

St. Philip Parish Church



December 25, 2025
8:00 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

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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.

HYMN: 547

Glory to God on high,
and peace to all on earth.
We worship you, we give you thanks, our
heavenly King.
We give you praise,
almighty God and Father blessed in glory bright.

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
the Father's only Son,
the sacrificial lamb, who saves the world from sin,
have mercy Lord.
Beside the Father's hand enthroned, now hear
our prayer.

You only are the Lord.
You only are most high.
You only are the holy one, Lord Jesus Christ.
And now you reign
with Father and with Spirit one in glorious light.

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 52nd Chapter of the book of the Prophet Isaiah beginning at the 7th 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 1st chapter of the letter to the Hebrews beginning
at the 1st 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: *O Holy Night*- Shamya Stout

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 John, the 1st Chapter beginning at the 1st 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

HYMN: 561

We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.

We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;
in one church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.

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

ANTHEM: - The Angel Gabriel

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.

EUCARISTIC 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 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: 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

Solo- He Shall Feed His Flock- Emelda Coppin

Dance Selection: St Philip Dancers

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,


+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



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.

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.

2025 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

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



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	Psalm 96	Luke 2:1-14
Thu:	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Luke 2: 8-20
Fri:	Psalm 148	Wisdom 4:7-15	Acts 7:59-8:8
Sat	Psalm 148	Proverbs 8:22-31	1 John 5:1-12