



ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH

FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

**Excerpts from Archbishop’s Christmas Message 2023
Christmas—An Affirmation of Hope**

It cannot escape our attention that as Christmas 2023 approaches, there is an unprecedented level of carnage and death of thousands of innocent children in the War being conducted in Gaza. Earlier this year, we also witnessed similar acts of violence, kidnapping and death directed against children in the war between Russia and Ukraine. These are the most newsworthy of the wars currently being fought across the world, but more wars are going on simultaneously with the consequent displacement, migration and death impacting the lives of children and adults at levels the world has never known.

How can we celebrate Christmas with themes of joy, happiness and peace in such a context? We need to remind ourselves that the Christmas story contains themes of light and darkness, and what we are witnessing in our world are manifestations of darkness. In our national context today, it speaks of poverty, crime, violence, and death, domestic violence, injustice, and social and economic inequalities.

Images of Darkness and Light

The truth is that images and experiences of darkness have never been absent from human history, and in particular, among people of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Indeed, it is present in the Christmas story which we celebrate at this time. The good news is that while the image of darkness is very real, it is only by the presence of the contrasting image of light that we can find our way through and beyond its boundaries.

The Christmas story is not a standalone event that happened at a point in time. Its origins are in the tradition and experience of the people of God and the fulfillment of the longing and hope of a people who trust in the compassion, justice, and saving intention of God for all of humanity as the source of light to the world. This is particularly significant as this expression of divine intent demonstrates a God who is the beginning and the end, a God who creates and who will redeem, and whatever the evidence to the contrary, a God who will gather up every loose end. Nothing will be lost; nothing will be meaningless.

In contrast, the current state of global humanitarian expression, or lack thereof, speaks to a world and future in which there is no endgame in sight that can offer a ray of light, justice, equality, and hope for humanity.

+ *Howard Jamaica*

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.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2023 -24		
Dec. 25	6:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Sung Eucharist
Dec. 31	Christmas Sunday 6:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 11:00 pm.	Holy Eucharist Solemn Eucharist-Arch Bishop-Howard Gregory 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. 8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - 1st Sunday after Epiphany Solemn Eucharist
Jan. 14	6:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Solemn Eucharist
Jan. 28	Congregational Meeting	

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

Readings for Dec 31, 2023: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18.

PARISH NEWS

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. To the family of Evelyn Schloss, widow of the late Egbert Schloss, on her passing.

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. Tickets are available at the gate at \$3,500.00 each.

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

UNITED STATES DOLLARS (Wire Instructions)

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ABA Routing#: 021000018
SWIFT Code: IRVTUS3N
Account Name: National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited
A/C #: 8033407727 SWIFT Code: JNCBJMKX
For Further Credit to: St. Andrew Parish Church

ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

THE SOLEMN PROCESSION

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

The Manger Scene

Hymn 84: See Him on a bed of straw lying

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

Celebrant: (+) 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:

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

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.

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

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***

Introit Hymn: 61 Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn

1. Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above:
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations upon earth:
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

3. He spake; and straightway the celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace upon earth, and unto men good will.

4. To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds ran,
to see the wonder God had wrought for man,
and found, with Joseph and the blessèd Maid,
her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:
then to their flocks, still praising God, return,
and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

5. O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

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?

Celebrant: With Mary, Mother of Jesus, Michael and Gabriel
archangels, Andrew our Patron Saint, 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.

All: Amen.

Welcome & Notices

Recessional 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 th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Refrain:
***Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!"***

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the favored one.
Veil'd in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **R**

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. **R**

6. Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

SEASONAL SENTENCE

Celebrant: 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*)

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

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

**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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Refrain:
***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth***

Lord God, heav'nly King; to you O God we sing.
We worship, thank and praise you for your glory. **R**

Christ, the Father's Son, the lamb, God's chosen one.
You cleanse and take away our sin, have mercy. **R**

At your Father's side, you sit with pow'r and might.
You take away our sin, receive our prayer. **R**

Spirit, Father, Son all holy, you are One.
To You be all the glory, praise and honour. **R**

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day BCP page 158

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (sit)

First Reading: Isaiah 62: 6 - 12

Psalm 97 Paraphrased (All sit)

Refrain: A light will shine on us this day; the Lord is born for us.

1. The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; Let the many isles he glad.
The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory. **R**

2. Light dawns for the just; and gladness, for the upright of heart.
Be glad in the Lord, you just, and give thanks to his Holy name. **R**

Second Reading: Titus 3:4 - 7

Sequence Hymn: 62 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

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

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

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

The Alleluia is sung before and after the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alle, alle, alle, alleluia!
Alle, alle, alle, alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alle, alle, alle, alleluia!
Alle, alle, alle, alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Invitation Form

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**All: Our souls will feast and be satisfied, and we will sing glad
 songs of praise to him.**

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

Hymn 82 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 tonight.

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.

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.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

What child is this

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.**

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

**All: From which a million voices rise to you in hope,
 love and joy.**

Celebrant: The Word dwelt with God

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

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. **R**

Celebrant:

Eucharistic Rite 'A' (BCP page 135)

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 (*Traditional Jamaican Revival Melody*)

Our father, who art in Zion

Hallowed, be thy name

Thy Kingdom come on earth, they will be done on earth

Hallowed, be thy name

Give us this day o Lord, Our daily Bread.

Hallowed, be thy name

Forgive our sins we pray, as we forgive others

Hallowed, be thy name

And lead us not O lord, into temptation

Hallowed, be thy name

Deliver us O Lord, from every evil

Hallowed, be thy name

For thine the kingdom, the pow'r and glory

Hallowed, be thy name

Amen, amen, amen; amen it shall be so

Hallowed, be thy name

COMMUNION

BREAKING OF BREAD

Celebrant: This is the true bread that comes from heaven.

All: Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

grant us peace.

Gospel: Luke 2: (1 - 7), 8 - 20

Sermon: Rev. Canon Sirrano Kitson

The Nicene Creed BCP page 104

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Celebrant: We pray for Christ Catholic Church ...

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

All: Lord, grant us peace.

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

All: Lord, grant us peace.

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

All: Lord, grant us peace.

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

All: Lord, grant us peace.

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

All: 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.

All: 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.

All: 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.

All: 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

All: Lord, grant us peace.

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

All: Lord, grant us peace.

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.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

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.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ you said to your ... (BCP 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.

OFFERING OF THE EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE

Hymn 91 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 mind);
"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 Saviour, 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 swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who 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."

Remain Standing

PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE:

Father, we offer 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

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A11: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give you thanks, Father almighty, everlasting God... the glory of your name.

SANCTUS

Refrain:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might (Repeat)