



Parish of the Ascension Chimes



Sunday, December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent

- Lections:** **Advent 3: 11 a.m & 6:30 p.m. BAS, p. 270**
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 3 BAS (Isaiah 12:1-6);
Phillipians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)**
Presider: Rev'd David Burrows
- 9:15 a.m. Ascension Café**
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BAS)**
Lections: Isaiah 11:1-10; John 15:1-5
Presider: Rev'd Lynn Courage
Homilist: Rev'd David Burrows
Readers: Zachary Dawe, Charlee Smith, Emma Neville,
Janet Anthony
Gift Bearers: Rev'd Alfred and Elizabeth Wareham
Hymns: (CP) 91; O Lord, How Shall I meet Thee
(insert); 89; 59 & 627, 111
- 6:30 p.m. IONA QUIET SERVICE**
Presider/Homilist: Rev'd Lynn Courage
Hymns: (CP) 102; 103; 439

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

Weekly Word

Today, in the midst of Advent's journey, I find myself looking both forward and backward. Now is the time in many parts of society and culture, that persons begin reflections on the passing year. Lists of art and culture, books, cinema and music abound, as well as newsworthy and noteworthy events.

Into this, as I step forward to the third Sunday of Advent, I am reminded that the road I am called to is one that requires work, as the prophet challenges, we are to 'make straight the crooked ways, fill every valley, make low every hill and mountain, make the rough paths smooth.'



The Sankofa bird symbol is derived from an African proverb, "Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi," which translates as "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten."

Sankofa. Look it up

I contemplate the path I walk with God, and how I have contributed to its smoothness, and times when the path has been rocky and crooked.

I am reminded of the image of a Sankofa from Ghana, that Presiding Bishop Michael Curry offers at the end of his book, *Following the Way of Jesus*, the symbol of a bird moving forward with its head pointed backward. [Sankofa Bird Symbol](#)

This is a powerful image as I contemplate advent and incarnation.

This is a time when many are preparing for 'holidays' or *Holy Days*. So often in the moving forward, the days are blurred, and are no longer holy. All is lost in the midst of the running back and forth, challenges of being and living into holy time.

My holy time was shattered and reformed today, as I looked back to a pair of images from 2017. I looked to these images to share with a friend who has a birthday this week. For me, these images remind me of the challenges of living in the here and now, while moving steadily forward into a somewhat unknown future.



The future is somewhat indefinite, and perhaps fear, apprehension, and uncertainty will dominate. However, the workings of creation in the images, the plants and animals, remind me of the link we have with God. Bumblebees and snails, vines and flowers are influenced by their DNA, their environment, perhaps as much as the Sankofa bird of Ghana.

We look back to continue forward. We are shaped by who we are, and whose we are.

This holy day

This holy season

Let us look forward and go further ahead

Surrounded by you.

Peace, David

Food Bank: When you are picking up your groceries, please add an item or two and drop it in the food bank box. Items needed this week are **teabags, sugar, and peanut butter**. If you wish, you may also make a monetary donation to the food hamper fund. It is much appreciated!

Duty teams for next Sunday, December 23, 2018: Sidespersons' Team #4, Counting Team # 4.

Services During the Week:	Morning Prayer daily at 9:30 a.m. (Except Wednesday & Saturday)	
Wednesday, Dec. 19	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)
Sunday, Dec. 23 Advent 4	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11:00 a.m.	Pageant/HE Welsh
	6:30 p.m.	Lessons and Carols

*The Parish of the Ascension
Anglican Church of Canada
58 Smallwood Drive*

Mount Pearl, NL, A1N 1B1

Tel: 368-5693

www.parishoftheascension.ca

www.facebook.com/parishoftheascension

Rector:

Rev'd David Burrows

Associate Priest:

Rev. 'd Lynn Courage

O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET THEE

O Lord, how shall I meet thee, how welcome thee aright?
Thy people long to greet thee, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord, most holy, thy lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly all that may please thee best.

Love caused thy incarnation; love brought thee down to me;
Thy thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led thee to embrace,
In love all love excelling, our lost and fallen race!

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.
He comes, for men procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,
For all God's sons securing their heritage in heav'n.

He comes to judge the nations, a terror to his foes,
A Light of consolations and blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth thy beams so cheering, and guide us safely home.

A LITTLE CHILD

A shoot shall rise from the roots of Jesse;
A branch grow up, grow strong and fine.
The Spirit of God will come to rest on a child and the light
and the love of God shine in those eyes.

Refrain: And a little child shall lead us on;
The lion and lamb will dance as one.
All creation sing a song that cries out peace, yes peace,
And the knowledge of God fill the earth,
And the knowledge of God fill the earth,
And the knowledge of God fill the earth like waters the seas.

The table of God is set for the nations for rich and poor,
for foolish and wise.

The Spirit of God will come to rest on a child and
the light and the love of God shine in those eyes.

Three Key Messages from the Vestry: Thursday December 13, the Vestry met and continued its work and ministry of advising the Rector and administering the parish. Three key messages are shared from the Vestry to the parish:

- Rosalind Williams, the Rector's Warden has been appointed as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Next Vestry meeting, all members are invited to come with suggestions for fundraising and fellowship activities. If any parishioners have suggestions, please forward them to Mrs. Williams.
- Starting in January 2019, the 6:30 p.m. liturgy will be once a month, the last Sunday of the month, plus certain special occasions. This will be from January to May, and September to December each year.
- Vestry approved a Motion for 2018 Christmas Memorials to be redirected to the Giving Thanks Fund. A Memorial list will be published for distribution. The Vestry made this decision because there are enough resources in the Memorial Fund to purchase items for the altar for the next several years. The Vestry is moving forward in establishing the Giving Thanks Fund at the Easter and Christmas Seasons to assist with the continuing funding of ministry at the Ascension.

Donations: Coffee matters are looking for people to donate \$10 gift cards to add to the bags that they give to those who attend the Dinner on Christmas Day. In turn, they will give you a free medium beverage. Drop off at Coffee Matters on Commonwealth Avenue.

Donations to the Giving Thanks Fund in memory of Simeon Wentzell from: John and Joan Carter; Ron and Mabel Coles; Cavell, David and Jackie Porter; Charles and Shirley Gosse; Max and Shirley Squires; Bruce Tilley; Joe and Mary Durnford; Marg and Bob Turner; Gordon and Margaret Handcock; Ches and Julia Gill; Ed and Cavell Saint; Richard and Dallas Hewitt; Sel and Jean Warren; Sharon and Ed Coady; Joan Gill; Gloria, Montano and Carolyn Emerson; Maisie and Brooks Adey; Paul and Annie Wylezel and Edna Wentzell; Ron and Anne Morris; John and Patricia Gillis; David and Barbara Ralph.

Donations to the Giving Thanks Fund in memory of Jessie Myles from: Eric and Gloria Myles; Jack Myles; Julie and Gail Myles, The Bolands; Lloyd Myles; Lucy Parady.

CLOSING RESPONSES

What must we do?

We must pray faithfully.

We must live in love.

What must we do?

We must share our possessions.

We must live in love.

What must we do?

We must act justly.

We must live in love.

BLESSING

We know that God wants us to be happy.

May we enjoy God's love gladly and with great hope.

We know that God wants us to be holy.

May we drink of God's love deeply and with great joy.

God of the Dance, Storyteller, joy of our joy,
bless us with laughter and glory
in all the light and darkness of our days. **AMEN**

OPENING RESPONSES

God is among us, God is within us.

God is dancing with Joy.

God is our strength, God is our Saviour.

God is dancing with Joy.

God is our peace, God is our festivity.

God is dancing with Joy.

ADVENT SONG - *Christmas is Coming*

**REFRAIN: Christmas is coming, the Church is glad to sing,
and let the Advent candles brightly burn in a ring.**

The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light. **R**

The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some. **R**

The third is for the Baptist,
Who cried, "Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus,
Both this and every day." **R**

ADVENT PRAYER

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true;
to you be praise and glory forever.

Your prophet, John the Baptist, was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.

Blessed be God forever.

May we your servants rejoice in his light,
And so be led to witness to him
Who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

Blessed be God forever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh,
and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,
so that we, without shame or fear,
may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you for the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember
your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy God of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Men's Service Club Christmas Pot Luck Supper: This potluck with spouses and friends will be held tomorrow, Monday, December 17. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for supper at 6:00 p.m. Any parishioners who are not club members but would like to attend are more than welcome - simply bring a dish for the pot luck and enjoy some fellowship and Christmas music.

Thank You: Special thanks to all those who supported the various items on tickets during the fall fair and Breakfast with Santa. A special note of thanks to Heather Courage for donating a beautiful Rug Hooking, the winner of this rug hooking was Danica Gill. And a note of thanks to Randell Porter for the donation of the Soap Box items in a Christmas basket; the winner of this item was Cindy Button. The winner of the Senior Choir Christmas tote and gift bag was Heather Preston.

Donations/Offerings: In order to have donations/offerings included on your income tax receipt for 2018, they must be received at the Ascension Church Office **by Monday, December 31, at 12 noon.**

Flowers/Memorials at Christmas: Anyone wishing to give a Christmas Memorial is asked to place a plain envelope with the appropriate information and contribution in the collection plate. **The deadline to submit names for inclusion in our Christmas bulletin insert will be tomorrow, Monday, December 17.**

Parish Office Hours during Christmas: Please note that the Church office will be closed from December 25 –December 29, inclusive. We will open on Monday, December 31 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon and will close again on Tuesday, January 1, in observance of New Year's day. We will resume regular office hours on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon, Monday to Friday.

John Howard Society - Today we welcome Cindy Murphy, Executive Director of the JHS. We give thanks for her, her staff and for all those working and volunteering at this organization. We also give thanks for the generosity of this parish and we pray that the bounty we present to her today will benefit many men in our community.

Thank You: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Mary Queen of the World would like to extend Christmas greetings to all. We would also like to express our gratitude for your tremendous support throughout the past year which enabled us to help those in our shared community who find themselves in need of a helping hand.

Diocesan Resource Center: Still need those last few special gifts or the final touch for your decorations? Visit the Diocesan Resource Centre, 19 King's Bridge Road. Right now until close on December 21, all Christmas items are 40 percent off. That includes ornaments, decorations, cards, books, and home decor. Business hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30. That's all Christmas items 40 percent off until close on the 21st at the Diocesan Resource Centre. Warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and continued blessings for the New Year from the Diocesan Resource Centre.