgement, / even the thrones of the house of David.

O PRAY for the peace of Jerusalem: / may they prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls, / and plenteousness within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes, / I will wish thee prosperity.

Yea, because of the house of the LORD our God, / I will seek to do thee good.

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14

Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord. **R./ Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel... **R./ Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. **R./ Praise be to thee , O Christ.**

Parish Life Notes

Enquirers into Baptism. Today we extend a warm welcome to Alex and Kelli and their children Owen and Claire as they begin a period of enquiry into baptism for Kelli, Owen, and Claire, and learning and discovering what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the fellowship of His Church.

Worship Service at Wascana Rehabilitation - will take place this Sunday, Dec. 1, 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.

Prayer & Praise with Revd. Gene takes place tonight at 6:30 pm.

"Join the Intercessory prayer team to pray for the parish, Wednesday, December 4 in the lounge at 2:00. "...I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly." Ps. 5:3

St. Nicholas celebration Friday Dec. 6 - 5:30-7:30 starting promptly with Light and Peace, followed by supper and activities. In the spirit of giving, we invite you to bring men's socks and toques and/or monetary donations for Marian Centre.

Dec. 15 - 3:00pm Living Nativity at Moats Farm. Bring baking to share and consider bringing a donation for the South Sudanese refugee project. Talk to Barb if you would like to have a role in the pageant.

Update from Vestry First and foremost, we thank those of you who faithfully submitted donation pledge forms for 2020 in the last few weeks! Pledges for 2020 total \$ 106,623. We are hoping for \$130,000 in the budget (an increase of \$1,300).

Your time to consider the fiscal needs of this, your church family, in the context of the pressures of your family lives is deeply appreciated. Your commitment to this process allows us to build a budget based on what our known revenue is expected to be. It is still not too late to submit a pledge form if you have not yet done so. We will be finalizing the budget income at our December 8 vestry meeting.

At our November 17 vestry meeting we:

- Spent most of our time preparing a second draft of the budget;
- Heard that the roof repairs are mostly on target and good news is the wood under structure is sound so far;
- Received reports on the further work required on the organ's blower motor and room which since been completed;
- Commended the Refugee Fundraising Committee which has done an awesome job raising \$25,000 to date towards the total required. We have notified the diocese of our wish to proceed;
- met with Bishop Rob on November 23 to review our role in the St. Cuthbert's archdeaconry churches process. He commended St. Mary's for the many ways it has supported the diocese as well as our outreach into the community and commended our intent to focus on growth and vitality.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Monday to Friday	8:30 am Morning Prayer 5:00 pm Evening Prayer
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
Thursday	9:30 am Woman's Time Out Bible Study
Next Sunday	10:00 am Morning Prayer 10:30 am Holy Communion

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

THE SEASON of Advent which begins today marks both the beginning of a new year in the Church calendar, but also a season of preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Advent collect describes how Jesus came to us in great humility. He was born of a woman and laid in a manger. God in the flesh! This is what we will celebrate at Christmas. Over the course of this coming year we will seek to grow in our response to the Incarnation by learning to love more deeply the world Jesus came to redeem.

But the coming of Christ is not simply to be understood as something in that occurred once in the past. He comes to us here and now in and through His Holy Spirit, who draws us into union with God and with each other, and so in Advent we renew our intention to live as members of the Body of Christ with peace and joy and all the gifts and fruits of the Spirit!

The coming of Christ also has a future aspect, as we declare in our Creed, “He will come again in glory to judge both the living and the dead.” Advent teaches us to look forward with hope and expectation to that day when “we shall rise to the life immortal” in the new heaven and the new earth where God will be all in all. As we look forward to the Advent of Gods kingdom, we seek to live now as worthy citizens of that kingdom.

The colour of Advent is purple, representing penitence, hope, and expectation, with which we prepare for Jesus 'coming. As John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord by calling people to repentance, so Advent is a natural time to renew our spiritual lives through the practice of prayer, stillness, meditation, and confession.

May God bless you all in this Holy season, and throughout the coming church year.

Yours faithfully,

Claude +