



# Jesus

*Luke 1:32*  
*He shall be great, and shall be called  
the Son of the Highest.*

December 5, 2019

Dear Beloved Members of St. Paul's Parish Family:

Greetings in the Name of the One who was and is and is to come!

It's a great joy to write this Advent letter to you! "Advent" comes from the Latin word, *advenire*, which means to arrive or come. It marks the beginning of a new Church Year, and exciting beginnings and new possibilities. As I was reflecting on this recently, I was struck by how, in Holy Scripture and the prayers and hymns of the Church, the invitation to "come" sheds light on what these beginnings and possibilities can be for us.

The Book of Revelation, for example, ends with the words, "Come, Lord Jesus." At the beginning of the Season of Advent, we're invited to focus on the Second Coming of our Lord, which proclaims the wonderful truth that, though the darkness may appear so strong, Jesus, the Light of the world, is stronger. As John says in his Gospel: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never, ever be able to put it out."

One of the best-loved hymns of Advent, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," which is based on the ancient prayers called the "O Antiphons," reminds us of the focus of the last part of the Advent Season, our Lord's coming to this world, being born in Bethlehem, to be our "Emmanuel," God with us – and that the fact that the Lord is come is – as the wonderful Christmas hymn proclaims – joy to the world.

In Revelation, Jesus says, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me." This reminds us that all of Advent is about allowing Jesus to come and be born in our hearts, as our Saviour, Christ, the Lord.

In Matthew's Gospel, on which we're now focussing in Year A of the Lectionary, Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." This reminds us that Advent is about our coming as well – coming to Jesus, lost and needing to be found by the Good Shepherd, starving and needing to be fed by the Bread of life. It also reminds us that in the midst of the struggles and storms of life, Jesus invites us to come to him and receive refreshment.

And in John's Gospel, Philip invites Nathaniel to "Come and see" Jesus. This reminds us that Advent is also a wonderful opportunity to extend the invitation to our families, neighbours, and friends to "come and see" what is going on at St. Paul's, and be caught up in the wonder of what we're celebrating.

There are indeed so many wonderful activities at St. Paul's this Advent and Christmas, each of which celebrates one or another of these aspects of the invitation to "come." The list includes our Sunday morning Advent Services, with the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love; Sunday Evening Celtic Service on Amma Susan; Advent Wednesday Morning and Evening Studies, "Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph"; Christmas Dinner and Talent Show; Christmas Pageant, "The Story of Christmas;" Services of Lessons and Carols in our new building and Historic Chapel; Christmas Eve Family Service of Holy Eucharist; two Candlelight Christmas Eve Services of Holy Eucharist; and Service of Holy Eucharist on Christmas Day.

The times and dates of these activities are given on the back of this letter. As it says in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, God has spread a banquet before us, to fill our longing hearts, and calls, "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!" This Advent, I invite us all to "come" and partake deeply of all that God has for us! On behalf of myself, Cyril, Norman, Bob, and our families, I pray for God's blessings to be poured out upon you this Advent and Christmas Season.

Your Brother in Jesus,

# St. Paul's Anglican Church

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**We invite you and your friends and families to join us!**

## **Advent Services and Events 2019**

**Saturday, December 14**

Christmas Dinner and 7:00 pm Talent Show

**Sunday, December 15 "Advent 3"**

8:30 & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday School Christmas Pageant at 10 am service

**Sunday, December 23 "Advent 4"**

8:30 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Lessons & Carols Service

4:00 pm Traditional King's College Lessons and Carols  
at the Historic Chapel (14620 Macleod Trail SE, access from Bannister Rd.)

## **Christmas Services 2019**

**Christmas Eve**

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 pm Family Eucharist Candlelight

(with electric candles especially suitable for children)

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist Candlelight Service

10:30 pm Holy Eucharist Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day**

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

**Christmas 1**

Sunday, December 29