

8:00 BCP Holy Communion

10:00 – BAS Holy Eucharist **Licensed Lay Minister:** Joan MacDonald

Opening Hymn – Hark a Herald Voice is Sounding

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Gathering of the Community

Trisagion

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word:

Isaiah 40: 1-11 (John Greer)

Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3: 8-15a (Judy Rose)

Gradual Hymn – Prepare the Way for Love

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8 (Maria Murphy)

Homily – Rev. Bev DeVouge

Apostles Creed

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

The Peace

Offering Hymn – Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Prayer over the Gifts: God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Celebration of the Eucharist #2

Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread #5

Lamb of God (sung)

Communion Hymn – Draw Near and Take

Ablutions Hymn – All Earth is Waiting

Prayer after Communion

Doxology

Blessing

Closing Hymn – Beautiful Promise

Dismissal

Let There be Love

Chancel Guild: Volunteers

Greeters: Leona Hunt (8:00), Judy MacKenzie (10:00)

Altar Flowers are placed to the glory of God and in loving memory of George and Edith MacIntosh from the MacIntosh and Boudreau families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tuesday, Dec. 12th – Index Drop Off 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 13th – Finance 1:00 p.m.
Choir 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 15th – Meditation 10:00 a.m.
Lectionary Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16th – Community Christmas Dinner

Next Sunday, Dec. 17th – Third Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant and Prayer Service

Peace Service: Join us **TONIGHT at 7:00 p.m.** for a service of quiet prayer, reflection and music as we pray for peace in Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia, and around the world.

Community Dinner: St. John's is responsible (along with several other churches) for a sit-down turkey dinner taking place in our hall on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Thank you for signing up to help with food and as volunteers. Foodstuffs can be dropped off at the hall on Friday, Dec. 15th before 3:00 p.m.

Our last **Sunday School** date for the fall term will be Dec. 17th.

Next **Coffee Hour** – Jan. 7th.

Next date for **8:00 a.m. BCP Communion** – Jan. 14th.

Office Hours Change: Our parish office is now open Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

2024 Offering Envelopes are now available at the back of the church.

“How Sweet the Name” is our at-home learning resource focused on the names of Jesus. Each week, we invite you to take home a Christmas ornament and reflect on the meaning of the name featured on the ornament. Bring it back with you the next Sunday, if you wish, and take a different ornament home with you. Over the season, you will learn about several of the sacred names of Jesus and make one ornament yours to keep.

There are still a few copies of our inter-generational Advent calendar called **“Slow Down. Quiet. It’s Advent”** for use throughout the season. It is filled with creative ideas and reflections, questions, prayers and activities to help you make time to grow your spirit and draw closer to God as you prepare for Christmas.

Advent Word: Again this year, many of us will be following Advent Word; an online Advent resource that gives a word prompt, image and reflection for each day from Dec. 3 – 25. Sign up online at adventword.org to have the daily Word delivered to your inbox.

Mission to Seafarers: Donated items were delivered to the Mission this week. In total we sent 6 full boxes, 2 bags and a box of extras, \$165 in donations and several phone cards. Thanks for your support!

Our next **parish book club** meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 14th after worship. The book for discussion will be The Age of Insecurity: Coming Together as Things Fall Apart by Astra Taylor. All are welcome to join in the parish hall meeting room for the discussion.

Common Cup: As part of our cautionary approach in dealing with Covid 19 and other communicable illness, we continue to offer two options for the receiving of communion wine: the common cup and a second cup from which a medicine dropper is used to place wine upon the host. You are invited to make the choice that is best for you and cross to the appropriate chalice after receiving the host. **Note:** Dipping of the wafer (intinction) is not permitted in the common cup.

Our **Mitten Tree** has gone up for another year. We welcome your handmade or purchased donations of mittens and scarves to share with our local schools. Please note: we are not accepting hats this year.

Wooden Crosses: The crosses have now all been taken. A total of \$209.05 was raised for the Food Bank. Thanks for your support!

Offerings Update: End of October year to date total offerings received were \$142,699 putting us behind \$8,198 from where we need to be in order to meet our 2023 offerings budget. Dec. 3rd offerings totaled \$1652.

Christmas Angels are at the back of the church. You may write the name of someone you want remembered in prayer this Christmas on an angel and we will place it on our Christmas tree.

Those wishing to place **memorials** in the church at Christmas are asked to contact Angela (897-0566 or stjohnstruro@ns.sympatico.ca) by **Monday, Dec. 18th** with their bulletin dedications for poinsettia or monetary memorials. Poinsettia drop off will be Wednesday, Dec. 20 and Thursday, Dec. 21 at the office and Friday, Dec. 22 from 1:00 – 3:00 in the church.

2023 Income Tax Receipts: The latest version of the computer program we use to record our offerings now gives us the ability to issue income tax receipts by email. In order to implement this change beginning with the 2023 year, we are in the process now of setting up email addresses in our database. If you've had a recent email address change, and you haven't already done so, please make sure you provide it to Angela before the end of the month. For those who do not have an email account, receipts will be printed as in past years. Should you have any questions about the emailing of receipts please see Harry MacKenzie, our Envelope Secretary.

Christmas Index Program 2023: Again this year, we will be supporting 30 families in our local area with Christmas dinner and other groceries. As always, we appreciate your help in making this project a success! Each week we will be asking for two items and you are asked to bring in only one of them the following week. These items can then be deposited in our grocery cart. We will also be accepting items at the link entrance to the hall each Tuesday from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Any items left over after preparing our boxes will be donated to the Food Bank:

Sunday, Oct. 15 can of vegetables (398 ml)/can of baked beans (398 ml)

Sunday, Oct. 22 can of soup (any kind)/can of tuna

Sunday, Oct. 29 bottle of jam (500 ml)/bottle of peanut butter (500 ml)

Sunday, Nov. 5 box of crackers (500 gr)/box of cereal (500 gr)

Sunday, Nov. 12 can of juice (1.8L)/small can of fruit (398 ml)

Sunday, Nov. 19 Package of cookies (454 gr)/box of stove top stuffing

Sunday, Nov. 26 can of cranberry sauce or jelly/box of 30 tea bags

Sunday, Dec. 3 3 boxes Kraft dinner/bag of Christmas candy (300 gr)

Sunday, Dec. 10 tub margarine (454 gr)/Monetary donations toward the purchase of potatoes, turnips and carrots.

Note: Please remember to check the expiry date on the items you give – they will not be used until December and we are unable to distribute outdated items. We will also need cloth grocery bags for delivery.

ACW Church Calendars for 2024 are delayed. They will not be available until the New Year.

Christmas Gift Idea: We have a number of left over items from our 2020 celebrations which are now on sale at reduced process. There are pewter ornaments, large and small puzzles and tidbit historical booklets. Ornaments are \$5, tidbit booklets \$10, small puzzles \$10, large puzzles \$15 (or 2 puzzles for \$20). Please contact the office if interested.

Christmas Worship/Events:

Each Sunday in Advent – Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Worship

Sunday, Dec. 10th - 7:00 p.m. Peace Service

Sunday, Dec. 17th – 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant + Prayer service (no Eucharist)

Monday, Dec. 18th – 6:00 p.m. Decorating of the church

Sunday, Dec. 24th – No Morning Worship
4:00 p.m. Children's Eucharist
7:00 p.m. Family Eucharist

Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec. 31st – 10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols for Christmas

CNIB is looking for **volunteers** in the Truro area. Volunteer for a couple of hours a week to help someone who is blind or partially sighted. You'll make a direct impact with your one-to-one match as you provide sighted assistance with reading, organizing, going for walks or running errands. Training is provided! To apply or find out more info visit www.cnib.ca, call or text 902-456-5982, or email jeff.deville@cnib.ca

Coming up in the next few weeks at First United:

- **Brigid Trio's Christmas Concert** (featuring Resonance) on Friday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.

- Creative Voices' "**The Wonder of Christmas**" featuring Truro Youth Singers on Saturday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m.

- **Brenna Conrad's Studio Recital** on Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. (admission by donation)

TODAY at First United Church – 11:45 – 2 pm. Pantry table and **Mini Craft Market** will be held in the hall.

The Nova New Horizons Bands will be presenting **A Christmas Cabaret** at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14 in the First United Church Memorial Hall. All are welcome - refreshments will be available. Admission \$15.00 for Adults and \$10.00 for children.



Second Sunday in Advent

December 10th, 2023



Rector: Rev'd Lori Ramsey



Wardens: Elaine MacInnis and Neil Harris

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