

HOPE



December 3, 2017

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
9:00 am Contemporary Eucharist (BAS)
11:00 am Choral Eucharist (BCP)



*Hearing assistive receivers (stethoscope/earphones) are available from the sidespersons.
Large print hymn and prayer books available at the back of the church.*

Setting *Mass in C* *Gounod*

Processional Hymn 60 *Lo! He comes with clouds descending* *Hefmsley*

Lighting of the Advent Candle for Hope *(see insert)*

Children are invited to go downstairs to Sunday School following the lighting of the Advent Candle.

Collect for Purity (67)
Two Great Commandments (69)
Kyrie Eleison (70)

Collect (95)
Epistle (95)

Holy Gospel (96)

Nicene Creed (71)

Hymn 61 *Jesus came, the heavens adoring* *St. Thomas*

Sermon *Rev'd Dr. Barbara Sykes*

Offertory Hymn 65 *Hark the glad sound* *Richmond*

Intercession, Thanksgiving, and Consecration (75-84)

Motet at the Ablutions There is no rose of such virtue

Ellis

Post Communion Prayers and Blessing (85-86)

Recessional Hymn 72 The mighty God, the Lord hath spoken

St. Clement

Organ Voluntary O come Thou Saviour of the Gentiles

Bach

Please join us for coffee hour following the service downstairs in Thompson Hall. This is a great opportunity to greet newcomers and old friends.

Sidespeople

Mary and James Guy

Readers

Ian Hornsby and Peter Huck

Chalice-bearers

Ken Edwards, Doris M'Timkulu

Altar Guild

Gwyneth Watkins, Pam Gradwell

Altar Flowers

Elaine Dightam

Coffee Hour Hosts

Dinah and Gordon Bristowe

The flowers at the Altar today are to the glory of God and in memory of longtime friend and parishioner Ruth Johnston who contributed not only financially but through her art and humor.

Announcements for Sunday, December 3, 2017

TODAY

5:00 pm

***Advent Lessons and Carols, in Procession, by
Candlelight (Parish Choir)***

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday-Friday

8:45-9:15 am

Mattins (in church)

Tuesday

5:30-6:30 pm

Volunteer Choir Practice (in church)

Wednesday

10:30 am

Holy Eucharist (in church)

Thursday

4:45-5:15 pm

Youth Choir Practice (in church)

NEXT SUNDAY

Advent II

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist

9:00 am

Contemporary Eucharist

11:00 am

Choral Mattins with Litany

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Senior Christmas Luncheon and Carol Sing**, Thursday, December 14, 12 noon in Thompson Hall. A freewill offering will be taken to cover costs. Please confirm your attendance by e-mailing the church office stjohns@sentex.net or telephone, 519-846-5911. A sign-up sheet will be available at the back of church on Sunday.
- **Parish Volunteer Potluck**: As we wind down our celebration of Canada 150 and begin our Advent Season, it's a fitting time for fellowship for all who have given their time and talents to St. John's Church this year. In whatever capacity you have been called to serve and contribute to the vitality of our parish, let's gather together in celebration of the many blessings we enjoy as a parish community. Our Potluck Lunch will be held in Thompson Hall on **Monday, December 18th from noon until 2:00 pm**. Whatever you choose to contribute to the buffet table will be gratefully received, and please prepare your offering for 6-8 people. An RSVP would be much appreciated. Please email or call Charlotte Logan – charlotteloganis@yahoo.com/519-846-2763 or Suzanne Kienapple – suzannekienapple@hotmail.com/519.846.5029.
- **Bible Study for Advent** November 27th - December 18th, Mondays 6:30-8:00 pm in the Parish Centre. Theme: The Gospel Nativity account and the doctrine of the Incarnation. All welcome!
- Our annual service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** is Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 pm.

NEWS FOR THE PEWS

- **Treasurer's Update** - When considering your weekly offerings, please keep in mind general parish expenses. These include (among other things) payroll, utilities, telephone, caretaking and maintenance, office expenses and insurance. Actual general offerings trail budgeted general offerings by \$55,918 as of Nov 26, 2017. At this point in 2016, actual general offerings trailed budget by \$45,853. Pre-Authorized Payment plans help to ensure a consistent offering stream throughout the year to help us meet Parish expenses and also present an opportunity for the Parish to avoid significant bank fees. If you are considering enrolling for a Pre-Authorized Payment plan or if you would like to update an existing plan, please ask for the forms at the Parish Centre. Thank you.
- **St. John's Men's Club**: On Wednesday December 6th, our guest speaker will be member, Raj Arora, whose subject will be Exit Strategy - a sure footed way of leaving behind one's legacy and enable whomever is appointed executor to efficiently follow your wishes. An eye opener! And a vital source of information.
Please RSVP Norman Morris: norman.morris6@gmail.com or call 519-846-0796
- **Decorating for Christmas in our Church** Let the season begin! What a wonderful way to open the Christmas season. Come join the fun on **Thursday, December 14** beginning at **9 am**. Come along when you can, stay as long as you wish. Bring a smile and perhaps your favourite garden gloves and a pair of clippers. We will be stuffing wreaths with greenery, decorating the doors, the baptismal font, the front of the altar and the Plinth (the white stand which is sometimes placed inside our entrance). Many hands make light work. And it's fun, too! OUR work will be a beautiful tribute to our Lord. (Bonus! The Christmas luncheon and carol sing will be happening at

noon in Thompson Hall. Good timing!)

Please contact Dawn (phone or text) at 519-831-8816 to let her know that you'll be coming along.

- **2018 Calendars** We have a limited supply of church calendars, Canadian Church Calendar and Anglican Church Calendar. Cost is \$7. Available at the church office.
- Copies of the latest edition of our parish newsletter, **Common Supplications**, are available at the back of the church. If you are on our parish mailing list, your copy has been mailed to you. The newsletter is also available on our website www.stjohnselora.ca
- **Visitor's envelopes** are available at the back of the church and in the pews.

OUTREACH

- **A community friend in need** - Do you have a medium-sized woman's winter coat and/or snow boots (size 9-11) that you no longer need? If so, please speak to one of the clergy and they will ensure your donation gets to it where it would be most gratefully received. Many thanks.
- **Our contribution to our local Food Bank's Hamper Program is a St. Johns Christmas tradition. This year we are being asked to participate in a different way.....**
Recognizing that clients are often unable to take full advantage of the hamper items provided due to food sensitivities or health restrictions, the Centre Wellington Food bank is adopting a different approach this year. Rather than receiving the traditional Christmas food hamper, their clients will receive a Freshco gift card which will enable them to shop for those food items that best suit the needs of their own family. In addition, clients will not have the indignity of being set apart, standing in a charitable receiving line but can choose their own foods as others do. The Food Bank is asking for a cash donations to help offset the cost of the grocery gift cards. Rather than having to shop for food items for the Christmas hamper, you can make your contribution by indicating the dollar amount designated to go to the Food Bank on your church envelope or the visitor envelopes found in the pews. The amount will be included on your year-end charitable donation receipt from St. John's. The funds will be collected in an internal trust fund within the Parish bank account and then sent off to Centre Wellington Food Bank to meet their Holiday deadline. The total given by the Parish will be reported on within the year-end financial statements. Our goal as a parish is to reach \$900.00 by December 15th (the equivalent value of our Christmas food contribution last year) to support this important community outreach.
Please keep in mind that the need for donations of food items continues throughout the year and your contributions can be left in the donation box located in the church entrance. Thank you for opening your hearts to this worthwhile cause in support of our community.
- **News from our Kenya Connections:** The promised update on Leah and Angeline missed the deadline for *Common Supplications*. In brief: Leah is just completing ten days of bar examinations at the end of her time at the Kenya School of Law. After six months of internship (pupillage) she will be admitted to the bar.
Angie graduated on Nov. 24: "I am so happy I got First Class honors. You are part of

my success because without your support this achievement would not have been possible. Kindly do let the folks at St. John's know how grateful I am. How I wish I could tell them this in person but all is well." Her Uncle, William Ogara, says: Angeline has done us proud by scoring First Class honors degree in Bachelor of Commerce-Finance Option." Anna Ogara has reached the end of her treatment in Mumbai, chemotherapy and surgery. She is doing quite well and prays for a positive ending at the follow-up tests in February.

- **Advent Reflections form PWRDF:** You can subscribe to get daily reflections into your inbox at <http://pwrdf.org/resources/seasonal/>, or you may download the full booklet here: <http://pwrdf.org/uploads/555/advent2017.pdf>.
- **Update from St. John's Refugee Support Group:** The committee has been in contact with local sponsors to assess the needs of Centre Wellington refugees, and has decided on the disbursement of the current balance (approx. \$800) of the Refugee Support Fund. These funds will be donated to the sponsored families of St. Andrew's Fergus for Driver Training expenses, and Elora United's Project Welcome to assist with their fundraising to bring additional family members to Canada.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing generosity of the congregation of St. John's, and we encourage your continuing support for these new "Canadians".

Your donations should be marked "St John's Refugee Support Fund", and tax receipts are available.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Did you know the **Quilters and Knitters** meet on Wednesday morning at 9:30 am to noon for a social and creative time in the Parish Centre? We work on prayer shawls as well as quilts and other items made for sale. Check out the cabinet in Thompson Hall to see items for sale. All monies raised through sale of crafts are returned to the church. Come and join us!
- Join us in **Prayers for the Parish** at 10:30 am every Sunday in the Church office.

OUT AND ABOUT

- An annual winter rite in Elora, **Handel's Messiah** is one of the most cherished choral works for the Christmas season. With his own distinct interpretation, conductor Noel Edison brings this score to life! December 10th at 3:30 pm, St. Joseph's Church, Fergus. Tickets: www.elorasingers.ca or 519-846-0331. At door ticket purchases on December 10th also available.
- **Blackberry Bog Christmas Trees** Come out to our farm to harvest your own tree, \$35.00. Proceeds to all three church choirs. Open weekends. South on Elora Rd. (#7) several Km, turn left at bottom of first big hill at 2nd Line. Next right on to 6th Sideroad, then 2 km to sign on road. (519) 843-5915