

Dismissal Songs

“Let There Be Love”

*Let there be love shared among us,
let there be love in our eyes;
may now your love sweep this nation,
cause us, Oh Lord to arise;
Give us a fresh understanding,
of Christian love that is real;
let there be love shared among us,
let there be love.*

“Go Now in Peace”

*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.*

“May God’s Blessing”

*May God’s blessing Surround you each day,
As you trust Him and walk in his way.
May his presence within
Guard and keep you from sin,
go in peace, go in joy, go in love.*

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Acting Primate: Archbishop Anne Germond

Metropolitan: Archbishop David Edwards

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Bishop: The Right Reverend Samuel Rose

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



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People’s Warden – Gary King- 709-895-6239

Dec. 22nd, 24th, 25th & 29th, 2024 (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: 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, and despair in our world, even as war rages on in some places, even as many people struggle with the high cost of living, Advent teaches us to remember that God is with us even in our immense struggles and challenges. 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, including 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 the above understandings. They also challenge us to examine our own lives and our allegiance to the Kingdom of God, especially as our society grows evermore materialistic, drifting further away from the Church as a vital component of living out the faith. 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, as most of 2024 is behind us, and as we prepare to welcome 2025, this new year may we look to their words and examples to encourage the posture of Advent in our church and in our individual lives. The themes of Advent, *Hope, Peace, Joy* and *Love* are the marks

of all our Christian lives, for when we fail to experience any of these we will find ourselves in a difficulty, and our service to God greatly impeded. Christmas is upon us once more, we joyfully sing the carols, and 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. May we also pray for a better world, a peaceful world, and may it start in our own homes, families and communities. Have a blessed and merry Christmas, and may 2025 bring much happiness, health and prosperity to you and your loved ones.

Rev. Randy

On behalf of myself, Ada and our family, I take this opportunity to wish you and your family, a very Merry Christmas, and, a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. May the glory of the Christ-Child, born in a lowly stable in Bethlehem, and, whose birthday we now celebrate, continue to be your hope and light in our world today. Please know that you are always welcome to share the journey of light, life and faith with all of us at St. Philip's church. We look forward to what 2025 will bring, and how God's grace will bless each of us, our families, and our church family of St. Philip.

Rev. Randy

Our envelope secretary (Marie Chafe) now has the **2025 envelopes** ready for pickup in the foyer. If you don't see yours, please let Marie or Rev. Randy know, and they will get them for you.

We are in need of help in our sound room on Sunday mornings. If anyone is interested in this please speak to Rev. Randy or one of the church wardens.

Confirmation classes will start right after the Christmas holidays. Right now, we have only a couple of young people for Confirmation, and can accept more right up to the time we begin classes. Once the classes begin in January registration will close. The actual date for the Confirmation service has been set for Sunday, May 18th, at 10:30 am. Please speak to Rev. Randy if you have someone to register.

Our parish books will close on Tuesday, December 31st. For anyone planning to get their 2024 offerings into the parish in order to be credited for this year, you will need to do so on or before this date.

Christmas Eve services will be as follows:

4:00 pm Family service/Eucharist

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

11:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Christmas morning 9:30 am Eucharist (short service)

Should I stand, sit or kneel at worship? Our goal is worship and not conformity. Whatever you choose to do is right for you. Some people have mobility issues, and we encourage anyone that is uncomfortable standing to please sit. We are a church family, we look out for one another, so please don't worry about sitting down, even if others are standing.

There is an envelope drop-off box in the foyer just outside the nursery room door. It is placed there to provide a place for parishioners to drop off their church envelopes. Most afternoons, Monday to Friday the church is open for the Ballicatter after-school program. If you come and the parish office is not open, please drop your envelope into the locked box. This box is checked every morning.

Our Food Bank Boxes will continue to be placed in the main entrance of the church, to receive weekly donations. Once the boxes are full, they are taken to the Pop-up Pantry at St. Lawrence's church, where the food is placed in hampers to help those in need. **The third Sunday of each month will be known as "Food Bank Sunday in our parish"**. On that Sunday, there will be a table placed at the front of the church during the morning worship, and your food bank donations will be placed on the table for a blessing. This will help us draw more attention to the needs that are around us, as more and more families struggle with the high cost of living.

Cemetery Maintenance: We remind everyone that there are regulations governing the cemetery, so please check with the rector or vestry if you have questions. Please help keep our cemetery, including the columbarium area of it, looking beautiful. Also be safe while doing work on family graves; there may be areas where one could fall or twist an ankle.

From our Coordinating Chaplain, the Rev. David Pilling:
“Our Diocese provides pastoral ministry to hospitals in St. John’s. Chaplains provide emotional and spiritual care and support to patients, family, and staff. A chaplain is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provides the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Reconciliation, Anointing, as well as, prayer, listening and friendly conversation. We are often called upon to pray with a patient just prior to surgery. The power of prayer is real. It is the chaplain’s delight to be prayerful support to you. To access a chaplain; please tell the admitting clerk that you wish to receive pastoral care. To have pre surgery prayers, tell the pre surgery nurse that you wish pre surgery prayers, and the Chaplain will be notified and will respond.”

Sunday intercessions at St. Philip’s are also adapted for St. Augustine’s parish. Archdeacon Ed Keeping, though retired, is working part-time in the interim at St. Augustine’s parish, where Joyce often leads the prayers. Joyce is still one of the intercessors taking her turn preparing the prayers for our parish, and someone present leads them. Our intercessors list consists of Ruth Hiscock, Joyce Keeping, Gloria Earle, Ada Lockyer, Joan Osmond and Brenda Harding. Each week, when they are scheduled, they prepare the prayers, send them to Rev. Russell for his perusal and suggestions, then they are printed for that Sunday. The prayers are then adapted weekly by Joyce to be used at St. Augustine’s parish. Rev. Russell and the group are very pleased to be able to share this ministry with St. Augustine’s, and Archdeacon Ed and Joyce are encouraging lay people there to lead them. Here is what Rev. Russell shared with our intercessors -**EXCITING NEWS!!!** *There has been an exciting response to the Intercessions at St. Augustine’s. For the first two weeks Joyce led the Prayers, then Rev. Ed got someone for the third Sunday. Rev. Ed is offering a series of Sermons about Christian Stewardship. Last week he spoke about offering Time and Talent. Following his sermon, four people came forward and offered themselves to lead the prayers of the people. That is remarkable! The Spirit is moving! In time, maybe some will be able to even prepare the intercessions. As Joyce said "small steps". It is remarkable about what a spirit of sharing can do. Thank God for this.* We join Rev. Russell and our faithful group of intercessors in expressing thanksgiving for this ministry that we are able to share with another parish. It also fits very well with the diocesan program “Set Sail – Charting the course for Christ’s church”.

COFFEE HOUR has resumed on the first Sunday of each month. We welcome parishioners and visitors to join with us in this time of fellowship and refreshments prior to the 10:30 am worship.

HOSTING COFFEE HOUR - January to June are currently open for anyone who would like to host. Please contact Lisa Brown for details.

Youth group. Rev. Randy and Brenda Harding are also interested in hearing from young people about the possibility of starting a youth group in the parish. We will be reaching out to the young people that have been confirmed in the past couple of years with the hope of engaging some of them.

Sunday School has resumed again. We want to encourage parents with young children to please register them for Sunday School, even if they can’t be present every Sunday. This is a continuation of the promises of baptism, as we fulfil our promise to bring the children to church, so they may grow in God’s grace. Please speak to Stephanie Smith or Lori Gosse, or Rev. Randy, about registering your child for Sunday School.

ACW 2025 Church Calendars are available. If you would like to purchase a calendar, please speak to Rev. Randy. As of December 22nd, there are just a couple left and they cost \$7.00

Congratulations to Canon Shirley on the 32nd anniversary as a priest in the Church on December 21st.

Jan. 12 - The next service of baptism will be held on January 12th. Anyone desiring to have their children baptized should speak to Rev. Randy in advance of this date.

NOTICES /MEMORABLE DATES

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, but live on in our hearts and memories. 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.

There will be a **Christmas Eve children’s pageant** at the 4 pm service on Christmas Eve and there will be a final practice at 6 pm on Monday, Dec. 23rd. If there are any children who would like to join in for the pageant please come along to the practice on Dec. 23rd.

Coffee-Hour sponsors are needed for the following months in the New Year: January 5th, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, and June 1st. If you would like to look after one of these months, please speak to Lisa Brown, or email her at llake99@hotmail.com We will look after the Fall dates later on.

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, its 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 church, and, each year it is reflected in what was contributed. Thank you for all you do!

We are once more selling columbarium niches. Once we had reached the number 48 we ceased selling them until new ones were ordered. The order has been placed and we expect two new units (48 more niches) to arrive later this Fall. The cost has increased considerably since 2016, therefore, Vestry made the decision to increase the purchase price of each niche to \$4000 Anyone interested in buying one should speak to Rev. Randy.

Parish Recycling program is something we are very proud of in our parish. This is a project taken on by our men’s group (ACM) many years ago and still going strong. Residents of the town drop off their bottles and cans at several designated sites, our men pick it up and take it to the recycling trailer, where it gets sorted, counted and bagged every Monday night. Once we have enough, it’s placed on a trailer and taken to the recycling depot in St. John’s. In addition to keeping a lot of stuff out of the landfill, it brings much needed money into our parish budget. There is a need for extra volunteers that can spare about two hours on a Monday night (7-9 pm) to come along and help out. If you can do this, please speak to our ACM president Gary King at 709-895-6239.

There are several ways that parishioners can give on a regular basis. We have the forms in the parish office for those interested in giving electronically, where you have the option of having your offering come directly from your bank every two weeks or once per month. One can also give through Email Transfer, by using the church email: stphilipsanglicanchurch@nf.aibn.com You can include a message in the box to tell our parish treasurer the details of your offering, and she gets notified automatically, and the amount is added to your annual church receipt. There is also a drop-off box in the foyer, next to the nursery room door, where you can drop your envelope into whenever the door is open, or it can be dropped into the parish office. Thank you for everything you do to keep our parish healthy.

A reminder to all those with keys to the building to please ensure windows are closed and locked, lights are turned off, and the door is locked whenever you leave the building.

December 22nd

Scriptural Sentence

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

1st Reading

Micah 5: 2-5a

Canticle 18 A

Page: 86

([Debbie Collis](#))

2nd Reading

Hebrews 10: 5-10

([Todd Martin](#))

Gospel

Luke 1: 39-45

([Deacon Bonnell](#))

Collects & Prayers

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 forever. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts – Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Communion – Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to our will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

December 24th

4 PM

Family Service with adapted Eucharist

7 PM

1st Reading

1st Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98

Page 836

([Gloria Earle](#))

2nd Reading

2nd Hebrews 1: 1-4

([Dave Earle](#))

Gospel

John 1: 1-14

([Deacon Bonnell](#))

11 PM

No appointed readers

December 25th

The Birth of the Lord

There will be a short Eucharist at

9:30 AM

December 29th

Scriptural Sentence

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

1st Reading

Acts 6: 8-7: 2, 51C-60

Psalm 31: 1-7, 16

Pages 740-742

([Canon Don Morgan](#))

2nd Reading

No appointed reading

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Gospel

Matthew 23: 34-39

([Deacon Bonnell](#))

Collects & Prayers

Collect – Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts – God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory. May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Communion – Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

THE BULLETIN FOR THE Month of December

**IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF
GOD
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

**The Ven.
John T. Sharpe**

Given By:

The Family