

# *St. Philip Parish Church*



**December 25, 2024**

**8:00 am Service**

**Rector: Rev. Canon Trevor O'Neale  
(Tel:624-3903 / 231-1146 )**

**Assistant Priest: Rev Angela Phillips**

**Seminarian: Bro Denis Maynard**

**Organist:  
Bro Damanie Beckles**

**Website: [www.stphilipparishchurch.com](http://www.stphilipparishchurch.com)**  

**Email: [staff@stphilipparishchurch.com](mailto:staff@stphilipparishchurch.com)**

**WELCOME:** We welcome you to St. Philip this morning as we celebrate the **Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day** A warm welcome is extended to all who are visiting for the first time.

The members of the St. Philip's Parish Church consider it a privilege to have you worship with us and sincerely hope you enjoy your visit. It is our desire ***to be an agent that ensures God's love and help reach all.***

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Procession:**

#### **Hymn 61**

Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn,  
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;  
rise to adore the mystery of love,  
which hosts of angels chanted from above:  
with them the joyful tidings first begun  
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth  
to you and all the nations upon earth:  
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,  
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

He spake; and straightway the celestial choir  
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;  
the praises of redeeming love they sang,  
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang:  
God's highest glory was their anthem still,  
peace upon earth, and unto men good will.

To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds ran,  
to see the wonder God had wrought for man,  
and found, with Joseph and the blessèd Maid,  
her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:  
then to their flocks, still praising God, return,  
and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

O may we keep and ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;  
trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;  
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,  
till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,  
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:  
he that was born upon this joyful day  
around us all his glory shall display;  
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

## HYMN 79

O Christ, Redeemer of our race,  
thou brightness of the Father's face,  
of him, and with him ever one,  
ere times and seasons had begun;

thou that art very Light of light,  
unfailing hope in sin's dark night,  
hear thou the prayers thy people pray,  
the wide world o'er, this blessed day.

Remember, Lord of life and grace,  
how once, to save a ruined race,  
thou didst our very flesh assume  
in Mary's undefiled womb.

Today, as year by year its light  
sheds o'er the world a radiance bright,  
one precious truth is echoed on,  
'tis thou hast saved us, thou alone.

Thou from the Father's throne didst come  
to call his banished children home;  
and heaven, and earth, and sea, and shore  
his love who sent thee here adore.

And gladsome too are we today,  
whose guilt thy blood has washed away;  
redeemed the new-made song we sing;  
it is the birthday of our King.

O Lord, the virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

**HYMN: 81**

O come, Redeemer of mankind, appear,  
thee with full hearts the Virgin-born we greet;  
let every age with rapt amazement hear  
that wondrous birth which for our God is meet.

Not by the will of man, or mortal seed,  
but by the Spirit's breathed mysterious grace  
the Word of God became our flesh indeed,  
and grew a tender plant of human race.

Lo! Mary's virgin womb its burthen bears;  
nor less abides her virgin purity;  
in the King's glory see our nature shares;  
here in his temple God vouchsafes to be.

From His bright chamber, virtue's holy shrine,  
the royal Bridegroom cometh to the day;  
of twofold substance, human and divine,  
as giant swift, rejoicing on his way.

Forth from His Father to the world he goes,  
back to the Father's face his way regains,  
far down to souls beneath his glory shows,  
again at God's right hand victorious reigns.

With the Eternal Father equal, thou  
girt with our flesh dost triumph evermore,  
strengthening our feeble bodies here below  
with endless grace from thine own living store.

How doth thy lowly manger radiant shine!  
On the sweet breath of night new splendor grows;  
so may our spirits glow with faith Divine,  
where no dark cloud of sin shall interpose.

All praise and glory to the Father be,  
all praise and glory to his only son,  
all praise and glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
both now, and while eternal ages run.

### **Introit Hymn 73**

Joy to the world, The Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns;  
let us our songs employ:  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, and wonders, of his love.

## **Salutation**

### **Christmas**

I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people: today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10*

PRESIDENT: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**ALL:           And blessed be His Kingdom, now and  
forever Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

**ALL**

**Blessed Lord and Father, we have assembled in your name and in fellowship with one another. Enable us by your grace to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; to proclaim and respond to your holy word. Teach us to pray for your world and your Church. Grant that we, confessing our sins, may worthily offer to you**

our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice and eat and drink of your spiritual food in this Holy Sacrament. Amen.

**Collect for Purity**

ALL

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE KYRIES**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Gloria In Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to His people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:**



**have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of  
the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One;  
you alone are the Lord:  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

### **Collect– Christmas**

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**First Lesson: A reading from the word of God written in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of the book of the Prophet Isaiah beginning at the 7<sup>th</sup> verse (Isaiah 52:7-10)**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 98**

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in  
the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to  
the house of Israel, \* and all the ends of the earth  
have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever.  
Amen***

**Second Lesson: A reading from the word of God written  
in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the letter to the Hebrews beginning  
at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse (Hebrews 1:1-4)**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

**Selection: St. Philip's Church Chorale**

**Gradual Hymn 60**

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**Refrain (with IRIS);**

*come and worship Christ the newborn King,  
come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.*

**Or** *Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**Refrain (with REGENT SQUARE):**

*come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new born King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light:

**Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of Nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:

**Refrain**

Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in the temple shall appear.

**Refrain**

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:

**Refrain**

## **The Holy Gospel**

*The Lord be with you*

***And also with you.***

***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Chapter beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse. (John 1:1-14)***

*Glory to Christ our Saviour*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to Christ our Lord**

## **SERMON**

### **THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen or unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
one in Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he was born of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered, died and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in fulfilment of the Scriptures;**

**He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead.**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

### **FORM H**

LEADER

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

LEADER Lord in your mercy

**ALL Hear our prayer.**

LEADER

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honour one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

LEADER Lord in your mercy

**ALL Hear our prayer.**

LEADER

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honour and glory.

*Silence*

LEADER Lord in your mercy

**ALL Hear our prayer.**

LEADER

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as He loves us.

*Silence*

LEADER Lord in your mercy

**ALL Hear our prayer.**

LEADER

comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

LEADER Lord in your mercy

**ALL Hear our prayer.**

LEADER

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.



*Silence*

LEADER Lord in your mercy

**ALL Hear our prayer.**

*The President adds a concluding Collect.*

## **ACT OF PENITENCE**

PRESIDENT

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*A period of silence shall be kept.*

PRESIDENT: Let us therefore confess our sins

## **FORM B**

**Most Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we have not loved ourselves as we ought. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

PRESIDENT

Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord

ALL                    **Amen**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

**FORM A**

PRESIDENT

We are the body of Christ. By the one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, and have all been made to drink of the one Spirit.

**ALL**

**Let us then pursue the things that make for peace and build up the common life.**

PRESIDENT

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## **LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH**

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be  
With God as our Father  
Children all are we  
Let us walk with each other  
In peace and harmony

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now  
With every step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me

### **Selection- Youth Chorale**

#### **Offertory Hymn 77**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the King of angels:

#### ***Refrain:***

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created:

**Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God in the highest:'

**Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:

**Refrain**

**Hymn 67**

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say;  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

## **HOLY EUCHARIST**

### **THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

PRESIDENT Father,

ALL

**We offer to you these gifts which you have given us; this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

PRESIDENT The Lord be with you.

ALL **And also with you.**

PRESIDENT Lift up your hearts.

ALL **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PRESIDENT Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

PRESIDENT

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father Almighty, everlasting God:

***Proper Preface Christmas***

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

ALL

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C**

PRESIDENT

We give thanks to you Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love you have made known to us in  
creation;  
in calling Israel to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets:  
and above all in the Word made flesh,  
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent Him  
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In Him, you have delivered us from evil,  
and made us worthy to stand before you.  
In Him, you have brought us out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

For, on the night that he was betrayed  
He took bread,  
and when He had given thanks to you,  
He broke it and gave it to His disciples  
and said: "Take this, and eat it:  
This is my Body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

And after supper  
He took the cup of wine:  
and when He had given thanks,  
He gave it to them and said:  
"Drink this, all of you:  
This is my Blood of the New Covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me."

**PRESIDENT**

Therefore, Father, according to His command;

**ALL**

**We remember His death  
We proclaim His resurrection  
we await His coming in glory.**

PRESIDENT

And we offer our sacrifice of praise  
and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;  
presenting to you, from your creation,  
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the sacrament of  
the Body of Christ and His Blood of the New Covenant.  
Unite us to your Son in His sacrifice  
that we, made acceptable in Him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,  
reconcile all things in Christ,  
and make them new.  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation:

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
Almighty Father, now and ever.



PEOPLE **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

PRESIDENT

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:  
ALL

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

PRESIDENT

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

**ALL**

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all  
share in one bread.**

*The Agnus Dei*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace.**

**The Invitation**

**Form B**

PRESIDENT

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**ALL**

**Our souls will feast and be satisfied, and we will sing  
glad**

**songs of praise to Him.**

**Hymns for the Eucharist**

**THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits  
you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have  
borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you  
sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my  
heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and  
follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

## **HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST**

### **HYMN: 765**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady,' gloria!

'For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady,' gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'  
Most highly favoured lady, gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say -  
'Most highly favoured lady,' gloria!

### **HYMN: 82**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in:  
be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

### **Hymn 66**

GOD from on high hath heard!  
Let sighs and sorrows cease!  
Lo, from the opening heaven descends  
to man the promised peace.

Hark! through the silent night

angelic voices swell;  
their joyful songs proclaim that God  
is born on earth to dwell.

See how the shepherd-band  
speed on with eager feet;  
come to the hallowed cave with them  
the holy Babe to greet.

But O what sight appears  
within that lowly door!  
A manger, stall, and swaddling clothes,  
a child, and mother poor!

Art thou the Christ? The Son?  
The Father's image bright?  
And see we him whose arm upholds  
earth and the starry height?

Yea, faith can pierce the cloud  
which veils thy glory now;  
we hail thee God, before whose throne  
the angels prostrate bow.

Our sinful pride to cure  
with that pure love of thine,  
O be thou born within our hearts,  
most holy Child divine.

## Children's Hymn 665

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly Maiden,  
in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,  
day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that Child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

### **Post Communion**

ALL

**Almighty Father,  
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 upon whom your Spirit shines give light to the world.  
Help us to continue in faithful witness to your Word,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your Name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

### Christmas

Christ, who by His incarnation gathered into one, all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with His joy and peace; and the blessing. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

## NOTICES

### Recessional Hymn 68

Hark! The herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

#### **Refrain:**

*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

#### **Refrain**



Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

***Refrain***

***We Wish You a Merry Christmas***

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE & GREETINGS FROM BISHOP  
MICHAEL MAXWELL**

Dear Family of God,  
Today, we commence the season of Christmas to celebrate that moment in history when our God came to us in human form through the birth of Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ. I pray that our hearts, at this time, are filled with the joy of the Lord as we celebrate God's glorious and gracious act of repairing the breach that existed between God and us and our relationships with each other. This separation was caused, not by God but due to the sins of the first Adam and his descendants. To repair that breach, and to restore us to a wholesome relationship with Him and one another, God came to earth that first Christmas in His Son Jesus Christ. He was born as a human being, becoming as St. Paul says, the "last Adam," revealing to us who we were created and called to be from the beginning of creation – beings to reflect

God's image and likeness and to be his faithful stewards.

In coming to us in Jesus Christ at Christmas, God clearly revealed that He did not forsake us or hold our sins against us even though we often abandoned Him and the level of relationship He created us to have with each other. That first Christmas, He came out of love to save and restore us to be the best that He created us to be. This is what we celebrate at Christmas, the depth of God's love for us and His desire to restore His relationship with us by being born like one of us. He also came to be the last Adam who inaugurated the kingdom of God, renewing God's creation and calling us to share in the same, providing us the opportunity to experience peace and mutual love in our relationship with Him and His creation.

As believers in Christ, we thank God this day for being such a loving, merciful and missionary God who offered His Son to reveal all of this to us and to be the means through which our relationship with Him has been restored. We thank Him this day because in sending us Jesus Christ as the last Adam, we now seek, with the aid of His Holy Spirit, to pattern our lives after His earthly, sinless, selfless life, recognizing ourselves to be God's sons and daughters and brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we celebrate once again the Birth of the Christ Child, praising God with joyful carols and thanksgiving in our hearts, may we be inspired to live as His new creation, patterning our lives after Jesus, the last Adam. May we, like Him, reflect the image and likeness, the nature and Spirit of God within us, in the way we love our Father in heaven and one another in thought, word and deed.

On behalf of my wife Chandra, and our boys – Michael John, Christopher and Kalan, I wish you and yours, a blessed and joyful Christmas and God’s continued favour and peace in the coming year 2025.

I am your friend and bishop,



+Michael Barbados.

### **The Rector’s Christmas Message**

***And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Luke 1:45)***

Year after year we join the universal Church in celebrating this joyous festival, **(Christmas - the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ)**. The incarnation of the Word made flesh continues, after two millennia, to be a source of joy, hope and peace, despite the suffering and affliction of many nations, communities and families around the globe.

The angelic appearance and proclamation to the shepherds in Bethlehem brought good news, great joy, and a promise of peace to all people, especially those who were suffering and living in fear and anxiety of what the future held for them and their loved ones. It was good news for the poor, the sick, the broken-hearted, the disadvantaged, the un-employed, those in prison, the abused, those addicted to many substances and situations, those displaced persons who continue to flee from danger and seek safety and sanctuary.

The good news is that God is always present in our lives working his purposes out; working to bring people together into a oneness/a union; a family or community that reflects his presence and love. God is working to mend and heal the brokenness in our lives. He is working to restore and transform society and life to that which he wills it to be.

The announcement of the new day that had dawned with the birth of Christ. This saving story of Jesus Christ in the world. And this was part of Mary's belief that God was working to bring about a better life for all humanity and gave herself to it. She believed in the fulfilment of the promise of Almighty God and was regarded as being Blessed.

Mary's visit to Elizabeth reflects how God's love moves toward us. Mary, carrying Jesus, literally brought the presence of God to Elizabeth's home. The joy Elizabeth and her unborn child experienced was a response to God's love drawing near through Jesus. God's love is not distant or abstract but personal and near, meeting us in our circumstances. God's love is rooted in His promises and faithfulness, and it calls us to trust Him fully.

God's love comes to us through Jesus, fulfills His promises, and invites us into a relationship with Him. As we prepare for Christmas, let us reflect on the ways God's love has come near to us and how we can share that love with others. God's love transforms us and calls us to love others as He has loved us.

Elizabeth blessed Mary for her faith in God's promise. Mary's response to God's love is trust and surrender. Our response to God's love should mirror Mary's: a life of faith, gratitude, and willingness to be part of His work.

How can we, like Mary, respond to God's love this Christmas.

Take time this Christmas to meditate on how God's love has been evident in your life.

**Show Love to Others:** Find a tangible way to express love to someone in need—a phone call, a gift, or an act of service.

**Celebrate Love in Jesus:** Make room in your heart to welcome Christ, the ultimate expression of God's love.

Let us remind our families, communities and nation that what we seek, God is among us, working to give us and restore us to Himself and each other. As receivers of the good news, we are called to pass it on to make real its promise to those in need. It is a message about our God that enhances our lives and motivates us into action, bringing benefit to ourselves and God.

Raquel, Dawn-Marie and Trequan join with me as we extend Christmas greetings and all God's wonderful blessings this Christmas tide and always.

**Merry Christmas to all at St. Philip!**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Trevor +".

**Trevor +**

## NOTICES

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS (Dec 25-28)** to Barbara Sealy (25), Rochelle Franklin (25), Daniel Parris (25), Shirley Haynes-Johnson (26), Wendy Mapp (26), Kathleen Beckles (27), Trekyiah Bowen (27), Marlyn Rawlins (27), Lisa Harewood (28) and Angnell Moore (28).

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS (Dec 25-28)** to Hal & Fern Gollop (26)

**HOUSEBOUND AND SICK:** Please remember the sick in your prayers and where possible give them a call: **Erskine Batson, Stella Clarke, Carmen Franklin,** Hensley Robinson, Camille Wilson, Eugene Norville, Michael Gittens, Curtis Gittens, Iolanthe Manifold, Kellman Parris, Dafton Mayers, Corletta White, Myrna McCarthy, Geneva McCarthy, Edith Mullin Glenville Davis, Kayrene Forde, Marlene Mottley, Keith Alleyne, Myrtle Inniss, Cecelia Alleyne, and Pearl Wiggins (**QEH C6**)

**VISITATION:** Members are reminded to complete the visitation request form for relatives who are ill or those who are housebound and require the sacrament at home.

## 2024 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day)  
8:00 am - Solemn Eucharist

**Sunday, December 31, 2024**  
(New Year's Eve)  
11:00 pm - Watchnight Service

**CONDOLENCES** are extended to The family of the late:

- **Hoffman Kenfield Clarke**, whose funeral service will be held on Friday, December 27, 2024, at 3:00 pm.
- **Winston Theophilus Sargeant**, whose funeral service is on Monday December 30, 2024, at 3 pm.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**

<b>Donated By</b>	<b>In Memory of</b>
John and Betty Marshall	Loved ones
Sis. Judy Butcher	Parents George and Yvonne Butcher
Sis. Judy Scantlebury	Dr. Owen Eversley
Maria Miller-Griffith	Mother, Husband and two Brothers
Sis. Ursula Thorpe	Husband, Father and Grandad – Douglas Thorpe
The Sargeant Family	Melvin and Iretha Sargeant (parents) and Hayden (brother)
	<b>In Giving thanks to God for His Goodness</b>
The O’Neale Family	
Sis Evadne Scott	
Sis. Deborah King	Celebrating the gift of life and birthday 08 December
Sis. Joyce Hendricks	Celebrating life and 95 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Sis. Maggie Headley and family	Celebrating God’s blessings and the birthday of Sherryann Headley – 26 December
Sis. Marlyn Rawlins and Family	In celebration of birthdays and remembrance of loved ones

Sis. Maxine Butcher and family	
Bro. Antonio Headley	
Sis. Judy Sargeant	In celebration of 70 <sup>th</sup> birthday 24 December

**FEAST DAYS:**

- Thursday, December 26, 2024, is the **Feast Day of St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**. Please pray for the Rector, Rev George Harewood and Priest-in-Charge Rev Lisa Jessamy-Maynard and the congregation of the Church of St. Stephen.
- Friday December 27, 2024, is **the Feast Day of St. John, the Apostle**. Please pray for the Rector, Rev Anthony Harewood and the congregation of St. Thomas.
- Saturday, December 28, 2024, is **Holy Innocents Day**. Please pray for Rev Peter Boxill and the congregation of Holy Innocents

**2025 CALENDARS:** The 2025 Diocesan Calendars are available at \$6.00 each

**Dance Selection: St Philip Dancers**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours continue on Wednesday and Friday 9:00 am to 12:noon. Persons can also visit the church’s website at: <https://stphilipsparishchurch.com/see-the-priest/> to make an appointment to see the priest.



**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:** Members are asked to note the following new email addresses: Canon O’Neale: [revoneale@stphilipparishchurch.com](mailto:revoneale@stphilipparishchurch.com)  
Church office: [staff@stphilipparishchurch.com](mailto:staff@stphilipparishchurch.com)

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** We take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and appreciation to all members who have been making their contributions. Indeed, they have helped us tremendously in meeting our financial commitments. For those who can, contributions may be made online directly to the Church's bank account at **CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, Wildey, A/C #1818610 in the name of St. Philip Parish Church.** Please keep your receipts for the records of the church or call or email us and let us know when you have made your contributions.

# Call to Ministry

<b>Ministries</b>	<b>LEADERS</b>	<b>Meeting Times</b>
Altar Guild	Sis. Jackie Franklin	Quarterly
Altar Servers	Sis Alicia Headley	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat -4:00pm
Bereavement Group	Sis Jean-Ann Murrell	Quarterly-6:30 pm
Bible Study	Sis. Patricia Haynes	
Choir	Bro. Shae Branch	Fri-4:00 pm
Church Army	Sis Marcia Clarke	Mon. -4:00pm
Health Guild	Sis. Lolita Bushell	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat -4:00pm
Men's Fellowship	Bro. Ulric Sealy	1 <sup>st</sup> Sun-4:30 pm
M & E	Sis. Glenda Weir	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat -4:30 pm
Mothers' Union	Sis. Sheila Mayers	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat 9:30am
Sunday School		Sun.11:30am
Youth Group		
Ushers' Guild	Sis Jeanette Holder	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat -4:30pm

## Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Lay Readers/Chalice Assistants

Sonia Gill	Ralph McCarthy
Alicia Headley	Hilford Murrell
Jeanette Holder	Amarel Robinson
Jocelyn King	Edwin Tudor
Doreen Knight	June Ward
	Harold Weir

## **DAILY READINGS:**

Mon	Psalm 113	Genesis 25:19-28	Colossians 1:15-20
Tue	Psalm 113	Genesis 30:1-24	Romans 8:18-30
Wed	Luke 1:46b-55	Micah 4:1-5	Ephesians 2:11-22
Thu	Luke 1:46b-55	Micah 4:6-8	2 Peter 1:16-21
Fri	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14,
Sat	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20