

The gospel for Christmas Day from Luke 2:1-14 tells of the gift of the birth of the Christ-Child to simple parents, who were oppressed and subjected to the manipulations of the Roman colonial authorities. 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. But it also speaks of the announcement of the birth to the shepherds, who were among the most marginalized of their day, announcing the fulfillment of their hope and the good news for humanity. That this birth to simple peasant parents takes place in a stable and is announced to shepherds in the field, locates it among the simple folks who are neglected by the power structures of their day and who receive little or no attention from the powers that be. The child who is the source of good news for the people, grows into adulthood and demonstrates a love and compassion for children.

Our World Today is one which is struggling to find signs of hope. It is true in relation to the outcome of the Presidential Elections in the United States, Brexit in Britain, the endless wars in Syria and other places, and the uncertainty of a global economy which no one can predict where it is leading. No one who has access to a television these days can claim ignorance regarding the suffering of large numbers of our children across the world, whether in Syria, or in those fresh memories of the faces of those children trying to cross into Europe as they fled the violence and poverty of their homeland.

In Jamaica we are aware of the abuse and neglect of countless numbers of our children, and an increasing targeting of children and infants in the violence and murder being committed by criminal elements. So let us step back from the trivializing of central elements of our faith tradition by secular and commercial interests, and the attempt to be politically correct, by taking out the content of our celebration of Christmas, and by passing it off as just another holiday, and instead, affirm the joy which Christmas brings to the life of humanity. Let us also grasp the imperative which the venerable Saint Nicholas 4th century Bishop of Myra, and the Christ-Child highlight to bring joy to humanity seeking for hope in a seemingly hopeless world and in making a difference to the life of our vulnerable children in our society and across the world.

ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH
FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS 11:00 p.m.

THE SOLEMN PROCESSION Organ Voluntary

(This represents the journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Mary gave birth to her firstborn Son.)

Station in All Soul's Chapel at the Manger

HYMN: O come, all ye faithful

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 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; | 2. God of God, Light of Light
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's
womb;
Very God, begotten, not
created; |
|---|---|

Refrain

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

(+) Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of Holy Scriptures according to Matthew (1:18-25)

Celebrant:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
You have manifested your love:
When our need for a Saviour was great
You sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

All: Amen.

The Manger is incensed as the hymn continues

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above!
Glory to God, in the
highest;

Refrain:

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now
in flesh appearing.

Refrain:

Introit Hymn: Angels from the realms of glory,

1. 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

*Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn
King!*

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light;

Refrain

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star;

Refrain

4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:

Refrain

5. 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 do

Refrain

INTRODUCTION & GREETINGS

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night we offer this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God the almighty, for sending Jesus as Saviour to humankind. In particular, our special intention is for the Light of God to shine peace into our hearts, homes and communities by the power of the Holy Spirit. For "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).

Celebrant: (+) Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever.
Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Canticle of Praise: Give Glory to God (tune Vangelis)

1. Give glory to God church
Give glory to God
Give glory to God church
Give glory to God
Sing praise to His name Emmanuel
Sing praise to His name
Sing praise to His name Emmanuel
Sing praise to His name

2. Give glory to God, man
Give glory to God
Repeat
Sing praises to Him hallelujah
Sing praise to His Him
Repeat

3. Give glory to God world
Give glory to God
Repeat
Proclaim Him the King, hosanna
Proclaim Him the King

Repeat
4. Give glory and honour
to Jesus our King
Repeat
We hail You our King, hallelujah
We hail You our King.

Repeat

Celebrant: The Lord is here!

People: His Spirit is with us

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day BCP page 158

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (sit)

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2 - 7

Psalms 96: Refrain: Today is born a Saviour Christ our Lord.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11 - 14

Sequence Hymn: *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 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 forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there

The Alleluia is sung before and after the Gospel.

Gospel: Luke 2: 1 - 14 (15 - 20)

Sermon: Canon Sirrano Kitson

The Nicene Creed

BCP page 104

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION We pray for Christ Catholic Church ...

Leader: .In joy and humility let us pray to the Creator of the universe,
saying.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the
angel, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the mystery of the Word made flesh, King of Glory,
come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, King of
Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and
Magi, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and
Joseph of Nazareth, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: We pray for peace among nations and within our communities
and for goodwill throughout the world, King of Glory, come
to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: We remember families, relatives and friends and also who
would be alone this Christmas time, King of Glory, come to
earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: At this time of joy and rejoicing, we pray for all who are sad,
all whose lives are full of sorrow, fear or anxiety . We
remember those in need of care and love ones who are ill.
King of Glory, come to earth

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the incarnation of the Son of God, grant us true
repentance. Hear us O, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We confess our transgressions, for grace to be cleansed of our
sins, to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, Hear
us, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Celebrant: ***The Absolution:** Almighty God...*

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ you said to your ... (B.C.P page 122)

THE GREETING OF PEACE (*All stand*)

Celebrant: "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

People: and peace to all persons who enjoy God's favour."

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Anthem - For Unto Us a Child is born Choir

OFFERING OF THE EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE

Offertory Hymn: While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

1. While shepherds watched
their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

3."To you, in David's town, this day,
Is born of David's line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign

2."Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind

4.The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling-
Clothes And in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph and
forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:

4. "All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from
Heaven to men
begin and never cease."

Remain Standing

Celebrant: My sisters and brothers in Christ, let us offer our work and worship to our Heavenly Father, asking for His grace to transform the world and our lives for His Kingdom.

All: Father, we offer ... BCP page 126

Sursum Corda page.126

Sanctus & Benedictus page.131

Eucharistic Rite 'A' page135

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: ...With Him and in Him and through Him,in songs of everlasting praise:

All: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer page.144

COMMUNION

Breaking of Bread page145

Agnus Dei page147

The Invitation Form B page 146

Hymns During Communion:

"A Great and Mighty Wonder"

A great and mighty wonder
A full and holy cure;
The virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honor pure

Refrain

*Repeat the hymn again:
To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"*

The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.

Refrain

O Little Town of Bethlehem,

1. 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
to-night.

2. 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.

3. While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands.

Refrain

4. Since all He comes to ransom.
By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord.

Refrain

3. 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.

4. 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.

Silent Night

1. 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

3. 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

2. 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

Post Communion Prayer

All : Eternal God and Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you, and all persons in you, with gladness and singleness of heart. Through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Her virgin eyes saw God incarnate born (All kneel) Tune Farley Castle

1. Her virgin eyes saw God incarnate born,
when she to Bethl'em came that happy morn:
how high her raptures then began to swell,
none but her own omniscient Son can tell.

2. As Eve, when she her fontal sin reviewed,
wept for herself and all she should include,
blest Mary, with man's Saviour in embrace,
joyed for herself and for all human race.

3. Heaven with transcendent joys her entrance graced,
near to his throne her Son his mother placed;
and here below, now she's of heaven possest
all generations are to call her blest.

Celebrant: Behold this earth, O Lord, beloved world encircled
by infinite Word.

People: From which a million voices rise to thee in hope,
love, and joy.

Celebrant: The Word dwelt with God

People: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Celebrant: With Mary, Mother of Jesus, Michael and Gabriel the archangel, Andrew our Patron Saint, and all the powers of Heaven and all the saints,

People: Pray for us to our most holy and beloved Redeemer, and Saviour, Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Let us pray

Pour your grace into our hearts Lord we pray; as we have known the incarnation of your Son through the message of an angel, so by His (+) Cross and passion, be brought to the glory of His resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

Celebrant: Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with His grace to trust His promises and obey His will; And the blessing of God almighty, (+) the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Welcome & Notices

HYMN: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn 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'. | 2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of the virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to
dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. |
|--|---|

Refrain:

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

3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ENTRANCE HYMN: Angels we have heard on high

1. Angels we have heard on
high, Singing sweetly
through the night? And the
mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.

Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo,

Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains
prolong, say what may the
tidings be which inspire your
heav'nly songs.

3. Come to Bethlehem and
see Him whose birth the
angels sing; Come adore on
bended knee, Christ, the Lord,
the newborn King.

4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above
Mary, Joseph, lend your
aid, While we raise our
hearts in love.

SEASONAL SENTENCE

The people who walked in darkness ... *Luke 2:10*

Celebrant: (+) Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity

BCP page 101

Canticle: Canticle of Praise: Give Glory to God tune Vangelis

1. Give glory to God church

Give glory to God

Give glory to God church

Give glory to God

Sing praise to His name Emmanuel

Sing praise to His name

Sing praise to His name Emmanuel

Sing praise to His name

2. Give glory to God, man

Give glory to God

Repeat

Sing praises to Him hallelujah

Sing praises to His Him

Repeat

3. Give glory to God world
Give glory to God *Repeat*
Proclaim Him the King, hosanna
Proclaim Him the King
Repeat

4. Give glory and honour
to Jesus our King *Repeat*
We hail You our King, hallelujah
We hail You our King.
Repeat

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY BCP page 158

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (All Sit)

First Reading Isaiah 9: 2 - 7

Psalm 96:

Refrain: Today is born a Saviour Christ our Lord.

Second Reading Titus 2: 11 - 14

GRADUAL HYMN: Long time ago in Bethlehem

1. Long time ago in Bethlehem
so the holy bible say
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ
was born on Christmas day.
Hark now hear the angels sing
a new king born today
and man will live forevermore
because of Christmas day
trumpets sound and angels sing
listen what they say
that man will live forevermore
because of Christmas day

2. While shepherds watch their flock
by night they see a bright new shining
star then hear a choir sing the music
seemed to come from afar
Hark now hear the angels sing
a new king born today
and man will live forevermore
because of Christmas day
trumpets sound and angels sing
listen what they say
that man will live forevermore
because of Christmas day

3. Now Joseph and his wife Mary,
Came to Bethlehem that night, They
find no place to born she child, Not
a single room was in sight. Hark now
hear the angels sing A new king born
today And man will live forever
more Because of Christmas-day.
Trumpets sound and angels sing
listen what they say that man will
live forevermore because of Christ-
mas day

4. Bye and bye they find a little nook
In a stable all forlorn, And in a
manger cold and dark, Mary's little
boy child was born Hark now hear
the angels sing A new king born
today, And man will live forever
more Because of Christmas-day.
Trumpets sound and angels sing lis-
ten what they say that man will live
forevermore because of Christmas
day

The Alleluia is sung before and after the Gospel.

Gospel Luke 2: 1 - 14

Sermon: Rt. Rev. Howard Gregory STD

The Nicene Creed

BCP

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS (See pages 6)

OFFERTORY HYMN:

The First Nowell

1. The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay
In fields where they
lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night
that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

2. They looked 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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

3. 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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

4. This star drew nigh to the
northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

5. Then entered in those Wise men
three
Full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankin-
cense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of
nought
And with his blood mankind has
bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Remain Standing

Celebrant: My sisters and brothers in Christ, let us offer our work and worship to our Heavenly Father, asking for His grace to transform the world and our lives for His Kingdom.

All:	Father, we offer ...	BCP	page 126
Sursum Corda	(Lift up your hearts)		page 126
Sanctus & Benedictus			page 131
Eucharistic Rite	‘A’		page 135

Acclamations

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant:With Him and in Him and through Him,
...in songs of everlasting praise:

All: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer page 144

COMMUNION

Breaking of Bread page 145

Agnus Dei page 147

The Invitation

Hymns during Communion -

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, a sleep on the hay.

2. 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 night.

3. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Once in royal David's city

1. 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.

2. 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, the scorned, the
lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. And, through all his wondrous
childhood,
He would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

4. 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.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that Child who seemed so helpless
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

1. While shepherds watched their
flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

2. Fear not," said he, for mighty
dread
Had seized their troubled minds;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind

3. "To you, in David's town, this
day,
Is born of David's line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign

4. The heavenly Babe you there
shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling-
clothes
And in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph and
forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:

6. "All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from Heaven
to men
begin and never cease."

Post Communion Prayer (See page 9)

The Blessing

Welcome & Notices

HYMN: Joy to the world (*tune Antioch*)

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King.

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature
sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Saviour
reigns!

Your sweetest songs employ

While fields and floods

Rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. 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, wonders of his
love.

(Repeat verse one)

SICK AND SHUT - IN

Heron Wright

Annette Wilson

Gwendolyn Saunders

Ilene Thomas

Elaine Small

Daphne Dobson

Ellen Rob

Joslyn Richards

PARISH NEWS

The Rector and the Church Committee, express thanks to our members for the Gift Day Contributions to date. We are still accepting contributions as we are below the \$2m target.

Birthdays: Carol Logan and Natalie Smith 25/12, Victor Elliott and Paula Wright 26/12, Ludlow Bowie 27/12, John McGarry, Everard Dixon and Kaylor Scott 28/12, Ena-Mae Miller 29/12, Beverly Robinson-Muir 31/12,

Congratulations to Cynthia Bonner who was 101 yrs on Dec. 22. To Drs. Brian and Jackie James who will be celebrating 25yrs on the 28th. and Drs. Paul and Jacinth Wright 38 yrs. on the 30th.

Condolence is extended to Sharon Campbell and family on the passing of her aunt Loretta Fishley, her funeral service will be at Watermount on Saturday 31st. To Hazel Thomas and family on the passing of her brother Dafton Walker. To Cyril Bridge and family on the passing of his mother Curdell bridge. To Dawn Seaton and family on the passing of her mother Kathleen Byfield.

<p>Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2017. Be sure to be present.</p>

Faith Formation and Christian Education

Did you know?

December 25 was celebrated as the birth date of Jesus by the early 4th century AD, and probably much earlier. It is believed that this date was selected because the Romans celebrated the Mithraic festival of the sung god on that day. This date was therefore seen by the church as an opportunity to make a pagan festival into a religious one.

Quote for reflection

"Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God." (George F. McDougall, n.d.) 18.

Please support KC Chapel Choir at their Christmas Concert on Wednesday the 28th, at Saxthorpe Methodist Church at 6:00p.m. Contribution \$1,500. at the gate.

2nd collection for our Endowment Fund will be taken on Jan. 1, 2017.

“Daily reflections for Advent and Christmas”; St. Jude’s writers, are available at the church Office.

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE
CHRISTMAS SEASON 2016 - 17**

- Dec. 24 11:00 p.m. Carols/Blessing of Manger and First Mass of Christmas
- Dec. 25 6:30 a.m. Mass of Christmas
8:00 a.m. Mass of Christmas - Bishop Howard Gregory
11:00 a.m. Mass for homebound and elderly
Please assist with invitations and transport
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
- Dec. 26 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - St. Stephen’s Day
- Dec. 27 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - St. John the Apostle’s Day
- Dec. 28 6:30 a.m. Holy Innocence
- Dec. 31 11:00 p.m. New Year’s Eve – Watch Night Service
- Jan. 1 **New Year’s Day** - Holy Name of Jesus
6:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
8:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist & Sermon
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Sermon
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Sermon
- Jan. 8 **Baptism of Our Lord** (Renewal of Baptismal Vows)
6:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
8:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist & Sermon
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer & Sermon
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer - Fellowship Group