

The Sower

Advent/Christmas 2025

A Newsletter for the Anglican Parish of Douglas & Nashwaaksis

HOPE

I WAIT FOR THE
LORD, MY
WHOLE BEING
WAITS, AND
IN HIS WORD
I PUT MY HOPE.

PSALM 130:5

PEACE

... MY PEACE
I GIVE YOU.
I DO NOT GIVE
TO YOU AS THE
WORLD GIVES.
DO NOT LET
YOUR HEARTS
BE TROUBLED
AND DO NOT
BE AFRAID.

JOHN 14:27

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter the Season of Advent, my thoughts turn to a verse which we read recently in church. Nearing the end of his life, Paul wrote:

“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8)

“Advent” and “appearing” are closely related in meaning. The first Advent refers to when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Scripture teaches us that Jesus is eternal, so his birth was not his beginning. Rather, it was when he appeared on earth in human form. We call that his incarnation.

Advent Season is intended to be a time when we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and prepare our hearts to worship the newborn King. Allowing ourselves to get too busy with baking, shopping and all the other festivities can easily rob us of the joy of Christmas.

However, Paul’s words in the verse above are not referring to Jesus’ birth. Rather, they point us to the Second Advent, when Jesus will appear again. Paul was longing for that day. He knew that he had been faithful to his Lord, and he was anticipating being rewarded, according to Jesus’ promise recorded in Matthew 16:27:

“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”

Advent 1 – Hope
November 30, 2025
@ 10:30AM
Renewal of
Layreaders’ Covenant



Advent 4 – Love
December 21, 2025
@ 10:30AM
Christmas Program
“A Super Christmas”

JOY

“DO NOT
BE AFRAID:
I BRING YOU
GOOD NEWS
THAT WILL CAUSE
**GREAT JOY
FOR ALL THE
PEOPLE**

LUKE 2:10

LOVE

THIS IS LOVE:
NOT THAT WE
LOVED GOD, BUT
THAT HE LOVED
US AND SENT
**HIS SON AS AN
ATONING
SACRIFICE FOR
OUR SINS.**

1 JOHN 4:10



Paul was not just longing for a reward from his Master. He was longing to see Jesus come back in power and glory to establish his Kingdom and usher in a new heaven and a new earth.

We don't hear many sermons on the Second Coming of Christ. Perhaps that's an indication that we are happy as things are now and are in no hurry to see it all end. But end it will, at some point. We don't know God's timetable. Jesus could come today! Or he may not come for another thousand years. We know that Jesus' first coming was on schedule, as Paul wrote in Galatians 4:4-5:

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”

We can be sure that his Second Coming will also be on time. The long wait is not an indication of any uncertainty on God's part. Rather, as Peter explained in 2 Peter 3:9:

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

As we go through this Season of Advent, let's remind ourselves of these truths. May our hearts not just long for Christmas, but like Paul may we also long for the day when Jesus will come again.

Blessings,

Nancy Stephens
Warden



CHRIST

**SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON,
AND YOU ARE TO GIVE HIM THE NAME JESUS,
BECAUSE HE **WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.****

Matthew 1:21

St. John's Church
Shared Meal &
Christmas Decorating Party
November 28th 5:30PM



Blue Christmas Service
Information to follow soon!

**A Service for those
struggling with loss this Christmas.**



A Super Christmas

Presented by The St. John the Evangelist Nashwaaksis
Theatrical Production Company Inc.
Sunday, December 21st @ 10:30AM Service



Advent and Christmas Services

November 30th @ 10:30AM: Advent 1 (Hope) – Renewal of Layreaders' Covenant
December 7th @ 10:30AM: Advent 2 (Peace)
December 14th @ 10:30AM: Advent 3 (Joy)
December 21st @ 10:30AM: Advent 4 (Love) – Christmas Program
December 24th @ 10:00AM: Traditional Christmas Eve Service
December 24th @ 1:30PM: Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24th @ 7:00PM: Contemporary Christmas Eve Service
December 25th @ 11:00AM: Christmas Day Service

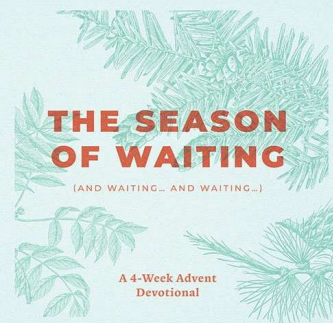
Merry Christmas!





The Season of Waiting (and waiting... and waiting...)

Advent Devotional by Kate Bowler
Available for free at: katebowler.com/advent



The Advent of Healing

Advent Reflections by Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred
Available for free at:
alongsidehope.org/advent2025



2025 Advent Series of Music and Message

Finding the Light

In the Darkness of December

Christ Church (Parish Church)
 245 Westmorland Street, Fredericton

MUSIC

'La Serenata'

Dorothy Brzezicki, Concert Harp & Sean O'Brien, Cello

December 3

MESSANGER:

Rev. Greg Geldart

The Elm City String Quartet
 "Christmas for Strings"

December 10

Canon Albert Snelgrove

Trio Carols of the Season

December 17

Bishop Bill Hockin

Alice Boyd, piano; Justine Everett, voice; Douglas Vipond, clarinet

Wednesdays at 12:10pm.

All Welcome

