

Collect for the Day: (In Unison) God of promise you look with favour on the lowly, you scatter the proud and you fill the hungry. May we, like Mary, respond to your call and be obedient to your will; through Jesus Christ who is to come. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts: (In Unison): God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Communion: (In Unison): God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: We pray for our parish families. (This week we remember): Gordon Tucker, Gordon & Margaret Tucker, Grace Tucker, Joan Tucker, Lillian Tucker, Louise Tucker and their families.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Kubwa – (Abuja, Nigeria), The Rt Revd Duke Akamisoko.

Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of Trinity-Port Rexton(4 congregations), awaiting appointment and the Parish of Twillingate(3 congregations), Rev. Dr. Joanne Mercer, RD, Rector.

Provincial Prayer Care: We pray for The Diocese of Western Newfoundland, Bishop John Organ.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

Primate: The Most Rev. Fredrick Hiltz

Metropolitan: Archbishop Ron Cutler

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Bishop: The Right Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Peddle

Anglican Church of St. Philip

Rector: Rev. Randy Lockyer

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Deacon: The Rev. Edgar Bonnell

Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Canon Shirley Gosse

The Rev. Canon Don Morgan The Rev. Russell Osmond



Website: www.anglicanparishofstphilip.com

Rector's Warden – Harvey Hiscock- 895 - 2011

People's Warden – Gary King- 895 - 6239

Dec. 23rd , 2018 (Year C)

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS WHO ARE WITH US TODAY. WE HOPE THAT GOD WILL BLESS US AS WE WORSHIP HIM HERE TOGETHER AT ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH.

From the Rector's desk Here we are on the 4th and final Sunday of Advent, a reminder that the time of preparation for Christmas is nearly over, and, whether or not we used the time wisely to prepare ourselves spiritually for the great Christmas celebration is no longer important at this stage. What is important is what do we do now? Advent is the season in which the church casts its gaze to the horizon to catch sight of God's future. Even during times of darkness, difficulty, or despair, Advent teaches us to "remember forward." It reassures us that we can allow our lives today to take the shape of God's tomorrow, living in the full confidence that God's promises will be fulfilled. Along with the season of Christmas and the time between Epiphany and Lent, Advent emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the herald of God's Kingdom. To speak of our Lord in this way, however, is to recognize him as more than a preacher of the Kingdom. After all, the prophets and John the Baptist were also preachers of the Kingdom. To speak of our Lord as the herald of God's Kingdom is to claim that in Jesus the Kingdom is present. As the great missionary bishop Lesslie Newbigin once said, "In Christ we are no longer dealing only with the proclamation of the Kingdom; we are also dealing with the presence of the Kingdom." Jesus Christ proclaims and

embodies God's kingdom. The readings assigned for the Sundays of Advent are rooted in these understandings. They also challenge us to examine our own lives and our allegiance to the Kingdom of God. Last Sunday we stood with 14 young people in our parish that were Confirmed, and, together with them and their families, we renewed our promise to be "*Kingdom people*", to live our lives in excited anticipation for the coming of God's Kingdom. The scriptures of Advent, not only pose a challenge, but also offers hope for each of us, for the church, and for the world. As it was for the first Christians, we need to attend to the words of the Old Testament prophets if we are to recognize in Jesus the presence of God's promised Kingdom. So this year we will look to their words and example to encourage the posture of Advent in our church and in our individual lives. Tomorrow we will gather again on the eve of Christmas, to joyfully sing the carols, and to proclaim the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ into the world and into our lives. May we find that it is also for us the opening of our hearts to make room for him. When he was born into the world it was in a stable, he desires to be born anew in our hearts and lives today. Let's hope and pray that this Christmas we will make the extra effort to ensure there is room there for him.

Rev.Randy

A reminder to those who find themselves as patients in our local hospitals, that hospital chaplains are available for pastoral care. Please don't assume that the chaplain will automatically know you are there. As we know, hospitals are very diligent in protecting the privacy of all patients, so it may be that your name will not be on the visitation list unless you specifically ask for it to be there. When you are admitted please be very clear that you want the Anglican chaplain to visit you if that is your wish.

Thank you to all those who came out this past Tuesday night to join in the lighting of our Christmas tree. The tree will remain lit throughout the season as a reminder to us of those that once were among us, and, now are in the nearer presence of God. We thank God for them, and, for the joy of sharing our lives with them. No doubt this Christmas, like past Christmas', will find us thinking about them.

Rev. Randy forgot last Sunday to mention that the crosses, presented to the 14 young people Confirmed, were made from wood that once were church pew kneelers from the old church. So they have also a piece of church history to cherish in those crosses. Thank you Moses for making the crosses and presenting them.

Thank you to the ACW for purchasing the 14 bibles that were presented to those Confirmed last Sunday. Thank you also to all those who provided food for the pot-luck lunch that followed the service.

Dismissal Song:

**Go now in peace; never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith, steadfast strong
and true. Know he will guide you
in all you do.**

**Go now in love and show you
believe. Reach out to others so all
the world can see.**

**God will be there watching from
above. Go now in peace, in faith
and in love.**

As we approach the end of another year,

your rector and vestry are hoping that we will end the year at least financially on target as a parish. As we try to adhere to the diocesan expectation of parishes to be more ministry and mission minded going forward, we will need to put a special emphasis on envelope givings and less on fundraising. A financially healthy parish is one that meets at least 80 – 90 percent of its annual budget by free-will givings in the offering plate. Many of the folks that do fundraising in parishes are the ones that are getting older and just don't have the energy to keep up with it. We would like to arrive at a time and place where fundraising activities will be used for outreach ministry more than meeting parish budgets out of necessity.

When do I stand, sit or kneel? Some call this “Anglican Calisthenics”... sometimes people are confused especially when others around them are kneeling, standing or sitting. but feel free to follow your preferences. Our goal is worship and not conformity, so, whatever you choose to do is right for you.

Our church band will begin early in the new year! Rev. Randy will meet with those who have signed up, Dr. Greg Brown, Kenny Brown, Trevor Eddy, Dr. Keegan Au and Cathy Squires as soon as possible. Others are invited to be a part of this band as well.

Other Notices

Today, December 23rd, is the last day to get names of loved ones added to the Flower list for the Christmas Eve bulletin.

2019 CHURCH CALENDARS are also available for purchase at \$5.00 each. Only 50 calendars were ordered so they may not last long.

2019 calendars are still available to purchase at \$1.00 each. The calendars were **donated by Skinner's Oil Company**, for which we are very appreciative. There is a big variety of themes and each calendar has very lovely pictures. **You will also have the last calendar with the company name (Skinner's Plumbing Heating & Oil) on it**, as the company has been sold, so it can be a keepsake also. The calendars are located in the foyer.

Christmas Eve services will be as follows tomorrow – we will have our family worship and children's Sunday School program at 4:00 pm and our service of Holy Eucharist at 7:30 pm.

The 2019 church envelopes are now available for all parishioners. If you have not already gotten yours, they are located on the table in the main entrance. If you are new to our parish and have not requested a box yet please speak to our envelope secretary, Charlie Gosse (895-0585) or Rev. Randy.

Thank you to the family of the late Audrey Picco for a donation of \$1000.00 toward the cost of the new choir gowns. Thank you as well to both our ACW & ACM church groups for their contribution of \$1500.00 (\$750 each) toward the cost. The gowns have arrived and we look forward to our choir being adorned with them tomorrow at the Christmas Eve service.

As we approach the end of another year, it is always a time of anxiety for our rector, wardens, treasurer and vestry, as we wait to see if we were successful in meeting our parish budget. The church depends entirely on you, it's members, to reach our budget annually. We ask everyone to prayerfully consider what he/she can do to help us end the year with everything paid. We take great pride in the fact that, the people of St. Philip's parish care very much about their parish, and, each year it is reflected in what was contributed. Thank you for all you do!

To all those Confirmed last week – please speak to Rev. Randy about what you can do in the life of the parish. We invite you to be servers, greeters, choir members, Sunday School helpers. Perhaps you have some ideas of your own that we can work with. The important thing is to know you have a place among us, and, a ministry in the church.

Church Chuckle

Who is the smallest man in the Bible? Peter, because he slept on his watch.



The church is on Facebook

Take a look!

www.facebook.com/stphilipsanglicanchurch

Prayerfully consider your Parish in your estate Planning.

Stewardship thought For the Week

What I spent is gone. What I kept is lost. But what I gave will be mine forever.

Yearly Budget for Envelope giving for 2018 - \$95,000.00	
Needed Monthly - \$7,916.67	
Needed Weekly - \$1,979.16	
Rec'd Dec. 16 th . Regular Giving	\$ 1,915.00
Shortfall	\$ 64.16
Maintenance	\$ 656.00
Rec'd Year to Date Regular Giving	\$ 79,187.00
Maintenance	\$ 12,237.00
Total brought in for Dec. 16 th .	\$ 7,267.35

The Scriptural Sentence for our worship
today as appointed in our BAS Lectionary
Page 271

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Dec. 23rd.

8:30 am – Holy Communion (BCP)

Eucharistic Assistant – Jennifer Tucker

**10:30 am – Holy Eucharist (BAS) &
Sunday School**

**Eucharistic Assistants – Mose Tucker &
Charlie Gosse**

Counters: Lori Mercer & Linda Thomas

Sidesperson: John Parrell

**Altar Duty: Ruth Hiscock & Karen
Puglisevich**

1st Sunday after Christmas - Dec. 30th.

8:30 am – Holy Communion (BCP)

Eucharistic Assistant – Marianne Baker

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist (BAS) &

Sunday School

**Eucharistic Assistants – Harve Hisscock &
Carol Bartlett**

Counters: Susan Powell & Karen

Puglisevich

Sidesperson: Don Morgan

**Altar Duty: Jeanette Osmond, Phoebe
Parrill & Joan Osmond**

**The Collect, Epistle and Gospel for
Today – Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Dec. 23rd.

Scripture Readings

1st Reading – Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98, Page 836

(Lori Gosse)

2nd Reading – Hebrews 1: 1-4

(Reegan Gosse)

Gospel: John 1: 1-14

(Deacon Bonnell)

NOTICES

Our regular Wednesday evening bible study
will resume on January 16th at 7:30 pm in the
board room. All are welcome to join with us.

Thoughts for Christmas:

(1) The Greatest Christmas Gift

"This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the
giving and receiving, not even the carols, but
the humble heart that receives anew the
wondrous gift, the Christ."

- Frank McKibben

(2) Laugh With Immanuel

"The implications of the name 'Immanuel' are
both comforting and unsettling. Comforting,
because He has come to share the danger as
well as the drudgery of our everyday lives. He
desires to weep with us and to wipe away our
tears. And what seems most bizarre, Jesus
Christ, the [Son of God](#), longs to share in and
to be the source of the laughter and the joy
we all too rarely know."

- Michael Card

(3) Wonderful Impossibilities

"When God intends to make something
wonderful he begins with a difficulty.
When he intends to make something very
wonderful, he begins with an
impossibility."

- Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord
Coggan

(4) Make Room for More

Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,

The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing,
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing,
Returns to you glad.

- John Greenleaf Whittier

(5) Not Alone at All

"I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never
alone at all. And that, of course, is the
message of Christmas. We are never alone.
Not when the night is darkest, the wind
coldest, the word seemingly most indifferent.
For this is still the time God chooses."

- Taylor Caldwell

(6) Come as a Child

"There's nothing sadder in this world than to
awake Christmas morning and not be a child."

- Erma Bombeck

(7) A Christmas Candle

A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;
It makes no noise at all,
But softly gives itself away;
While quite unselfish, it grows small.

- Eva K. Logue