



# *Parish of the Ascension Chimes*



**Sunday, December 23, 2018  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Lections:** **Advent 4: BAS, p. 270**  
Micah 5:2-5A; Cantic 18 BAS (Luke 1:47-55);  
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

**8:30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)**  
Presider: Rev'd Lynn Courage

**11:00 a.m. Godly Play Pageant and Welsh Eucharist**  
Presider: Rev'd David Burrows  
Gift Bearers: Janet and Roy Anthony  
Hymns: (CP) 123; 109; 118 vs 1-4; 120; 138

**6:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols and Tree Lighting**  
(Service on special leaflet)

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*"I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word."*  
*Luke 1.38*

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## **Weekly Word**

Come

- Teach us how to live
- With outstretched arm and ransom us
- Set us free; delay no more
- Free those who are imprisoned
- Enlighten those living in darkness and swallowed up by death
- Save earthlings that you made from the dust of the earth
- Save us.

These are the themes of an ancient set of prayers that have been used by Christians between December 17 and 24 for hundreds of years. The images of God and the intentions for humanity are offered each day in the lead up to the birth of Jesus.

Entering this time, each year I am filled with expectation and with urgency that life will change. The world will change, I will change, and there will be harmony, peace, and contentment in the lives and souls of those I know and love, and those whom I have yet to encounter in this world.

I recognize that at this time, the message of Christmas and of the Christian story is not for everyone, nor is it always one of hope. For many people I encounter the harshness of the institution of the church and its treatment of others overshadows the good news that comes from the story of God living among us.

I recognize that the messages that are offered by faith, by society, and by culture at times all try to explain and offer something in different ways. Wholeheartedly, I believe that the messages revolve around dignity, value, peace, love, and acceptance of human beings in their context.

Each day I wish to be loved, accepted, heard, and forgiven. Each day I yearn to be valued, to be satisfied, to be productive, and to be a help to others.

Each day I receive most of this, if not all of it. This is not the case for so many. As I move forward through this time into the twelve days of the Incarnation, the celebration of the birth of God according to my faith, I see the various images of these seven days in everyday life. I see birds, fire, branches, keys, stars, crowns, and babies. In each of these symbols I see a new reality, a new

hope that fills my heart with expectation that the world will be more than it was yesterday, and last year. For me, each day brings fresh chance for good work, healing, forgiveness, dignity, justice, and peace.

Happy Christmas

*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 **crackers, cereal and tinned soup**. 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 30, 2018:** Sidespersons' Team #3, Counting Team # 5.

***Donation to Giving Thanks fund in memory of Ms. Jessie Myles from Mary Hoben.***

***Donation to Giving Thanks fund in memory of Simeon Wintzell from Wallace and Judy Earle; Bob and Elizabeth Barnes***

Services During the Week:	Morning Prayer daily at 9:30 a.m. (Except Wednesday & Saturday)	
<b>Sunday, Dec. 30 Christmas 1</b>	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist/BAS
		No Evening Service

*The Parish of the Ascension  
Anglican Church of Canada  
58 Smallwood Drive  
Mount Pearl, NL, A1N 1B1  
Tel: 368-5693*

[www.parishoftheascension.ca](http://www.parishoftheascension.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/parishoftheascension](https://www.facebook.com/parishoftheascension)

**Rector:**  
*Rev. 'd David Burrows*

**Associate Priest:**  
*Rev. 'd Lynn Courage*

**Bishop's New Year's Day Levee:** Bishop Geoff and Kathy Peddle warmly invite you to attend the Bishop's New Years' Day Levee on January 1, 2019, at the Cathedral Crypt beginning at 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Parking is available at the Cathedral Parking lot; and entrance to the Levee is at the lower Parish office door to the Cathedral. All are welcome!

**Godly Play:** Godly Play will resume on Jan. 13, 2019. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

**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.**

**Parish Office Hours during Christmas:** Please note that the Church office will be closed from December 25 to 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.

**Thank you from John Howard Society:** Thank you to the Parish of the Ascension for their wonderful donation. The generosity of everyone is very much appreciated and items donated will be distributed to those in need.

**Breakfast with Santa Thank you:** A tremendous thank you to all who helped with the Breakfast with Santa, especially Mrs. Rosalind Williams, the Men's Service Club, Godly Play teachers and parents, Santa and Mrs. Claus and all those who supported this annual event. Without those who so willingly give of their time such events could not be possible at the Ascension!

**Giving Thanks/Christmas Memorials:** The Giving Thanks/Christmas memorials will be published and available on January 27, 2019.

**Holy Communion:** Wednesday morning communion will begin again on **Wednesday, January 9, 2019** at 9:30 a.m.