

The Parish of St. Peter (Upper Gullies)

1219 Conception Bay Highway
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“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church.” Matthew 16-18

Sunday, January 7, 2018

THE EPIPHANY



Diocesan Bishop:

Rector:

Interim Administrator

Parish Deacon:

Organist/Choir Director

Parish Wardens

Office Administrator:

The Right Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Peddle

The Reverend Jean Smith (On Leave)

The Reverend Irving Letto

The Reverend Dr. Bonnie Morgan (On Leave)

Andrea Powell

Ralph Drover and Robert Hilliard

Jack Morgan

8:30am Book of Common Prayer: 10:30am Book of Alternative Services

LECTIONARY: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 (BCP p418; BAS p797);
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

COLLECT Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen

HYMNS FOR 10:30 SERVICE

Opening: (#160) **As With Gladness Men of Old**
Gradual: (#646) **Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers**
Offering: **We Three Kings** (See below)
Communion: (Praise Book #9) Come, Holy Spirit, I Need You
Closing: (#139) **The First Nowell**

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, people raising, Worship him, God most high. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

Glorious now behold him arise, King, and God, and Sacrifice,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Earth to the heaven replies. *Refrain*

Today's Short Message

Today's reading from Isaiah and Psalm 72 inspired Matthew's story of the Wisemen. We do not know if there were any actual "Wisemen," but we do know that Israel was very much influenced by the surrounding nations that were sometimes friends and sometimes enemies. In telling his story Matthew not only linked Jesus to Old Testament prophecies, but he also challenged the church to expand its understanding of God.

As Christian we discover God in the pages of the Bible. But God is not limited by our traditions. God is a living, active reality who is forever challenging us to shine like stars bringing hope and meaning to others. Like the "**wise men**" we must continue to ask questions and seek new answers that will help us live today.

In her Christmas 2000 Broadcast the Queen spoke personally of her own Christian faith. Many people were impressed by that. But even more important was the open attitude she demonstrated towards other religious faiths:

Whether we believe in God or not, I think most of us have a sense of the spiritual, that recognition of a deeper meaning and purpose in our lives, and I believe that this sense flourishes despite the pressures of our world.

This spirituality can be seen in the teachings of other great faiths. Of course religion can be divisive, but the Bible, the Koran and the sacred texts of the Jews and Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs, are all sources of divine inspiration and practical guidance passed down through the generations.

Her words may be more important and prophetic than many people realize. Unfortunately, large segments of the church would not agree with her candour and openness. But it is the religious sentiment of many Christians, today, and it is a springboard that can make the 21st century an age of change and progress in religious ideas and relations.



Holy Baptism The next date for Baptism is January 14th. It has been the practice at St. Peter's to have a Baptism Service on the third Sunday of each month when there are children to be baptized. However, with the challenge re scheduling when we consider the variety of work schedules of people who work offshore or in another parts of the world, it is not practical to adhere to this schedule. Instead, the monthly baptism date is set when the first family desiring to have a child baptized in a particular month contacts the parish priest. When that date is not convenient for a family, we hope to be able to schedule the next monthly baptism to fit the schedule of that family.

This week we are praying for:

All Church Leaders, especially +Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; +Fred, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada; +Ronald, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, +Geoffrey, our Bishop; Jean+, our Rector; Bonnie+, our Deacon, and Irving+, our interim administrator.

In the Anglican/Lutheran Cycle of Prayer, ACC National Anglican Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald, and the Anglican Council of Indigenous People. ELCIC Bishop Michael Pryse, people, and rostered ministers of the Eastern Synod.

In the Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, the people and Clergy of the Parish of All Saints, CBS and All Saints, Corner Brook. 'Also we pray for Ms. Emily Rowe, Editor of Anglican Life.

In the CBS Ministerial Cycle of Prayer we pray for the unity of all Christians; and for all clergy and members of the church communities of Conception Bay South.

We pray for our Alongsiders, Eva Adams and Evelyn Morgan.

We pray for those who are sick or otherwise in need, especially:

Rodney Andrews, John Bradbury, Janet Butler, Mary Dawe, Muriel Fowler, Brian Gosse, Deneal Haines, Mackenzie Jones, Marion Morgan, Glenys O'Brien, Pat Reid, Lucy Thistle, Mary Bussey, Eileen Shaw (N.B.), Violet Batten, Les McDonald, Fred Kelly, Lyndon Letto, Rev. Jean, Elizabeth Crews and Jeanette Rogers.

2018 Church Envelopes St. Peter's 2018 Church Envelopes are now available for pick up at the back of the Church. We have endeavoured to place the envelopes in alphabetical order. If you know someone who would like a box of envelopes, please contact the Church office at 744-2648.

Reminder to submit reports: Individuals and groups preparing reports for the Parish Annual Report are asked to please try to have their reports provided to the parish office before the end of January 28th.

Vestry Meeting: Vestry members are reminded that the meeting planned originally for tonight will now be held on January 28th at 7pm.