

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2009



8:00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)
Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Helen Belcher

Lay Reader: Al Both
Lector: John Ink

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Book of Alternative Services*)
Celebrant: Archdeacon Richard LeSueur
Preacher: The Reverend Helen Belcher
Lay Readers: David McKeown and Julienne Hendrickson
Nursery is open at this service

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional Hymn: *People, Look East! The Time is Near* (#91)

People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad! Through earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to
nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright is the sun and moon together.
People look east and sing today:
Love, the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Advent Responsory:

O Lord, prepare our hearts to receive afresh the Christ come among us,
**May we journey toward Christ like the Magi, seeking the
mystery of God among us.**

Like Mary, may we open our hearts to you in humility and trust,
That the life of Christ may be born in us again.

O Christ, we look with hope to the glory of your dawning.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Priest Praying together:
All Lord Jesus, your coming awakens in us
a deep yearning for your way of love, joy and peace.

Inspire us, by your Spirit
to prepare your way in our hearts and the world around us.
Kindle in us the light of your love
and bring to life the kingdom you promise
for the whole earth. Amen

The Children are invited to gather around the Advent wreath.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who walked in a place of deep darkness, on them light has shone. We light this candle to remind us of the hope of all people who look to God in hope for justice, for peace, for redemption.
(The fourth candle is lit.)

Priest Heavenly Father, *(Collect of the Day)*
All 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. Amen

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2–5a

Pat McNamara

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. There-fore 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; 5 and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: *The Song of Mary*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

New Testament Letters: Hebrew 10:5-10

Aileen Shier

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.

Reader: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* (101)

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever, that name to us is Love.

Gospel: Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

Reader: **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke**

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped 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. 4And 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 leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 4and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, 4for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 4for 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 forever."

Reader: **The Gospel of Christ**

Response: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Homily

Prayers of the People

Offertory Hymn: *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* (122)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

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

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(the Eucharistic Prayer continues)

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(the Eucharistic Prayer continues and ends) **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ,

We being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion

All are welcome to join in the sacred feast of Holy Communion. If you would prefer to come forward for a blessing, please do so. All are invited to draw near the table of the Lord.

Bishop Hoskin has written to all parishes in the Diocese requesting that we no longer carry on the practice of dipping our Communion wafers "intincting" into the Communion cup. Dioceses across the country are stopping this practice. To receive Communion in "one kind," that is, the bread alone, is to fully Commune. One may wish to receive the consecrated wafer and then simply fold one's arms to indicate a preference not to receive from the chalice.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Priest Faithful God,

All in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.

May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Priest All your works praise you, O Lord,

All and your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

May we, who share his body, live his risen life;

we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
 we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
 Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
 so that we and all your children shall be free,
 and the whole earth live to praise your name;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing
 Announcements

Recessional Hymn: Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending
 (#114)

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
 once for favored sinners slain;
 thousand thousand saints attending
 swell the triumph of His train:
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
 God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
 Robed in dreadful majesty;
 All who set at naught and sold him,
 Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
 Shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long expected,
 see in solemn pomp appear;
 all His saints, on earth rejected,
 thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
 See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
 High on thine eternal throne;
 Savior, take the power and glory,
 claim the kingdom for thine own;
 O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
 Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Dismissal Let us go forth into the world,
 rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Flowers are given this morning to the glory of God by:

- Michael and Mary-Anne Armstrong in loving memory of Michael's parents, Bev and Elizabeth Armstrong and Mary-Anne's parents, Geraldine and Mac MacKenzie.
- Dustin Ruttan in loving memory of Christy Ruttan from her son and his family.
- Pam Milne in loving memory of Pam's parents, Bob and Joan McCormick.

Rita Leigh is warden on duty today.

Prayers

- In our Worldwide Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the church Yangon, Myanmar and their clergy The Most Rev. Stephen Than Myint Oo and The Rt. Rev. Joseph Than Pe.
- In our Diocesan Prayer Cycle we pray for the Rt. Rev. Derek Hoskin, The Venerable Barry Foster and the staff of the Synod Office.
- In our Companion Diocese in the Windward Islands we pray for The Rt. Rev. Calvert Leopold Friday and the staff of the Synod Office.
- In our own parish let us ask for God's healing love to uphold and sustain all who are in any kind of need, especially: Rudy Janzen, Connie Hill, Michael Smith, Peggy Peckover, Rachael Brisbin, Rachael Patrick, Paulette Sinkinson, Doreen Thomson and family, Claire White and her parents, Marguerite Dimmer, Peggy Brookes, Bunny Hale, The Rev. Kerry Bourke, Ken Willis, Annis Siddall, Laurie Houghton-Evans, Tony Luca, Elma, Blaine Bonner, Mariam Jacobs, Pat Clayton, Emily Sharpe, Teresa & Geoff Dawe, Win Ferrie, Eileen Williams, Eapen Mathew, Garnet Wallace, Andrew Howe, Elric Hicks. Let us also pray for Yphande Jean, our Church-school sponsored child in Haiti.

Coffee Time – Following the 7 pm Carol Service this evening, December 20th, there will be "Special Coffee and Treats" for everyone. This will be a chance to congratulate the choir, the organist and wish each other "Merry Christmas."

Stephen Ministry Morning Classes

Classes will be held on **Tuesday** mornings (**9:15 am-11:45 am**) commencing **January 5th**, 2010. This course is not only for those wanting to Care for a Care Receiver but will help **YOU** to deal with difficulties that arise with family members and friends. You will learn how to handle a variety of critical situations with confidence and Christian care. Talk to Rev. Helen Belcher at the church or Al or Wendy Both (403-281-5657) if you need more details or information. Encourage a friend to come along with you. We now have 7 applicants and we have room for 5 more.

SPIRIT ZONE (Children's Programs)

- **Nursery** –The nursery located on the lower level is now available during the 10 am service.
- Do you like working with children? Teachers are always needed for the fall term. Joan can help you to job-shadow for a few weeks with an experienced teacher. Please contact Joan if you would like to participate in this very important ministry.
- Please note that there will be no Sunday School on December 27th or January 3rd.

Regular classes will resume on January 10th, 2010.

Thank you

- to Betty Nadurak, Wendy Both, Barb Crawford, Pamela and Peter May, Bev Richards, Vivien Dodd, Judy Hay, Deena Janzen, Wendy Klotz, Sheila Leigh and Pam Hodgson for beautifying the church for Christmas and to Spirit Zone and their families for decorating the tree in the narthex.
- To the wonderful bakers at St. Peter's who donated cookies, squares and tarts. The recipients of these goodies have been truly blessed by your generosity.
- to the ACW for the delicious turkey dinner served on December 7th. A special thank you to Mary Dymond, Garth Dymond, Delores James, Diane Mockridge and all who helped to make the dinner such a success.
- To all of you who donated linens to the Chancel Guild. The response was overwhelming. Deena Janzen.

“Food For Thought” Will resume on January 7th. Thursday mornings with Richard LeSueur, following the 9:30am mid-week Communion service. Come for Communion at 9:30, or just come at 10am for some snacks, a cup of coffee and an hour of discovery and reflection.

Please Note:

- that there will be no 9:30 Thursday Chapel Service on December 24th or 31st.
- Christian Meditation group will resume on Monday, January 4th at 7:00pm and Wednesday, January 6th at 3:00pm.
- Hunger For Healing will resume on January 6th.
- The Lectors are hosting coffee time in January.

“I Remember Mama” – Tickets for next spring's play are not yet available but you can purchase a 'Gift Offering Letter' that you can use as a present to pass on for a couple of tickets. These letters will on sale after the service in the Cormack Hall.

Inn From the Cold – In January, our 'Inn' falls on January 1st, New Years Day. Because it is a holiday our guests will arrive at 4 pm. We hope to have cards, games and puzzles to entertain them with until dinner. If you have any of these items that you can give or lend us it would be appreciated. We still need a clean up crew for Saturday morning. Please contact Angela at 403-281-2652 if you can lend a hand.

Offering Envelopes are now in your mailbox in the narthex. Please check the mailbox list for your mailbox number and if you do not have one and wish to have one, please contact the office at 403-252-0393 or Cathy Bird at bird_cathy@hotmail.com.

A Hunger For Healing: 12 Steps for Christians – a study group with a purpose. Are you searching for a way to strengthen your faith, understand yourself and grow spiritually? God has used the healing power of the 12-step programs to restore health and offer healing to countless individuals. God has conveyed this healing message through people who know what it is to be broken by life and mended by God. We are a support group using a book called 'A Hunger for Healing' by W. Keith Miller. We meet at St. Peter's every Wednesday from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (participants bring a bag lunch). If there is enough interest, an evening group would be started.

For more information please call Betty Nadurak at 403-686-1110 or Gwen Smith at 403-238-0105.

Our annual AGM will be held on February 8, 2010. Please note that all reports are due on January 20th, 2010. Reports can be emailed to richard@stpeterscalgary.ca or avril@stpeterscalgary.ca.

Operation Doll Knit is looking for knitters who would like to knit small dolls to be handed out to children in Malawi who are orphans that have AIDS and are visiting medial clinics of Dr. Chris Brooks. For more information check the poster on the bulletin board or call Mary at 403-257-0802.

Fellowship of The Least Coin – please collect and bring your pennies to church on Sundays. There will be a jar in the Narthex for collection. Please see notice in the upcoming Fisherman's Catch and see how much good one penny can do!

Offering Cards for those using Auto-Debit You will find a small basket on the table at the entrance to the church with cards which can be placed in the offering plate by those using auto-debit. A way of signifying your gift to the glory of God and to support the life and ministry of St. Peter's. Many thanks.

Please note there will be regular Sunday services at 8 and 10 am on December 27th. The office will be closed on December 28, 29 and 30th and will be open from 9 am until 3 pm on December 31st.

Special Christmas Services

Sunday, December 20

7:00 pm Choral Festival of Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 pm Family Christmas Carols & Children's Talk

7:30 pm Festive Christmas Eve Liturgy & homily

10:30 pm Festive Christmas Eve Liturgy & homily with Brass Quintet

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Christmas Eucharist

“O Come Let us Adore, Christ the Lord”

CHANCEL RENEWAL TASK FORCE UPDATE:

A big thank you to everyone who provided their thoughts on the Nave Altar experimentation carried out on Sunday 27th September 2009. Over 85% of the feedback received was positive towards the changes and encouraged further work.

What has your Task Force been doing? The next stage in the chancel renewal process is, with the help of professional help, develop and cost the ideas endorsed by the congregation from the June 2009 Congregational Consultation in response to the Preliminary Report circulated in May 2009. Proposals have been solicited from five architectural firms and are being reviewed.

Where do we go from here? Further Nave Altar experimentation is planned for three consecutive Sundays in January (the 10th, 17th and 25th).

Special Congregational Meeting Following the 10 am service on January 17th, 2010 there will be a special meeting of the congregation held in Cormack Hall. The purpose of this meeting will be for the Chancel Renewal Task Force to provide an update of progress, describe the next stage and architectural firm proposal and seek a decision from the parish to commit the funds to engage the recommended firm and start the next stage of the process. *Please plan to be there.*

- Richard Bane, Chair Chancel Renewal Task Force.