

23 DECEMBER 2018 TODAY'S SERVICE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.30AM—SUNG EUCHARIST

9.00AM—FAMILY EUCHARIST

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST

EST. 1888

ANGLICAN CHURCH

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY CHRISTMAS EVE	24	6.00pm 11.30pm	Christingle Midnight Mass
TUESDAY CHRISTMAS DAY	25	7.30am 9.00am	Sung Eucharist Family Eucharist
SUNDAY ONE SERVICE ONLY	30	8.30am	Eucharist

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us in our worship today.

We are happy to join with you in fellowship. If you are here for the first time, or would like to be more involved in our parish please make yourself known to one of the welcomers, or clergy. You can also complete one of the green cards on the table near the main door, to give us your contact

details if you would like a call, or to be on our parish contact list. You can put the card in the collection plate or hand it to a welcomer. We hope you will join us for coffee after the service.

The green cards can also be used for updating your contact details if you are already a part of our parish.

Rector: The Reverend John Milburn

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Luke 1.45

HYMNS: 7.30am Eucharist:- **MP:** 102, 428, 697, 435.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath --
the candles of **HOPE, PEACE** and **JOY**.

Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of **LOVE**.

Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we find these words:

"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

-- *Deuteronomy 10:17-19a*

From the Gospel of John we hear:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-- *John 13:34-35*

Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior.

Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Gracious God, you have visited your people and redeemed us in your son: As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, you Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1ST READING: MICAH 5.2-5A

Susan Rowe Kate Down

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

PSALM 80.1-7 (verses said alternately between the reader and congregation)

1. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2. **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**
3. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
4. **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6. **You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.**
7. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

2ND READING: HEBREWS 10.5-10

Allan Thomson David Down

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1.39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- ⇒ **The Diocese of Kubwa - (Abuja, Nigeria):** †Duke Akamisoko
- ⇒ **The Diocese of Sydney:** †Glenn Davies; Assistant Bishops: †Ivan Lee, †Peter Hayward, †Christopher Edwards, †Peter Lin, †Michael Stead; Clergy and People

In The Diocese:

- ⇒ **The Parish of Goodna: Lindsay Howie** – Locum, Graham Frizzell, Thomas Gray
- ⇒ **Good Shepherd Op Shop**
- ⇒ **St Francis Theological College, Milton:** Principal – †Jonathan Holland; Academic Dean – Peter Kline; staff; sessional lecturers and students

Locally: We pray for all working over the Christmas period in our health and emergency services, police and utilities.

Pray for The Sick: Joel, Valmai, Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Steph, Kerrie, John, Roselee, Esther, Linda, Drew, Kerry, Helena, Audrey, Dawn, Chris, Stephanie, Andrew, Sue.

(NOTE: under the Federal Privacy Act, consent of the person you wish to pray for must be obtained. No details of need / illness can be published without consent)

The Fourth Sunday of Advent– Sunday 23 December 2018

Micah 5.2-5a; Psalm 80.1-7; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

Is there greater witness to true discipleship than the deep and meaningful engagement of Mary through her words, “My soul magnifies the Lord”? Where would we be if she had said, “No”? What thoughts came to mind as she travelled the long distance from Nazareth to Ein Karem near Jerusalem to visit with Elizabeth? Did she have doubts? Did she have any regrets? Imagine her relief at hearing Elizabeth’s greeting and the affirmation afforded by John the Baptist who leapt for joy within the womb! What reassurances do we need in our own discipleship? What affirmation do we seek?

Pray that we may know how to say “yes” so that our souls might also magnify the Lord!

Pray for the Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma), giving thanks for the work they do to further God’s mission in the world.

Text: The Rev Lurette Glasgow, Special Advisor for Government Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Ottawa. © Anglican Board of Mission, 2018



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th Christmas Eve

6.00pm—Christingle Service, a very special way to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Very family orientated. (the children love it.)

11.30pm—Midnight Eucharist

December 25th Christmas Day

7.30am—Sung Eucharist

9.00am—Family Eucharist

December 30th

8.30am- Eucharist

January 6th

8.30am- Eucharist

No Friday Eucharist until 11th January

January 13th

7.30am – Sung Eucharist

9.00am –Family Eucharist

WHAT WE DO

Knitting Circle:

The knitting circle which meets once a month in the Maheno room, knitting squares which are then joined and made into rugs, beanies, and crocheting tea towels, will be in recess until March. The next one is on Wednesday 20th March, at 9.30am.

Mah-jong Group:

The Mah-jong Group which meets Thursday morning from 9.30am—12.30pm in the Church is in recess until 7th February. During the break our friends at St Peter and Paul Parish Hall, 5 Main St, Balmoral will be hosting Mah-jong beginning 3rd January. All welcome.

Little Children's Church:

Little Children's Church happens each Sunday in term-time, during the 9:00am service. We have stories and activities for children aged 3-years to Year 2, and younger children are also very welcome to attend with a parent. If you are visiting or here for the first time, your children are very welcome to join us.

Teen Church:

Teen Church is an exciting youth programme offered during School term time at St John's. Each term the teens are invited to participate in 3 sessions exploring the Bible and their faith as well as 'In Service' services at the 9am Family service. They engage in ministry tasks and liturgical roles in the 'In Service' services which encourage their growth as Anglicans serving the community. Occasional group outings and fundraising events also form part of the Teen Church programme. Contact Caroline Daunton through the Parish Office for details..

Christmas Bowl

Donations are invited for an annual Christmas Bowl appeal (envelopes are available at the back of the church) to assist Syrian refugees, food programs around the world and education for girls in developing countries. Please drop the envelope in the collection or post it direct.

Christingle Preparation

We invite you to join us on Monday 24th December in the Maheno Room at 10.00am to prepare Christingles for the 6.00pm service. Please come and help in this enjoyable activity. Bring an apron!

Office Closed

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from lunchtime on Friday 21st December, and will re-open on Wednesday 2nd January. For any urgent matters please contact Fr John on his mobile.

Next Weeks Readings

The First Sunday after Christmas Sunday 30 December 2018

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3.12-17
Luke 2.41-52

ROSTERED DUTIES	8.30AM
L.A.'S	Allan Thomson Roslyn Thomson
READERS	Don Hann Ann Winfield
DOOR	Lionel Rowe Susan Rowe
TEA / COFFEE	Volunteers
OFFERTORY COUNTER	Allan Thomson Roslyn Thomson

Weekly Giving : Budget \$1775/Week;

Last Week \$1522.35

Yearly giving is \$ 36,145.00 under budget