

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



**Bishop’s Message Cont’d**

“One of the Old Testament readings for Christmas Day is from Isaiah 9:2-7 which is grounded in the life of a people whose experience reflected contrasting images of light and darkness. Let me quote selected verses from that reading:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah prophesied to people who were caught in deep fear as Assyria had become the dominant power and was systematically taking control of the region. It seems incredible that in the context of the military threat that these people faced, the birth of a baby could be a source of assurance.

As we observe Christmas this year as a nation and as a community of faith, many do so without any sense of anticipation and excitement. Many people feel hopelessness and despair about life in our nation and the prospects for the future.

Others see Christmas as a little escape from the harsh realities of life. Yet, if you leave behind for a moment our contemporary challenges and Christmas and go back to the story of the first Christmas, you will see that it contains similar themes of despair, suffering, pain, isolation, rejection, and abandonment, and the most lowly of human circumstances.

Luke 2:1-14 sets out for us the event which is at the heart of our celebration of Christmas. Joseph and Mary, expectant parents, like any normal parents-to-be, have wonderful plans for the birth of their child, but find instead, that they are relegated to the place with the animals. Does this not sound like the conditions under which pregnant women are giving birth in Gaza today?

With all of the hardship, gloom and anguish, there is cause for celebration as new life breaks forth, and we are then introduced to the central figure of Christmas, the baby Jesus. At the heart of Christmas stands an infant who from his birth was treated as an outsider, excluded, and on the fringe. It was an infant who from the outset faced the evil and the murderous intention of Herod.

**PARISH NEWS**

**Birthdays for this week:** Beverly Robinson-Muir 31/12, Rev. Robert Green. Rev. Justin Nembhard, Rocheke Blake, Norma Allen and Pauline Christie 01/01, Monica Thomas and David Francis 02/01, Christene Johnson-Kelly and Khristian McKenzie-Marley 03/01, Beverley Evans, Polmae Thompson, Dawn Fuller-Phillips Brandon Henry, Christine McDonald 05/01, Rev. Horace Richards, Paulette and Pauline Thompson 06/01.

**Condolence is** extended to the families of Rev. Alton Tulloch, Hazel Bell, Rhema Samuels and Myrtle Gordon.

**The Church’s Annual Congregational meeting** will be held on January 26, 2020, after the 8:00 a.m. service.

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
December 31, 2023 Year B**

**360th Anniversary Celebration of the Mission and Ministry  
of St. Andrew Parish Church**

**6:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST**  
Old Testament: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 Betty-Ann Jones  
Psalm 147: 13 - 21 BCP page 662 (*All sit*)  
*Refrain “Praise the Lord, who heals the broken hearted”*  
Epistle Galatians 3:23 - 25; 4:4 - 7 Marcia Palmer  
Gospel John 1:1 - 18 Intercession

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

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	<b>No Services on New Year's Day</b>
Jan. 6	9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - <b>The Epiphany</b>
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 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist
Jan. 28	<b>Congregational Meeting</b>

**The Altar Guild** wishes to thank all those who donated Poinsettia.

**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 pm. Tickets are available at the gate, \$3,500.

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

**Readings for Jan. 7, 2024 Year B: Genesis 1: 1 - 5, Psalm 29 ,  
New Testament Acts 19: 1 - 7, Mark 1:4 - 11.**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Entrance Hymn 73** Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

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|--|--|
| <p><b>1.</b> Joy to the world, the Lord is come!<br/>Let earth receive her King;<br/>Let every heart prepare Him room,<br/>And Heaven and nature sing,<br/>And Heaven and nature sing,<br/>And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.</p>        | <p><b>3.</b> No more let sins and sorrows grow,<br/>Nor thorns infest the ground;<br/>He comes to make His blessings flow<br/>Far as the curse is found,<br/>Far as the curse is found,<br/>Far as, far as, the curse is found.</p>          |
| <p><b>2.</b> Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!<br/>Let men their songs employ;<br/>While fields and floods, rocks, hills<br/>and plains<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.</p> | <p><b>4.</b> He rules the world with truth and<br/>grace,<br/>And makes the nations prove<br/>The glories of His righteousness,<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders, and wonders, of His<br/>love.</p> |

**SEASONAL SENTENCE**

The people who walked in darkness ... *Isaiah 9:2*

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

**All: And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks for the Nativity of our Lord. Alleluia

**All: Through whose life salvation shines. Alleluia**

Celebrant: The Word was made flesh and lived among us. Alleluia

**All: And we have seen His glory. Alleluia**

Celebrant: The light of the grace of God has appeared for the Salvation of all.  
Alleluia

**All: All people who believe will manifest the Light of God's grace.  
Alleluia Alleluia**

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**ALL: 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.**

**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 ... **Amen.**

**The Collect For The First Sunday After Christmas Day** (BCP page 159)

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD** (*All Sit*)

**First Reading** Isaiah 61: 10 - 62:3 Rachel Kitson

**Psalms** 147 Paraphrased **Chanted** (**All sit**)

**Refrain: Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

Praise the LORD, for he is good;  
sing praise to our God, for he is gracious;  
it is fitting to praise him.  
The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;  
the dispersed of Israel he gathers. **R**

He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
He tells the number of the stars;  
he calls each by name. **R**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
to his wisdom there is no limit.  
The Lord sustains the lowly;  
the wicked he casts to the ground. **R**

Epistle Galatians 3: 23 - 25; 4: 4 - 7 Kristen Elliott

**Faith Formation and Christian Education**

**Did you Know?**

During the era of slavery in Jamaica, the celebrations of Christmas among the enslaved population were a blend of various cultural influences and traditions. Enslaved individuals, often granted a brief respite from their arduous labour during the holiday season, utilized this time to engage in a mix of African and European customs. They incorporated elements of their African heritage into festivities, including music, dance, and storytelling, alongside participation in Christian rituals introduced by missionaries and slave owners. Jonkonnu came out of this experience. These celebrations were often a rare opportunity for enslaved individuals to briefly embrace their cultural roots, attend church services, sing hymns, and gather in community, fostering a sense of unity and spiritual connection despite the oppressive circumstances of slavery.

**Quote for reflection**

“Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited. But because he cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, and yet he must be in it, his place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, tortured, exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst.” ~ *Thomas Merton, “The Time of the End Is the Time of No Room”*

**Question for reflection**

How does the idea of Christ being "uninvited" and yet present resonate with me?

**SICK AND SHUT - IN**

Percival Lynch (Priest)	Myrtle Young	Isla Salmon
Neville Hendricks	Carol Lawla	Donald Smalling
Heron Wright	Veta Coke	Rema Watt
Ermine Williams	Carole Haughton	Lois Owen

***Kindly inform the Church Office when you become aware of members who are ill at home, in hospital, or absent from Church for a while.***

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!

### 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.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** Jesus born (Mi nuh drink coffee tea)

1. Praise de Lawd shout fi joy Jesus born  
Angels sing loud and high Jesus born  
On dat mornin so long ago,  
In a stable so mean and low  
Jesus Christ, Son of God He was born!

2. Christmas morning is here shout fi joy  
Children sing loud and clear, it's a boy  
Ring the bells blow di trumpets loud  
Sing a song, come on strong and proud  
Spread the word tell the wor'l Jesus born!

3. Hallelujah to God Jesus born  
One big star shine like mad when Him born  
And God's glory was everywhere  
When he sent us His son to share,  
Glory, Glory to God Jesus born.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you**

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen**

*The Alleluia is sung before and after the Gospel.*

### Before the Gospel:

Alle, alle, alle, alleluia!

Alle, alle, alle, alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia

### After the Gospel:

Alle, alle, alle, alleluia!

Alle, alle, alle, alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 2:22 - 40

**Sermon:** The Most Rev. Howard Gregory

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP

page 104

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Leader:** Holy and lowly One, Jesus, Friend and brother, we rejoice in your coming among us. You come down to lift us up, You come as the light to our darkness; we welcome and adore you. We pray for your church throughout the world; may we reveal your saving power and abide in your love. We pray for the work of the church among the poor and the outcasts of our world. We pray for the clergy in this diocese, Howard, our Archbishop; Leon and Garth, Suffragan Bishops; Sirrano, Bertram, Claude, Andrea, and all other clergy and church workers.

*King of glory, come to earth*

**All: Lift us up into your kingdom**

**Leader:** Prince of peace, we pray for peace in the Holy Land; for peace among nations and goodwill throughout the world. Lord of the nations we pray for our nation and our leaders. We pray for Patrick, Governor General; Andrew, Prime Minister; Mark, Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition; Members of the House of Representatives, and the Judiciary, that they may serve justice, protect and safe-guard our human rights.

*King of glory, come to earth*

**All: Lift us up into your kingdom**

**Leader:** Lord, born in Bethlehem, we pray for our families, for all with whom we share this Christmas time: we rejoice in their love and your love for us all. For the communities to which we belong and the places where we work that we may know the presence of your peace. We remember absent friends and loved ones, all who will be alone this Christmas time.

*King of glory, come to earth*

**All: Lift us up into your kingdom**

**Leader:** At this time of joy and rejoicing we remember all who are sad, all whose lives are full of sorrow, fear or darkness. We pray for all who are in care, in hospital or in a hospice, we remember those who have no home and will have restless sleep this night. We pray especially for friends and loved ones who are ill...

*King of glory, come to earth*

**All: Lift us up into your kingdom**

**Leader:** We rejoice with all who have entered into the fullness of your presence, all who are at peace in your kingdom. We pray for friends and loved ones departed...

*King of glory, come to earth*

**All: Lift us up into your kingdom**

**Leader:** Lord of life we pray for those who are celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversary.

**All: Lift us up into your kingdom**

Silence is Kept

### INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER

**All: Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have awakened Your church to hear again the call of our Saviour Jesus Christ to come to Him and learn from Him. Grant that as we say 'yes' to His call to discipleship, your Holy Spirit will enable us so completely to commit all the areas of our lives to His service, that in our personal, family and church lives, our work, recreational and social lives, we would act as Jesus would have acted if He were in our place; in His name and for His sake we pray.**

Celebrant: Create in us clean hearts O God and renew us with your Holy Spirit. In penitence and faith let us confess our sins to almighty God.

**All: Merciful God, our maker and our Redeemer we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed: we have not love you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as our selves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Refrain:

**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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

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." **R**

### 67 Good Christian friends, rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ was 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 has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

## 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.

### 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:

#### 588 Hail true body born of Mary

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

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

O sweetest Jesu,  
O gracious Jesu,  
O Jesu, blessed Mary's Son.

#### 507 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.

## THE ABSOLUTION: Almighty God , have mercy on you...

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles...

### 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.**

*During the sharing of peace the following chorus is sung*

*Peace and lo-lo-lo-lo-love goodwill to all men*

*Peace and lo-lo-lo-lo-love, goodwill to all men*

*Peace and lo-lo-lo-lo-love,*

*to all God's children*

*For God sits on the throne,*

*God sits on the throne.*

### OFFERING OF THE EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE

**Offertory Hymn:** Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Medley of Hymns)

**1. Angels from the realms of glory,** **2. Shepherds in the field abiding,**  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;      Watching o'er your flocks by night  
Ye who sang creation's story,      God with man is now residing,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.      Yonder shines the infant light. **R**

#### Refrain

*Come and worship, come and worship*

*Worship Christ, the new born King.*

**1. Angels we have heard on high**      **2. Come to Bethlehem and see**  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,      Him whose birth the angels sing;  
And the mountains in reply      Come, adore on bended knee  
Echoing their joyous strains.      Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **R**

#### Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**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**

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 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**

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

PRESIDENT: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PRESIDENT:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ... to proclaim 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)**

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.. in songs of everlasting praise:

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

**PRESIDENT: AS OUR SAVIOR TAUGHT US, SO WE PRAY:**

**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**