

Morning Prayer for the 4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020



The fourth candle on an advent wreath is often called the candle of love. Christmas happened because of God's great love for all people.

A reading from John. ¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

At Christmas, God gave us the best gift ever. He sent his Son, Jesus, to live, die, and rise again so we could live with him forever in heaven. Although this gift required great sacrifice, God knew we needed Jesus.

All: **Four candles, burning bright,
Chasing away the darkness with light.
Four candles, glowing bright,
The blessing of God, giving new sight.**

Dear God, we pray that our faith may be renewed once again, and may we relive the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Officiant Lord, open our lips,
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Hope is a Candle

Hope is a candle on our journey
Hope is the travel and the end
All thro' the frosty fields of winter
This dancing flame of Hope we'll tend

Chorus
For we are a people of story
Of stars that sing and love that cries
And tho' these nights are getting longer
The path is lit before our eyes

Peace is a candle on our journey
Peace is the giving and the gift
Over the frozen lakes of winter
This whisp'ring flame of Peace we'll lift

Chorus
For we are a people of story
Of stars that sing and love that cries
And tho' these nights are getting longer
The path is lit before our eyes

Joy is a candle on our journey
Joy is the swinging and the leap
Under the clouded skies of winter
This laughing flame of joy we'll keep

Chorus
For we are a people of story
Of stars that sing and love that cries
And tho' these nights are getting longer
The path is lit before our eyes

Love is a candle on our journey
Love is the holding and the flight
All round this aching earth of winter
This tender flame of Love we'll light

This tender flame of Love we'll light

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The Invitatory

The Lord is our light and our life: **O come, let us worship**

Jubilate

Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Lord is our light and our life: **O come, let us worship**

Proclamation of the Word

The Readings

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

7Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 (NRSV)

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.

23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation'

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

25 Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Romans 16: 25-27 (NRSV)

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gospel

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what

sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1: 26-38 (NRSV)

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, give voice to good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish,
like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

But your word, O God, is faithful, your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd, and fold the lambs to your
breast; in pastures of peace you'll lead them, and give to the weary
rest.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where
the Lord our God may go!

David Ashley White

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Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Dear brother and sisters, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the Church, our community, and the world, saying

Lord Hear our Prayer

Loving and gracious God, as we approach the day of Christ's birth, help us to throw wide the doors of our hearts in preparation. Help us to sense the importance of what happened so long ago when Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel. To remember the words of the angels and the prophets and to celebrate all the promises that you made through them.

Lord Hear our Prayer

We pray, O God for the children of our world and all those of faith. All those who have no home, all those who are hungry and thirsty. Bless, we pray, the innocent of the earth and all those who trust in you.

Lord Hear our Prayer

We remember those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. We remember those who are hurting and we ask that your tender mercy would reach them and fill their lives with your peace and healing grace.

Lord Hear our Prayer

Lord, grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying and your comfort to those who mourn.

Lord Hear our Prayer

Lord, may this Christmas season be for us and for those around us a season of healing, may it be a season of hope, and of love and of joy. May it be a time of true sharing and of rejoicing in all the earth.

Lord Hear our Prayer

We ask these things O God, with hope and praise in our hearts, our minds and our souls, through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

Collect

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Come to Us

Scattered and broken
bent in our way
We are Your people
gathered to praise You
A vineyard uprooted
narrow in sight
Come Lord of glory
come Lord of light

Chorus:
Come to us O Lord of glory and shine in our hearts

Come to us O Lord of glory and make us anew
Lord we wait for You Lord we wait for You
Lord we wait for You come Lord of glory

Come Lord our dayspring come from on high
As we Your people gather to praise You
Unworthy to taste from Your heavenly vine
But Your word will heal us come light divine

Chorus:
Come to us O Lord of glory and shine in our hearts
Come to us O Lord of glory and make us anew
Lord we wait for You Lord we wait for You
Lord we wait for You come Lord of glory

Come Root of Jesse
come David's son
Come Star of Morning

we come to praise You
Hope of creation of all humankind
Reign over body spirit and mind

Chorus:
Come to us O Lord of glory and shine in our hearts
Come to us O Lord of glory and make us anew
Lord we wait for You Lord we wait for You
Lord we wait for You come Lord of glory

Lord we wait for You come Lord of glory

Greg Walton
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Blessing

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer – South Shore Region
St. John's, Truro & Northumberland Nova Scotia

Readings for Christmas Eve Service: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalm 98; Luke 2: 1-20

December 27: This service will be Christmas Lessons & Carols and will be posted to the website on December 27.

Readings for Epiphany, January 3, 2021: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12

Everything is Offered



Open House with Katherine: Join Reverend Katherine on Sunday, **December 20**, 2-4pm, by Zoom for her Open House!

Christmas Pageant: Join the Family Night Youth who will share the story of the birth of Jesus, Tuesday, **December 22**, 6:30pm by Zoom.

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing: This will be a Zoom get-together on Wednesday, **December 23**, 7pm.

Zoom Links have been emailed out but if you did not receive it, contact the office.

Notices from within the Parish

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH: – The Christmas Outreach Committee is happy to report that the Christmas Outreach Program was once again a great success. Deliveries were made to 18 families. The Christmas Outreach Committee would like to thank all the parishioners of Saint Andrews for the generous donations of gift cards and monetary donations to purchase gift cards for our outreach families.

PWRDF: While we collect for the PWRDF all year, donations for the donkey fundraiser will be accepted until **December 31**. If you want your donation reflected in your 2020 finances it must be in to the church by December 27. Donations arriving after then will be deposited in January.

Our PWRDF project this year will be to raise money to buy donkeys! In Kenya they are used for carrying waterprecious water from a well, like the one we bought last year!

Some families still have to travel a distance to get to the wells. A donkey can carry four times the weight that a person can, so they are often given to older people to make the journey easier. Your gift will go towards providing a strong-backed donkey to shoulder cans of fresh, clean water from the well to home.

You can donate by cash or a cheque in an envelope to be mailed to the church or dropped off at the church. Donations can also be made online <http://www.churchofsaintandrew.ca/donations/> where you just click on FUND and scroll to PWRDF. Thank you!

Church Calendars: Several 2021 church calendars are still available for \$7.00. If you would like a calendar, please call Brenda Tucker at **902-462-7006**. She will ensure that you get it.

Bottle Caps: Bottle Caps can be dropped off at Bluenose Recycling on Woodlawn Road as they are still accepting them.

Nature & Nurture: Each day we will be posting a new photo on our Facebook page and asking you to suggest a scripture verse or inspirational quote that speaks to you when you view the image. We will choose one of the inspirations and post the picture and inspiration on our Webpage. The quotes have all been great so far and the choice has been tough. We look forward to more people joining in and making the choice even harder. We love to see different pictures from people! Please send along any picture you have taken that you would love to have posted. Also, if you can't think of a scripture or inspirational quote, even a word about how it makes you feel! We love participation! Use these as a daily prayer, a thought for the day, or a blessing in the moment

The Hate U Give: - Join us on **January 16, 2021** for a movie and discussion afternoon 1pm. We will be watching "The Hate U Give" and will be following with a discussion on the movie and how it relates to the racism we are seeing not only today but building up from the past. We will also discuss how we can make a difference in our community. Due to Covid-19, there will be a limit of 20 people, please contact the office (902-462-1818) to reserve your spot.



A Community of Faith Since 1794
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

Protective measures against COVID-19 from the World Health Organization (WHO)

- 1) Wash your hands frequently
 Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- 2) Make wearing a mask a normal part of being around other people
- 3) Maintain social distancing
 Maintain at least 2 metre (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- 4) Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- 5) Practice respiratory hygiene
 Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
- 6) If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early
- 7) Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider



<p><u>Rector</u> Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere</p> <p><u>Associate Priest</u> The Rev'd Walter Beazley</p> <p><u>Honorary Associate Priests</u> The Rev'd Gary Giles Canon Charlie Black Marian Lucas-Jefferies</p> <p><u>Wardens</u> Don McMahon 902-435-6609 David Rose 902-461-8192 Penny Joudrey 902-860-3501</p> <p><u>Holy Eucharist</u> Bi-Weekly, or as recommended by the province and the Department of Health</p> <p><u>In Case of Emergency</u> 902-240-3940</p> <p><u>Parish Nurse</u> Brenda Tucker Office hours: Mondays 1-4pm 902-462-7006</p>	<p><u>Music Director</u> Bryan Cable 902-999-7808</p> <p><u>Organist Emeritus</u> Cynthia Dickinson</p> <p><u>Prayer Circle</u> Victoria Henrikson 902-462-2575</p> <p><u>Church email address</u> office@churchofsaintandrew.ca</p> <p><u>Church website</u> www.churchofsaintandrew.ca</p> <p><u>Church Office Hours</u> Monday – Friday, 9am – 12noon</p> <p><u>Facebook page</u> https://www.facebook.com/churchofstandrewcoleharbour</p>
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DIOCESAN SEASON OF PRAYER COLLECT - (By The Rev'd. Michelle Bull)

O God our Creator and Redeemer, it pleases you to invite us into the mission of Jesus, establishing the reign of God on earth. You promised through your Son to send the Spirit upon us, to teach us everything. We pray that you will send a fresh outpouring of your Spirit on this Diocese. Grant us clear vision and wisdom to discern what you are now calling us to do and the courage, love and creativity to perform it to your glory. We ask it in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.