

*Diocese of Jamaica & the Cayman Islands
St. Andrew Parish Church*



Christmas is approaching and we would like to celebrate it in the way that we have always done. We exchange gifts and good wishes, there are family gatherings, the singing of carols, the focus on children, the once-a-year charitable acts extended to the poor, elderly and marginalized, with the Christ-Child of Bethlehem somewhere in the background. The abuse of children, crime and violence, and the high level of murder, which have given us the designation of the most “murderous” nation on earth, somehow cause all our positive associations to fade into the background.

The mystery which is at the heart of the Christmas celebrations provides a new sense of value and hope in human life, and reverses all the negative factors which belittle it. At the centre of Christmas is the reality of God becoming human through the conception and birth of Jesus Christ, so that we may come to understand what it means to be truly human. God does not seek out the most perfect human being in order to unite with that person. Rather, he takes on human nature as it is. So, not only had God created human beings, but God has also taken on and, thereby, dignified human life and existence. We, in turn can bestow that same dignity, value and honour for each human life.

If this Christmas we can once again, as church and nation, honour the mystery and value of each human being, then we would truly have reason to celebrate. In a real sense, we would also have allowed the one who was present in the child Jesus of Bethlehem to be truly present in us, and so become channels for touching and transforming the lives of others.

+ *Howard Jamaica*

**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: See Him lying on a bed of straw

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. See Him lying on a bed of straw | 2. Star of silver, sweep across the skies |
| A draughty stable with an open door | Show where Jesus in the manger lies |
| Mary cradling the babe she bore | Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise |
| The Prince of glory is His name | To see the Saviour of the world |

Refrain:

O now carry me to Bethlehem

To see the Lord appear to men

Just as poor as was the stable then

The Prince of glory when He came

(+) 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. Angels, sing again the song you sang,
Sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethlehem's little baby can
Be the Saviour of us all.

Refrain:

***O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord appear to men
Just as poor as was the stable then
The Prince of glory when He came***

4. Mine are riches, from your poverty,
From your innocence eternity;
Mine forgiveness by your death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

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.

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

Refrain

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

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

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

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 down. **R**

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!**

The Collect for Purity

BCP page 101

Canticle of Praise: Glory to God on high! (tune Moscow)

1. Glory to God on high!
Let heaven and earth reply;
Praise, praise his name:
Angel His love adore,
Who all our sorrows bore;
and saints cry evermore,
Worthy the Lamb.

3. Join, all ye ransomed race,
Our holy Lord to bless;
Praise ye his name:
In him we will rejoice,
And make a joyful noise,
Shouting with heart and voice,
Worthy the Lamb.

2. While they around the throne
Cheerfully join in one,
Praising his name:
These who have felt his blood
Sealing their peace with God,
Sound his dear fame abroad,
Worthy the Lamb.

4. Though we change our place,
Yet we shall never cease
Praising his name:
To him our songs we bring,
Hail him, our gracious King,
And without ceasing sing,
Worthy the Lamb.

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day BCP page 158

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (sit)

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2 - 7 Arna Brown Morgan

Psalm 96: Refrain: Today is born our Saviour Christ our Lord.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11 - 14 Alison Dickson

Sequence Hymn: The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
And they said that his name was Jesus.

Refrain

***He come from the Glory,
He come from the Glorious Kingdom,
Oh yes, believer, oh, yes, believer
He come from the Glory,
He come from the Glorious Kingdom,***

The angels sang when the babe was born
The angels sang when the babe was born
The angels sang when the babe was born
And proclaimed him the Saviour Jesus. **R**

The wise men saw where the babe was born
The wise men saw where the babe was born
The wise men saw where the babe was born
And they saw that his name was Jesus. **R**

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 - On Christmas night all Christians Sing Choir

OFFERING OF THE EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE

Offertory Hymn: Thou didst leave Thy throne

1. Thou didst leave Thy throne
and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home
was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

3. The foxes found rest,
and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree;
But Thy couch was the sod,
O Thou Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

2. Heaven's arches rang
when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth
didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

4. Thou camest, O Lord,
with the living word
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn,
and with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

5. When the heavens shall ring,
and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home,
saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee."
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When Thou comest and callest for me.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That He all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince', he said, 'In Jewry!'
All little boys be killed
At Bethl'em in his fury.

Now may Mary's Son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Child in a manger, infant of Mary

Child in a manger, infant of Mary
Outcast and Stranger, Lord of us all
Child Who inherits all our transgressions
All our demerits upon Him fall

Once the most holy Child of salvation
Gently and lowly lived here below
Now as our glorious mighty Redeemer
See Him victorious over each foe

Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder;
Angels behold Him on His throne
Worthy our Savior of all our praises;
Happy forever are His own

588 Hail, true Body, born of Mary

Hail, true Body, born of Mary,
by a wondrous virgin-birth.
Thou who on the Cross were offered
to redeem us all on earth;

2 Thou whose side became a fountain
pouring forth your precious blood,
give us now, and at our dying,
Thine own self to be our food.

O kindest Jesu, O gracious Jesu,
O Jesu, O Jesu, blessed Mary's Son

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.

Silent Night (All kneel)

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

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

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

**People: From which a million voices rise to you 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 of Praise: Glory to God on high! (tune Moscow)

1. Glory to God on high!
Let heaven and earth reply;
Praise, praise his name:
Angel His love adore,
Who all our sorrows bore;
and saints cry evermore,
Worthy the Lamb.

2. While they around the throne
Cheerfully join in one,
Praising his name:
These who have felt his blood
Sealing their peace with God,
Sound his dear fame abroad,
Worthy the Lamb.

3. Join, all ye ransomed race,
Our holy Lord to bless;
Praise ye his name:
In him we will rejoice,
And make a joyful noise,
Shouting with heart and voice,
Worthy the Lamb.

4. Though we change our place,
Yet we shall never cease
Praising his name:
To him our songs we bring,
Hail him, our gracious King,
And without ceasing sing,
Worthy the Lamb.

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 John Soas

Psalm 96: Refrain: Today is born our Saviour Christ our Lord

Second Reading Titus 2: 11 - 14 Yvonne Sterrett

GRADUAL HYMN Let me tell about the story

1. Let me tell about the story
Of the blessed virgin Mary
She had a baby boy name of Jesus
Born in Bethlehem of Judea
On the straw that was in the manger
And she rock the baby to sleep

2. Cow an horse an donkey and sheep
see the pretty little boy sleep
Make no sound nor do not a thing
For they know that it is the king
King and Saviour of the whole world
And she rock the baby to sleep

3. Come me pretty little baby
Mek me rock you now to sleep
For the little Saviour baby
Looking down upon your from heaven
On this Mother and her baby
And she rock the baby to sleep

4. So she rock the little King baby
Sleeping soundly and so serenely
She say nothing, she only sigh
For she know that soon he must die
For him come to save the whole world
And she rock the baby to sleep

The Alleluia is sung before and after the Gospel.

Gospel Luke 2: 1 - 14

Sermon:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS (See pages 6)

OFFERTORY HYMN: Good Christian men rejoice

1. 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!

2. 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

3. 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

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
Agnus Dei**

page 145
page 147

The Invitation

Hymns during Communion -

What child is this, who, laid to rest,

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners
here
The silent Word is pleading. **R**

Refrain

***This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.***

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him. **R**

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:

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: 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'.

Refrain:

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

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.

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.

SICK AND SHUT - IN

Thomas Barrett
Myrtle Smith
Heron Wright
Elaine Small

Mildred Johnson
Joscelyn Richards
Ina Robinson
Eulah Stephenson

Richard Johnny Frater
Phyllis Brown
Desmond Keith Dickson
Lena McDonald

Faith Formation and Christian Education

Did you know?

The angel, Gabriel, is mentioned only four times in the Bible. Twice he appeared to Daniel to teach him things beyond his comprehension, and in the New Testament, Gabriel announced to Zechariah the priest the coming birth of his son, John the Baptist, as well as the coming birth of Jesus, the Son of God, to Mary. The name Gabriel means “God is mighty” or “mighty man of God”, and is also one of the two archangels mentioned in Holy Scripture.

Quote for Reflection

"The liturgy of Advent...helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an ‘advent,’ a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously." (*Prepare Our Hearts for Christmas*, Saint John Paul II, n.d.)

Question for Reflection

What aspects of your life do you need to amend as you prepare your heart to receive the Christ Child who brings peace, love and joy in the world?

Baptism, Wedding and Funeral by appointment with the Rector.

IMPORTANT DATES 2018

Marian Service
Deanery Day
Holy Baptism

Wednesday January 24, 2018
Sunday February 11, 2018
Sunday January 21, 2018

PARISH NEWS

Birthdays for this week: Iris Bentley, Toni Dilworth and Annette Webb-Samuels 24/12, Carol Logan and Natalie Smith 25/12, Victor Elliott 26/12, Ludlow Bowie 27/12, John McGarry, Everard Dixon and Kaylor Scott 28/12 and Ena-Mae Miller 29/12.

Congratulations to Aston and Alcie Daley who will celebrate 31 years of marriage on the 27th. To Brian and Jackie James who will celebrate 26 years of marriage on the 28th. Also Paul and Jacinth Wright who will celebrate 39yrs on the 30th.

Condolence is extended to the family of Madge Day. Her funeral service will be on Friday 29th at 11:00 a.m. Also to Grace and Violet Phillips and family on the passing of her aunt Althea Lawrence.

The Church's Annual Congregational meeting will be held on January 28, 2018, after the 8:00 a.m. service.

The Altar Guild still have packets of notelets for only \$700.

"Daily reflections for Advent and Christmas" St. Jude's writers, are available from the church Office.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2017 - 18

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| Dec. 24 | 11:00 a.m. | Mass for homebound and elderly Please assist with invitations and transport |
| | 11:00 p.m. | Carols/Blessing of Manger and First Mass of Christmas |
| Dec. 25 | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist & Sermon |
| Dec. 26 | 9:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist St. Stephen's Day |
| Dec. 27 | 6:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist St. John the Apostle's Day |
| Dec. 28 | 9:00 a.m. | Holy Innocents |
| Dec. 29 | 9:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| Dec. 31 | 6:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| | 8:00 a.m. | Solemn Eucharist And Sermon |
| | 11:00 p.m. | New Year's Eve – Watch Night Service |
| Jan. 1 | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist & Sermon |
| Jan. 6 | 9:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist - The Epiphany 19. |
| Jan. 7 | 6:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist - First Sunday after the Epiphany |
| | 8:00 a.m. | Solemn Eucharist - The Baptism of our Lord |

