



Parish of the Ascension Chimes



Sunday, December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent

- Lections:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8, 19-28
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)**
Presider/Homilist: Rev'd Canon David Burrows
- 9:15 a.m. Ascension Café**
- 11:00 a.m. Godly Play Pageant and Welsh Eucharist
(Service on special leaflet)**
Presider: Rev'd Lynn Courage
Gift Bearers: Lisa and Jason Fancey
Hymns (CP): 102 & 123, 91, 118 vs.1-4,
88 & 119, 154
- 6:30 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols and Tree Lighting
(Service on special leaflet)**

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted." Isaiah 61.1

Weekly Word

It is the third Sunday of Advent. For many of us, the journey from September to today has been a blur of busyness and chaos amid the hope of time to rest, productivity and vision for a better future and more full reality of God's love and grace in our lives, and the contentment of the blessings of life and love that presently abounds.

Into all this, we have been launched into the new year of the liturgical life of the church, with candles lit, prayers offered, and a call to walk through a wilderness with prophets and virgins as we await the celebration of the incarnation.

This seeming chaotic reality reminds me of August 2014, when I journeyed with youth and leaders to Kamloops for the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering. There, in my role as a parish youth leader, and as a national youth leader responsible to enable Ministry Projects, I found myself moving at high speed, trying to be everything and all things for all people.

During this time, we found opportunity to journey to an arid, almost desert section of the Okanagan region, and I was amazed at what I found.

In the midst of the desert I was expecting little life, and little beauty. The reality I encountered was a beautiful expression of God's creation, combined with the creative care and nurture of the local indigenous community. It seemed in that day there, all time stood still to marvel at the glory God had gifted the world in the flora and fauna.

Here in this place, I move once again at high speed, enabling ministry and life to occur through my responsibilities and tasks. Very easily I could be tempted to keep my head down and ignore the presence of God in creation and the blessing of life that is all around.

As we move through Advent to Incarnation, let us be present to the beauty blooming all around us, in holy friendships, in growing vocations, in expressions of generosity and love, in the possibilities blooming in a perceived 'desert' of life. In these arid expressions, God creeps in around us, and blooms in our hearts; God grows in the heart and soul of the community.

Peace,
David

Lessons and Carols Service this evening at 6:30 pm. We welcome everyone to attend this wonderful annual tradition and listen to beautiful music prepared by both our junior and senior choirs. Congregation and choir will all join in singing many familiar Christmas Carols during this special service. Thank you to both choirs for their loyalty, devotion and hard work to the music ministry in our parish.

Queen's College Winter Semester 2018 has a wide variety of courses and programs designed to help individuals and groups study theology, develop pastoral skills and grow spiritually. Courses are available on-campus in St. John's, on-line in real-time and by correspondence as part of degree and non-degree programs. For more information, go to www.queenscollegenl.ca or call [1-877-753-0116](tel:1-877-753-0116), or email provostqueenscollege@mun.ca

Music Ministry Board We are pleased today to dedicate the Music Ministry Board at the back of the church. Thank you to all for your generous donations to this fund given either in memory of, or thanksgiving for or as a donation. We would like to thank the committee of Mildred Pretty, Woodrow Sutton, Woodrow Mullett (who now resides in B.C.), and Ina Kearley. Also, thank you to Eric Yetman for constructing the music ministry board and to Guy Oake for installing the plaques.

A Message from our Youth Group:- Thank you to all of those who purchased Christmas puddings to assist the youth of the Good Shepherd and the Ascension with our fundraising for CLAY.

Food Bank: When you pick up your groceries this week, please remember to add an item or two for the food bank. Many people in our parish have difficulty in making ends meet, and especially during the Christmas Season. This coming week they would like **crackers, cereal, tin soup**. Thank you for your continual help!

Donations/Offerings In order to have donations/offerings included on your income tax receipt for 2017, they must be received at The Ascension Business Office by Sunday December 31, 2017.

Office Closure: During the Christmas season the office will be closed from Monday December 25, 2017 to Monday January 1, 2018 and will reopen on Tuesday January 2, 2017.

Advent Packages: Please pick up your Advent packages that have been organized alphabetically (at the back of the church and in the porch) to avoid having others brave the cold weather to deliver them to your door. Thank you!

Duty Teams Dec. 24: Sidespersons Team #6 – 10 a.m.; team #1 – 4 p.m.; team #2 – 7 p.m.; and team #3 – 11 p.m. Counting team # 8

The Mount Pearl Seniors Independence Group is holding their monthly "Caregivers Education and Support Program" on Tuesday, December 19th, at Park Place Community Centre from 1:30-3:00p.m. If you are a primary caregiver and would like to attend, please call 748-6485 to register.

St. Margaret's Advent Outreach: This year our outreach is in aid of Brighter Futures Healthy Baby Club who meet in our parish hall on Thursday mornings. They provide pre and post-natal guidance and support to pregnant mothers. We invite you to pick a tag or two from our Advent tree, purchase the item, and return it to the church placing it in our play yard located in the side vestibule. Thank you for your support.

Parish Finances – An Update: Here is the income and expenses of the parish up to November 30, 2017 with a comparison to 2016.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Income to Nov. 30 -	\$314,841	\$314,003
Expenses to Nov. 30 -	<u>\$343,595</u>	<u>\$341,291</u>
Leaving a Deficit of -	(\$ 28,754)	(\$27,288)

Ascension Prayer Circle:

Please pray for these individuals this week: Ann, Barbara, Bill, Brenda, Brian, Clarence, Claude, Daphne, Darryl, Dennis, Diane, Dot, Dulcie, Eileen, Ernest, Fred, Gwen, Harold, Herb, Hilda, Ina, Ivy, Jack, Jeff, Jennifer, Jerome, Jessie, Jill, Josephine, Junior, Karl, Kevin, Lester, Lori, Mabel, Marguerite, Marina, Mark, Mary, Maxwell, Melissa, Melvin, Mona, Mya, Myra, Nancy, Pam, Randell, Roland, Ron, Roy, Ruth, Sean, Stan, Stephen, Todd, Terry and Violet.

Remember the families of those who have died.
Rest eternal grant to them, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Loving God, you gather us as your people, where many come seeking your healing, strength, and love. You know us God: You understand who we are; you know what troubles and puzzles us, what makes you smile and what makes us sad. You listen to our questions and our prayers. We bring you these names, asking for your healing. Be with these named, with their families, and all whom they encounter.
Amen.

Services During the Week:

Morning Prayer daily at 9:30 a.m.
(Except Wednesday & Saturday)

Wednesday December 20, 2017	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)
	10 a.m. – Noon	Bible Study
	Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Stations of the Crib
Sunday Dec. 24, 2017 Advent IV Christmas Eve	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)
	4:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (Welsh)
	7:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)
	11:00 p.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)

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Rector:
Rev'd Canon David Burrows

Associate Priest:
Rev'd Lynn Courage

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