

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2023 - Lectionary Year B

**A Call to Intentional Discipleship,
360th Anniversary Celebration of the Mission**

6:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST

First Lesson	2 Samuel 7:1 - 11, & 16	Milton Samuda
Magnificat	BCP 67	
Epistle	Romans 16:25 - 27	Maydene Dunn
Gospel	Luke 1:26 - 38	
Intercession	Form B Page 107	

8:00 a.m. SOLEMN EUCHARIST AND SERMON

Procession	750 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of our Lord!
First Lesson	2 Samuel 7:1 - 11, & 16 Noel Anderson
Magnificat	See Page 5 Chanted (all stand) -
Epistle	Romans 16:25 - 27 Jacinth Wright
Acclamation	Bless thy word unto our hearts
Gospel	Luke 1:26 - 38
Sermon	Rev. Canon Siranno Kitson
The Creed	BCP Pg. 104
Intercession	Form C Page 108
Offertory	40 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes
During Communion	626, 599, 588
Recessional	46 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

The Collect for Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Connecting to the streaming link for 8:00 a.m. Service
<https://www.facebook.com/sapcjamaica>
The 8 a.m. service can also be viewed on YouTube.

Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands
ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH

Patron Saint Andrew The Apostle
Half - Way -Tree, Kingston 10. Telephone: 968-9366, 926-6692 , 926-0988
Office hours 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon.- Fri.
Rector: 927-0402 Curatage: 926-0800
E-mail: standrewch@cwjamaica.com
standrewparishch@gmail.com
Website: www.standrewparishchurch.com

Chapel of Ease:
St. Thomas - Majesty Gardens 10:30 a.m. and St. Clement's - Kencot 10:30 a.m.



INTENTION FOR THE YEAR:
A Call to Intentional Discipleship,
360th Anniversary Celebration of the Mission

CLERGY

Rector/Curate	The Very Revd. Canon Siranno Kitson, D. Min.
Assistant Curate	Fr. Bertram Gayle
Supplementary Clergy	Fr. Claude Campbell
Church Army	Sister Andrea Taylor-Smith

Wardens

Rector's Warden
Mr. Dwayne McKenzie
Email (dwayne_ja@yahoo.com)
People's Warden
Miss Lisa Campbell
Email
(PeoplesWardenSTAPC@yahoo.com)

Administration

Office Administrator & Ops. Officer
Mrs. Merle Thomas
Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Hortense James
Verger - Miss Ann Morrison

The Rector is out of Office on Mondays

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: Jesus says, "Surely I am Coming Soon!"

All: Amen, Come, Lord Jesus!

(+) Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: Thanks be to God

Celebrant: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of **Peace**.

Last Sunday we lit the third Candle in our Advent Wreath. The First Candle reminded us of our **Hope** in Christ. The Second Candle reminded us that **Love** is the fulfillment of the law and through Christ we experience the love of God. The third candle of **Joy** reminded us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting **Joy** on earth.

The Candle of Peace

Today we light the fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of **Peace**. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a King in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "**the Prince of Peace**". They told us how He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came He taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make **peace** shall be called the children of God.

When Christ comes to us He brings us **peace** and He will bring everlasting **peace** when He comes again. We light the Candle of **Peace** to remind us that Jesus is the **Prince of Peace** and that through him **peace** is found.

(Fourth Candle, the Candle of Peace is lit)

The following is sung:

**O come, thou wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Birthdays for this week: Toni Dilworth and Annette Webb-Samuels 24/12, Revd. Ula Ruddock, Carol Logan and Natalie Smith 25/12, Victor Elliott 26/12, Ludlow Bowie 27/12, John McGarry, Everard Dixon and Kaylor Scott 28/12, Revd. Leroy Johnson and Ena-Mae Miller 29/12, Revd. Barrington Jones 30/12

Congratulations to Brian and Jackie James who will celebrate their 31st W/A on the 28th. To Rohan and Kareen Scott who will celebrate their 18th on the 28th. Also to Paul and Jacinth Wright who will celebrate their 45th W/A on the 30th.

Condolence is extended to Valerie Wan and family on the passing of her mother Eileen Chin Tung.

The Poinsettias at the foot of the altar and Sanctuary are in memory of The Rt. Revd. Herman Spence given by Cherry Ivey and family; at the pulpit given by Daisy Belle Williams; and at the Lectern given in memory of Errol and Alice Alberga, Una Samms, Madge Phillips, by their family.

Mr. Audley Davidson invites you to "A New Year Blessing" featuring the Jamaica Youth Chorale on January 7, 2024, at Saxthorpe Methodist Church at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the gate at \$3,500.00 each.

We express thanks to our members who continue to give sacrificially to ensure that the ministry and mission of the church are sustained as we continue to witness and minister in these challenging times.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK Dec. 24 - 30

Dec. 25	Monday	6:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	Christmas Day	8:00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist

Dec. 27	Wednesday	6:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - St. John, Apostle
Dec. 29	Friday	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Thomas Becket

SICK AND SHUT - IN

Alton Tulloch	(Priest)	Veneta Mott	Olive Lawrence
Percival Lynch	(Priest)	Rhema Bucklet	Ilene Henry
Hazel Bell		Lolita Elliott	Richard Neckles
Neville Hendricks		Isolyn Hall	Gwen Waugh

Faith Formation and Christian Education

Did you know that?

The specific date of Jesus' birth is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible, and there is no definitive biblical evidence indicating that he was born on December 25th. The Gospels in the New Testament do not specify the exact date of Jesus' birth but provide accounts of the events surrounding his nativity. The Church ultimately settled on December 25 at the end of the third century. One theory is that the date was selected to coincide with the Roman Empire's celebration of the rebirth of Sol Invictus (Roman god of the sun) on the same date. According to, Prof. Candida Moss, however, "The real reason for the selection of Dec. 25 seems to have been that it is exactly nine months after March 25, the traditional date of Jesus' crucifixion... As Christians developed the theological idea that Jesus was conceived and crucified on the same date, they set the date of his birth nine months later."

Quote for reflection

"Christmas holds the key to unlocking the deepest mysteries of our lives: Who are we, where did we come from, is there meaning to our lives, and where are we going? Granted, we focus at this time on the birth of Jesus, on the exchange of gifts and the place of joy and triumph even when days are dark and foreboding. But the enormous truth of Christmas rests in the revelation of God's self to humankind. At least we can talk about God in terms we understand, human terms. Because of Jesus, we can make sense of our lives and understand more fully who we are and where we are going." ~ *Norman Shawchuck, Rueben Job, A guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God*

Question for reflection

How does the story of Jesus' birth help you comprehend your own identity and purpose in life?

Electronic payment instruction JAMAICAN DOLLARS

Bank Name: NCB - Half-Way-Tree
Beneficiary Name: St. Andrew Parish Church
Beneficiary Account #: **301045077**
Account Type: Current Account

If you encounter any difficulties with the transfer, contact your own bank

NO Monday Bible Study. Bible Study resumes on 8th. January 2024

**Readings for December 25, 2023: Isaiah 9: 2 - 7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2: 11 - 14, Luke 2: 1 - 14 (15 - 20).**

Leader: Peace is like a light shining in a dark place.

All: As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and rescue your people from sin and death. Deliver us from conflict and strife, give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Enable us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask this in your name who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

THE TRISAGION

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

President: The Lord is here.

People: His Spirit is with us!

President: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Rector's Message

We are invited during the season of Advent to prepare ourselves through prayer, especially the Collects, for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. Can we be persistent in making time for prayer, so that it shapes who we are and who we are becoming as Baptized disciples of Jesus, who are called to "Follow Him?" The currency that we use to say our prayers is *time*, which we also used in other areas of our lives that consume our energies, thoughts, mental process and physical agility. How we allocate and use our *time* is dependent on a number of factors such as family and work responsibilities, however, for a disciple of Jesus it demands commitment. A commitment of *will*, which is able to drive us from the soul of our being, to prostrate ourselves before the presence of God. In this posture we give thanks to God who has given us the gift of *time* to do His will and conform to His purpose as we enjoy the benefits of His Creation and Saving grace.

The gift of *time* is an expression of God's generosity towards us and frames our response within the limits of our mortality and the seasons of life. Eccl. 1:1-8. Although God has made everything suitable within the limits of *time* and had made us stewards/managers of His creation, we are called to use the *time* given to us, along with our talents and spiritual abilities to facilitate the building of His Kingdom. For us to use our time for our own personal interest and to acquire material things, without allocating any time for participation in God's kingdom activities of justice, peace, social equity and reconciliation, can be viewed as selfish hoarding. We are required to budget our hours each day of the week so that we are able to give sufficient *time* for worship, prayer and acts of charity, and to fulfill God's plan for our personal and corporate lives.

The life of *joy* is a fruit of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit that grows from within us, and this *joy* is rooted in a personal relationship with the God of love. The opportunity to live this *joy* comes through the gift of *time* in which we express our faith in God and witness to what God is doing in us and through us as signs of His presence. Each day is an occasion to celebrate with joy the gift of *time* with its abundant blessings of talents, ability and spiritual resources given to us to be used wisely and to be of help to our neighbour, as we seek out the lost sheep, care for the destitute, and share the Good News of God's love, forgiveness and peace.

We extend a warm welcome to all those visiting with us today.

Sirrano +

Canticle: The Magnificat (1662 BCP)

1. My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
2. For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.
3. For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
4. For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name
5. And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.
6. He hath showed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
7. He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
8. He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
9. He remembering his mercy: hath holpen his servant Israel
10. As he promised to our forefathers: Abraham and his seed, for ever.
**Glory be to the Father, and the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen**

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE
CHRISTMAS SEASON 2023 -24**

Dec. 24	6:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	8:00 a.m.	Solemn Eucharist
		No Mid-Night Service
Dec. 25	6:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	8:00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Dec. 31	Christmas	Sunday
	6:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	8:00 a.m.	Solemn Eucharist-Arch Bishop-Howard Gregory
	11:00 pm.	Watch Night service - Holy Name
Jan. 1		No Services on New Year's Day
Jan. 6	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - The Epiphany
Jan. 7	6:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - 1st Sunday after Epiphany
	8:00 a.m.	Solemn Eucharist
Jan. 14	6:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	8:00 a.m.	Solemn Eucharist
Jan. 28		Congregational Meeting