

St. Philip Parish Church



December 25, 2025

5:00 am Service

**Rector: Rev. Canon Trevor O'Neale
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**Honorary Assistant Curate
The Rev'd Edith Small**

**Seminarian:
The Rev'd Jenice Culzac**

**Sexton:
Bro Harold Weir
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Bro Damanie Beckles**

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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

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 blessed 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.

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 62nd Chapter of the book of the Prophet Isaiah beginning at the 6th verse. (*Isaiah 62:6-12*)

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 97

- 1 The LORD is King;
 let the earth rejoice; *
 let the multitude of the isles be glad.

- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
 righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the
LORD, * at the presence of the Lord of the whole
earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah
rejoice,* because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

***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 3rd chapter of the letter to Titus beginning at the
4th verse - (Titus 3:4-7)**

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

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.*

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 Luke, the 2nd
Chapter beginning at the 8th verse.(Luke 2:8-20)**

Glory to Christ our Saviour

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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 C

LEADER

With all our heart and all our mind let us pray to the Lord.
saying, "Lord have mercy."

LEADER

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God,
and for the salvation of our souls:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER

For the peace and welfare of the world, for the witness and
work of the Church, and for the unity of all peoples:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER

For our Bishops and all ministers of God's Word and Sacraments, that they may be filled with truth and love and be found without fault at the Lord's coming:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER

For the leaders of the nations and for those in authority among us, that they may serve justice and promote the freedom and dignity of all peoples:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression, and for all who labour in the cause of human liberation and fulfilment:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER

For the sick, the suffering, the sorrowful, and the dying; and for all who remember and care for them:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER

For deliverance from the ravages of hurricane, earthquake, drought or flood, and for a just and proper use of God's creation:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER

For ourselves and all who confess the name of Christ, that we may show forth the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Silence may be kept.

ALL

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people in the multitude of your mercies. Look with compassion on us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious O Lord of love, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

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 C

PRESIDENT

The Kingdom of God is justice. peace. and joy, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

ALL

They who thus serve Christ are acceptable to God and approved by others.

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

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

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 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.

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.

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.

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 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,

As we gather to celebrate another Christmas, we hear again the angel's message to the shepherds of "I bring you news of great joy for all people: today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." This is the good news of great joy we continue today celebrate every Christmas.

Christmas carries many signs of joy - the lights, the family gatherings, the act of gift-giving, and even the familiar tastes of black cake, ham, and sorrel. These enrich our Christmas celebrations, but we need to be often reminded that they are not its foundation. They are not the reason for the season. They simply point us toward a greater and deeper truth.

The real joy of Christmas is found in the astonishing reality that the God of the universe stepped into our world in human form. This is why we sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come." In Jesus Christ, God comes near - revealing His heart, inviting us into relationship, and calling us to live by His Kingdom values of righteousness, peace, love and joy. Through His coming, He offers a joy that is steady, lifegiving, and transformative. We receive and experience that joy when we, on earth, receive our King.

As God's people, we must remember that our joy does not depend on circumstances or seasonal comforts. It rests in the unchanging truth of who Christ is and what He has done for us. Our joy is anchored in Emmanuel, God with us, and grounded in the salvation He brings, the peace He gives, and

the hope He offers. We rejoice because Christ has come, Christ is present with us, and Christ will come again. When our eyes remain fixed on Him, we discover a joy that strengthens us in hardship, steadies us in uncertainty, and sends us into the world as witnesses of His love.

However, even today, not everyone feels joyful; for some are grieving. Some are facing financial strain. Some feel the weight of loneliness or fractured relationships. Some are battling a terminal illness and experiencing the pains and stress of their infirmity. Others are simply weary in body, mind, or spirit. If that is our experience at this time, the message of Christmas is especially for us. Jesus came not only for those who celebrate easily, but especially for those who long for inner joy and peace. He came for the burdened, the wounded, the heavy-laden and the brokenhearted. He is Emmanuel in every season, including the difficult ones and the changing scenes of life.

This is where the Church must reflect His heart. Since Christ came near to bring joy and to lift the sorrowing, we are called to embody and extend that same joy God extends to us, by having compassion for others, being present and available to them and extending love in action.

May we, this Christmas and the coming year, as God came to be with us, draw near to those who especially feel alone, listen to those who are hurting, extend generosity to those in need, and create space and a welcome for those who feel out of place. Joy becomes visible when God's people live as Christ lived - present, caring, and willing to serve.

So let us not leave this joy at the manger or pack it up with the decorations. Let us share it into our homes, workplaces, and communities. Let us choose joy in knowing God is with us when challenges arise. Let us speak joy when others are discouraged – especially our youth; and let us live joy in ways that help people recognize the presence of God in our lives. May our lives become invitations—silent or spoken—that proclaim the good news: “Joy to the world, the Lord has come.”

On behalf of my wife Chandra and our boys – Michael John, Christopher and Kalan, I wish you and yours a blessed and joyous Christmas and God’s continued presence, protection and peace in the coming year 2026.

I am your friend and bishop,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Barbados".

+Michael Barbados.

The Rector's Christmas Message

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Isaiah speaks to a world that knows darkness all too well. Darkness is not only the absence of light; it is the presence of fear, injustice, violence, poverty, loneliness, and broken relationships. It is what happens when people turn away from God and from one another. We see it in our societies, in our families, and sometimes within our own hearts.

We see darkness in many forms - violence and war, poverty, abuse, racism, discrimination, loneliness, and mental suffering. When individuals or groups are judged, excluded, or oppressed because of race, gender, religion, or status, darkness takes root in social systems and attitudes.

When people lack food, shelter, education, or healthcare, hope is dimmed. Poverty often traps generations and silences voices. Even in connected societies, many feel isolated, unseen, and overwhelmed. Inner darkness can be as painful as external hardship. This darkness is seen when many children grow up without fathers—where too many men walk away from their responsibilities, leaving wounds that echo through families and society. People begin to doubt or stop believing that God cares and can help them.

Yet the prophet does not end with darkness. He declares that a *great light* has appeared. Christians believe that Christmas is God's response to the darkness. Advent and Christmas remind us that God does not ignore the darkness of the world. Instead, God steps into it. In the birth of Jesus,

God's light shines where hope seems weakest. The birth of Christ fulfills God's promise of hope, joy, and lasting peace for those living in darkness. Christ is born not in comfort, but in vulnerability—showing us that no situation is too broken, no life too wounded, for God's presence.

This light does more than comfort us; it challenges us. The light of Christ exposes injustice and calls us to live differently—to care for the poor, protect the vulnerable, seek peace, and act with compassion. Faith is not only something we believe; it is something we live.

We see this clearly in Joseph. Faced with fear and uncertainty, Joseph chose faith. He stayed. He took responsibility. His quiet obedience became part of God's saving work. Joseph reminds us that faithfulness—especially the faithful presence of men, parents, and mentors—can change lives and shape communities. He trusts God's word, takes responsibility, and stays. He reminds us that faith is not just something we feel—it's something we live out. His belief moved him to act: to protect Mary, to raise Jesus, and to be present when it mattered most. He did not abandon his responsibility when things became difficult. Instead, he leaned into faith and became a steady, loving presence in his home.

As God used Joseph to help bring that light of Christ into the world let us use his example to show how men should respond to the darkness. A man's presence, faith, and commitment can change the direction of a life.

This Christmas, may we be inspired by Joseph's example. May men rediscover the power of believing—not only in God, but in their God-given role as fathers, mentors, protectors, and builders of hope. And may families and

communities be strengthened when men choose faith, presence, and responsibility. This is a light that has shined on us all.

So today, let us remember: the darkness of the world is real, but it is not final. Christmas assures us that the light has come. As followers of Christ, we are called not only to welcome the light, but to live as bearers of that light. Wherever truth is spoken, compassion shown, justice pursued, and love practiced, **light begins to break in**. Let us trust that our belief can restore what is broken, faith can heal what is wounded and our faithfulness to God can make a lasting difference in our lives.

Raquel, Dawn Marie and Trequan join with me in wishing you and your families a merry and blessed Christmas.

Your Priest and Pastor

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Trevor", with a stylized flourish above the name.

Canon Trevor +

NOTICES

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS (Dec 24-27) to Rochelle Franklin (25), Daniel Parris (25), Barbara Sealy (25), Shirley Haynes-Johnson (26), Wendy Mapp (26), Kathleen Beckles (27), Trekyiah Bowen (27) and Marlyn Rawlins (27).

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS (Dec 25-27) to Hal & Fern Gollop (26)

HOUSEBOUND AND SICK: Please remember the sick in your prayers and where possible give them a call: **Patricia Clarke, Kersley Alleyne**, Joyce Sealy, Agnes Belgrave, Mercil Gill, Melanie Haggins (UK), Claristine Olton, Miranda Clarke; Wilma Estwick, Erskine Batson, Carmen Franklin, Camille Wilson, Eugene Norville, Michael Gittens, Iolanthe Manifold, Dafton Mayers, Corletta White, Myrna McCarthy, Geneva McCarthy, Glenville Davis, Kayrene Forde, Marlene Mottley, and Keith Alleyne.

2025 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday, December 25, 2025

(Christmas Day):

8:00 am- Solemn Eucharist

Sunday, December 28, 2024

(1st Sunday after Christmas)

8:00 am - Solemn Eucharist

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

(New Year's Eve)

11:00 pm - Watchnight Service

FEAST DAYS:

- Friday, December 26, 2025, 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.
- Saturday, December 27, 2025, is **the Feast Day of St. John, the Apostle**. Please pray for the Rector, Rev Anthony Harewood and the congregation of St. Thomas.

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Donated By	In Memory of
Sis Betty Marshall & husband John	Loved ones
Sis. Judy Butcher	Parents George and Yvonne Butcher
Sis. Judy Scantlebury	Dr. Owen Eversley
Bro David Brathwaite	In memory of mother Adeline Brathwaite and brother Junior Brathwaite
Sis. Doreen Knight	Husband Leon Knight
Sis Maulta Franklin	a loving mother, Miriam Wiggins
Sis Selene Gibson	Husband Gregson Gibson and parents Miriam and Lawrence Wiggins
Sis Evadne Scott	Husband Kenneth Scott and father St. Clair Franklin
The Breedy, Belle and Gallagher Families	Loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother Muriel Breedy

	In Giving thanks to God for His Goodness
Canon O’Neale Family	Thanking God for His blessings
Honorary Assistant Curate Rev’d. Edith Small	Thanking God for His blessings and in support of the work of the Flower Guild
Sis. Veronica Applewhaite and husband Andrew	In celebration of their Birthday Dec. 23
Sis. Samantha Haynes- Graham & Husband Anderson	In celebration of their Wedding
Sis. Sandy Headley	Celebrating the birthday of Sherryann Headley – 26 December
Sis. Lolita Bushell	In celebration of her Birthday, Dec. 02
Sis. Andrea Sealy and Nephew Rishon Sealy	In celebration of their Birthday – Oct 21 and Oct. 23, respectively
Sis. Muriel Stoute	In celebration of her Birthday Dec. 16
Sis. Audine Lorde & Husband Clive	In celebration of their Wedding Anniversary Dec. 14

CHRISTMAS ON THE GREENS: St. Philip Parish Church presents “**A Joyful Christmas on the Greens**” on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at 5:30 pm featuring lots of entertainment for the whole family. Food and drinks will be on sale. Admission: Adults \$20 Children 5-15 years \$10.00



2026 Calendars: The 2026 Diocesan Calendars are available at \$6.00 each.

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

Ministries	LEADERS	Meeting Times
Altar Servers	Sis Alicia Headley	3 rd Sat -4:00pm
Bereavement Group	Sis Jean-Ann Murrell	Quarterly-6:30 pm
Choir		Fri-4:00 pm
Church Army	Sis Marcia Clarke	3 rd Sat. -9:30 am
Flower Guild	Sis. Jackie Franklin	Quarterly
Health Guild	Sis. Lolita Bushell	1 st Sat -4:00pm
Men's Ministry		
M & E	Sis. Joan Small-White	2 nd Sat -3:00 pm
Mothers' Union	Sis Joyce Sealy	2 nd Sat 9:30am
CFH	Sis Lyn-Marie Franklin	Sun 8:00 am
Ushers' Guild	Sis Shelley Blades	3 rd Sat -4:30 pm

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:	Luke 1:46b-55	Isaiah 33:17-22	Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20;
Tue:	Luke 1:46b-55	2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29	Galatians 3:6-14
Wed:	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalms 96	Luke 2:1-14
Thu:	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalms 97	Luke 2: 8-20
Fri	Psalms 148	Wisdom 4:7-15	Acts 7:59-8:8
Sat	Psalms 148	Proverbs 8:22-31	1 John 5:1-12