

St. Philip Parish Church



**December 24, 2024
11:30 PM**

**Rector: Rev. Canon Trevor O'Neale
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Assistant Priest: Rev Angela Phillips**

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WELCOME: We welcome you to St. Philip this evening as we celebrate the **First service of Christmas: The Nativity of our Lord:** 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

Carol Singing

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

GOD REST YOU GENTLEMEN

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ, our Savior
was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray.

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father
a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name.

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

"Fear not," then said the angel,
"let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior,
the true and radiant light,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might."

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and in true love and fellowship
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
is filled with heav'nly grace

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
do you see what I see
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
do you know what I know
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold

Let us bring Him silver and gold
Let us bring Him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere,
listen to what I say
Pray for peace, people everywhere!
listen to what I say
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavn'ly song? *[Refrain]*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *[Refrain]*

See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise. *[Refrain]*

Lighting of Christmas Candles

LEADER: Blessed are You, Sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to You be praise and glory forever! The new Light of Your
incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow, and a
presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with Your Light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Four Candles are lit

LEADER: God our Father today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the Light of Your Son, and to share the Good News of Your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who has come into the world.

Christ candle is lit!

All: Lord Jesus, Light of light, You have come among us. Help us who live by Your Light to shine as lights in Your world. Glory to God in the highest!

Selection: *O Holy Night – Sis Emelda Coppin*

Blessing of the Crib

V. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us

R. **And we beheld his glory**

Let us pray

Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

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!

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

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shone. *Isaiah 9:2*

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

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

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

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

First lesson: A reading from the word of God written in the 9th Chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah beginning at the 2nd verse. (Isaiah 9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; * sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

- 3 Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; * he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! * Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! * he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; * let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, * when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness * and the peoples with his truth.

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 2nd Chapter of the Letter of Paul to Titus beginning at the 11th verse. (Titus 2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn 91

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

‘To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.’

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 1st verse.
(Luke 2:1-14)**

Glory to Christ our Saviour

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 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 Savior, 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 favors!"

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 fulfillment 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 OF 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.

PRESIDENT: Let us therefore confess our sins

FORM A

ALL

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and one another, in thought, word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son, our Lord Jesus

Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life 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

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 God 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.

Eucharistic Prayer D

PRESIDENT

All glory, praise, and thanksgiving be unto you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, you created the world and all mankind, and of your tender mercy gave your only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon Him, and to suffer death upon the cross, for our redemption. He made there, by His own oblation of Himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and He instituted, and in

His holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of His precious death, until His coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech you; and he pleased to accept, bless and sanctify these gifts and creatures of bread and wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,

For, on the night 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

In faith we acclaim You, O Christ

ALL:

**Dying You destroyed our death;
Rising You restored our life;
Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

Now therefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we your servants with all your holy people, having in remembrance the blessed passion, mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension of your beloved Son, do offer unto your Divine Majesty this Bread of eternal life and this Cup of everlasting salvation, rendering thanks to you for the wonderful redemption which you have made possible for us in Him.

And we beseech you O Father, to accept upon your heavenly altar this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving: and to grant that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of His passion.

And we pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit all who shall be partakers of this holy Communion may be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, and be numbered in the glorious company of your Saints.

And here we offer and present unto you O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice.

And although we are unworthy to offer unto you any sacrifice, yet we beseech you to accept this, our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto you, O Father Almighty, throughout all ages, world without end.

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 A

PRESIDENT

My brothers and sisters in Christ, draw near and receive His Body which He gave for you, and His Blood, which He shed for you. Remember that He died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

ALL

Grant gracious Lord, that we so eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and drink His blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

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 88

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
sing praise to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

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.

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

ALL Amen.

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

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", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Trevor +

NOTICES

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS (Dec 25-28) to Rochelle Franklin (25), Daniel Parris (25), Barbara Sealy (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.

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.

2024 CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Wednesday, December 25, 2024
 (Christmas Day):

5:00 am – Said Eucharist with hymns
 8:00 am- Solemn Eucharist

Sunday, December 29, 2024
 (1st Sunday after Christmas Day)

8:00 am - Solemn Eucharist

Sunday, December 31, 2024
 (New Year’s Eve)

11:00 pm - Watchnight Service

**CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS FLOWERS FOR
 CHRISTMAS**

Donated By	In Memory of
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)
	In Giving thanks to God for His Goodness
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 th 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 th birthday 24 December

The members of the Flower Guild thank persons for their support during the year and generous contributions towards the flowers for Christmas 2024.

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.

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://stphilipparishchurch.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
Church office: 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

Ministries	Leaders	Meeting Times
Altar Guild	Sis. Jackie Franklin	Quarterly
Altar Servers	Sis Alicia Headley	3 rd Sat -4:00pm
Bereavement Group	Sis Jean-Ann Murrell	Quarterly-6:30 pm
Choir	Bro Shae Branch	Fri-4:00 pm
Church Army	Sis Marcia Clarke	Mon. -4:00pm
Health Guild	Sis. Lolita Bushell	1 st Sat -4:00pm
Men's Fellowship	Bro. Ulric Sealy	1st Sun-4:30 pm
M & E	Sis. Glenda Weir	2 nd Sat -4:30 pm
Mothers' Union	Sis. Sheila Mayers	1 st Sat 4:00pm
Sunday School	Lyn-Marie Franklin	Sun.8:00 am
Youth Group		
Ushers' Guild	Sis Sheryl Belgrave	3 rd 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