

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2025 - Lectionary Year A

6:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST

Old Testament	Isaiah 7:10 - 16	Milton Samuda
Psalms 80:1 - 7, 16 - 18	Refrain: <i>"I am the Lord your God, hear my voice."</i>	
Epistle	Romans 1: 1 - 7	Jennifer Goodison
Gospel	Matthew 1: 18 - 25	
Prayer of Intercession	Form D page 111	

8:00 a.m. SOLEMN EUCHARIST AND SERMON

Processional	40 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes
<i>The lighting of the Advent Wreath</i>	
Old Testament	Isaiah 7:10 - 16 Daniel Sutherland
Psalms 80:1 - 7, 16 - 18	Refrain: <i>"I am the Lord your God, hear my voice."</i>
Epistle	Romans 1: 1 - 7 Chad Wright
Gradual	Light of the world (See flysheet)
Gospel	Matthew 1: 18 - 25
Sermon	Amanda Hutchinson
The Creed	See flysheet
Prayers of Intercession	Form D page 111
Offertory	379 Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer
During Communion	Purify my heart, Create in me a clean heart, Lord I give you my heart. See flysheet
Recessional	529 Lord, the light of your love is shining

5:30 p.m. Carols, Lessons and Poetry

Advent Prayer

O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness, in this Holy Season, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory, enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of the Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise to advance your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

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Chapel of Ease:

St. Thomas Mission - Majesty Gardens and St. Clement's Mission - Kencot



CLERGY

Rector The Very Revd. Canon Sirrano Kitson, D. Min.

Supplementary Clergy Revd. Fr. Claude Campbell

Wardens

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Mrs. Andrea Hunter

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!

Celebrant: (+) 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.**

Birthdays for this week: Noel Anderson and Lorna White 22/12, Nicola Elliott and Monique Bowie 23/12, 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.

Condolence is extended to the family of Sister Alvarine Roberts (Sis Jem). To Carol Cuffley and family on the passing of her sister, June Saunders. To Marva Bernard and family on the passing of her brother, Huntley Green. To Hortense James and family on the passing of her brother-in-law, Winston Powell.

Gift Day - We are encouraging those who can send their gift by money transfer to do so, just put '**Gift**' in the comment line.

The Office cell. #'s are, Flow 876-792-6113 and Digi. 876-847-1749

Carol Service will be held today, December 21, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. We ask for your contribution of \$1,000 towards the music ministry of our church.

The Altar Guild is expressing their gratitude to all who gave contributions towards the **Poinsettias**. Also Poinsettias were given in memory of John and Marie Isaacs, Errol and Alice Alberga, Madge Phillips, Una Samms, Basil and Rose Lynch and Heron Wright.

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. 22 - 28

Dec. 23rd	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Dec. 24th	Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Eve
Dec. 26th	NO SERVICE.		Public Holiday

WE PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR....

Percival Lynch	(Priest)	Blossom Williams	Raymond Shaw
Paul Sharpe	(Priest)	Marjory Stewart	Myrtle Young
John Greaves		Richard Neckles	Carol Lawla
Emily Hemmings		Gwen Waugh	Carole Haughton

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?

Parish Group reports are due by 1st. Sunday in January.

Readings for Dec. 28, 2025 Year A: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147:13-21, Galatians 3:23 - 25; 4:4 - 7; John 1:1 - 18.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

Message from the readings:

In the Isaiah reading, there is a prophetic announcement that deliverance will come to the people of Israel. This deliverance will be made possible by the love of God. Through the birth of a child and by the time he becomes aware of certain facts of life, this deliverance would have taken place. This is a message of hope, joy, peace and love that the people of Israel could bank on.

This Old Testament passage can be viewed as another announcement of salvation to the king of Israel and the people of Judah as it relates to the near future. It shows God's ability to act on behalf of God's people. The word to them is that by the time a child is born and old enough to know good from evil, the kings from other nations who are threatening Judah would have been destroyed.

The passage is one instance in which a baby being born as a sign of hope. Ahaz was told by the prophet to ask for a sign but refused to do so. The people were told by the prophet that the child would be a sign of God's deliverance from those attempting to disrupt their peace. The name of the child 'Immanuel' would be a reminder to the people that God is always with them.

The Epistle reading covers the greetings to the people of Rome. Here the writer acknowledges belief in the same Lord that the believers in Rome proclaim, that is Jesus Christ who is from the line of David. The writer believed to be Paul would have never been to Rome and would therefore need to establish that he is of the same faith.

The greeting also places emphasis on the incarnation of Christ, born of the flesh and Son of God who has power and the Spirit of holiness. Paul says how the gospel brought to the world through Jesus who gives grace to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles. The recipients of the letter are recognized as those called to belong to Jesus, God's people in Rome who are called to be saints. The writer understands therefore that all believers by virtue of their faith are of service.

In the gospel reading, the love of God would come into the world through Mary who would give birth to the Saviour. It was the love that Joseph had for Mary that he tried to put her away secretly, to save her any embarrassment. It was also the love of God that made it known to Joseph that Mary was a part of God's salvation plan to redeem the world. It is this Love of God that gives us forgiveness, peace, joy and hope.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2025

Dec. 14 - 21	Gift Days
Dec. 21	6:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
	8:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist
	5:30 pm. Carol Service
Dec. 24	11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve - Solemn Eucharist
Dec. 25	8:00 a.m. Christmas Day - Sung Eucharist
Dec. 28	6:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist -Christmas Sunday -Holy Innocents
	8:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist -Christmas Sunday- Holy Innocents
Dec. 31	11:00 p.m. Watch Night Service
Jan. 4	6:30 a.m. New Year Sunday - Holy Eucharist
	8:00 a.m. New Year Sunday - Solemn Eucharist
Jan. 6	9:00 a.m. The Epiphany
Jan. 11	6:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Baptism of Our Lord
	8:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist - Baptism of Our Lord
Jan. 25	8:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting
Feb. 8	Provincial Sunday

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)

Bank Name: Bank of New York, New York
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

Songs for December 21, 2025

Light of the world, **You stepped down into darkness**

1. Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Refrain: So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God!
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me!

2. King of all days, Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in Heaven above,
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor. **R**

Bridge I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross!
I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross!

Creed

I believe in Jesus
I believe He is the Son of God
I believe He died and rose again
I believe He paid for us all

I believe in You, Lord
I believe You are the Son of God
I believe You died and rose again
I believe You paid for us all.

And I believe He is here now
Standing in our midst
Here With the power to heal now
And the grace to forgive

And I believe You're here now
Standing in our midst
Here With the power to heal now
And the grace to forgive

During Communion
Purify my heart,

1. Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold

Refrain:
Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will

2. Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within. **R**

Create in me a clean heart

Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me

2. Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord
And take not Thy holy spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

Lord I give you my heart

This is my desire
To honour You
Lord with all my heart
I worship You
All I have within me
I give You praise
All that I adore
Is in You

Lord I give You my heart
I give You my soul
I live for You alone
Every breath that I take
Every moment I'm awake
Lord have Your way in me