

St. Ambrose Anglican Church



Gladstone & Carmichael Roads Rector: Fr. Lynden Douglas

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Mission Statement

The Parish of St. Ambrose exists to be servants of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to build up the community of faith so that all may become whole persons in Christ.

Archbishop of The Province of The West Indies

The Most Rev'd Howard Gregory, B.A., S.T.M., S.T.D., D.D.

Diocesan Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Laish Boyd, B.A., D.D.

Assistant Bishops

The Most Rev'd Drexel W. Gomez, B.A., D.D., C.M.G.
The Rt. Rev'd Gilbert A. Thompson, C.M.G., S.Th., M.A., J.P

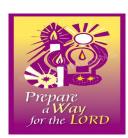
West Central Archdeaconry

The Venerable Dwight H. L. Rolle, B.A., S.T.M., J.P.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES



Sunday - 7:00 am Said Mass Sunday - 9:30 am Sung Mass Wednesday - 6:30 am Said Mass



Diocesan Theme

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 17th, 2023 - Year B Liturgical Colour - Purple/Rose Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service,
let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Introit Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending CPWI 46

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader: Last Sunday we lit the candle of *peace*. We light it and the candle of *hope* again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to judge the world and bring everlasting peace. (*light the candles of hope, and peace*.)

Reader: The **THIRD** candle of Advent is the candle of **JOY**. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour". Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so His presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them, and gave them hope and peace when they believed in Him. From hope, peace, and love, grows joy. We light the candle of **joy** to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through Him there will be everlasting joy on earth. (*light the-pink-candle of joy*)

Reader: Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ. Let us pray:

All: Thank you God for the joy You give us. We ask that as we wait for all Your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that You would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship You, to hear Your word, and to do Your will by sharing Your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Advent Carol (Hymn Tune We Have A Gospel to Proclaim)

These candles shine with glorious light, give peace and hope to those in night. The joy they bring give hope today, and peace through Christ, our Lord, always.

Give Joy, O Lord, to us this day, make in our hearts a ready way. That Christ, our Hope, our King, may come, into our hearts and make His home. (*Thomas F. Fischer*)

OPENING SENTENCE	ADVENT	Bcp 97
COLLECT FOR PURITY		BCP 101
THE KYRIES		BCP 102

THE COLLECTS

Advent III: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Advent I: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Reader: A Reading from Isaiah, chapter 61 verses 1 to 4 and to 8 to 11. The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord All: Thanks Be To God

(We pause for a moment of personal reflection on the reading)

PSALM 126

(The psalm is read responsively or sung by the choir and congregation)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Reader: A reading First Thessalonians, chapter 5 verses 16 to 24. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirt. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord All: Thanks Be To God

(The congregation stands for the singing of the Gradual Hymn)

Gradual Hymn

On Jordan's Bank

CPWI 42

(The following chorus is sung before the Gospel)

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the ancient words impart.
Ancient words ever true changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts, Oh let the ancient words impart.

THE HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

(All stand)

Gospeller: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ All: Praise to Christ our Lord

(The following chorus is sung after the Gospel)

Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope In this world, where e'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words ever true, changing me, and changing you. We have come with open hearts, Oh let the ancient words impart.

Sermon Canon Sebastian Campbell/Rev. Dr. Kari Marcelle

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

Intercessions Form C **BCP 108**

(intercessions will conclude with the Parish prayer)

PARISH PRAYER

O God, who has brought us into the fellowship of your dear Son, lead us all in St. Ambrose ever closer day by day to You and to one another, that we may become of one heart and mind in love toward You; and grant that our common life and work in sacrificial service may help to extend Your kingdom here where we are and in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Act of Penitence/The Peace

BCP 123-125

Hymn for the Peace

(please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY PRAYER: O Lord, watch over those persons who are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries. Bless and guide them wherever they may be; strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when they are discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace of God which passes all understanding abide with them on the anniversary of their birth and marriages, and all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PREPARATION

We prepare ourselves for the Feast

Congregation may remain seated for the singing of the Offertory Hymn, and stand during the last verse

Offertory

Rejoice! The Lord Is King CPWI 193

The following is sung during the Presentation of the Offerings

All things are Yours, no gifts have we; Lord of all gifts to offer Thee. And then with grateful hearts today, Your own before Your feet we lay. Amen.

Censing Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel CPWI 48

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

(The highest reverence is due - No Talking - No Movement)

THE SURSUM CORDA	BCP 126
THE PROPER PREFACE ADVENT	BCP 127
THE GREAT CONSECRATORY PRAYER FORM A	BCP 131
THE ACCLAMATION	
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 144
THE Breaking of Bread	BCP145
The Agnus Dei.	BCP 147

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please remain reverent as you move to receive communion)

We Share in His Feast

Communion Hymns	Here, O My Lord	CPWI 589
•	What a Friend We Have In Jesus	CPWI 491
	Give Me Oil In My Lamp	CPWI 546
POST-COMMUNION PRA	YER	Вср 147
THE BLESSING AND DIS	SMISSAL	Вср 149
Recessional Hymn	To God Be The Glory	CPWI 387

SYMBOLS AND MEANINGS

CANDLES are used on our altars during Mass and other services such as Evensong and Benediction. The early Church was driven by persecution underground in the catacombs; lamps and candles were the only sources of light. It was later used to symbolize the light of Christ, who is the Light of the world (*John 1:1-9; 8:12; 9:5*). At Easter, a special candle (Paschal Candle) is blessed and placed in the Sanctuary to affirm that not even the death of crucifixion could overcome the light of Christ (*John 1:5; 1 Corinthians 5:7*). The two candles on the altar at Mass symbolize the two natures of Christ - His Human and Divine Natures.

GENUFLECTING/BENDING THE KNEE is a sign of reverence and respect. Just as we bow/curtsy in the presence of royalty, we genuflect in the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Genuflection also reminds us of *Philippians 2:10* "at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow" (see also Isaiah 45:23).



Welcome to all worshipping with us. "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

VISITORS, we welcome you to our Church and greet you in the name and love of our mighty Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are delighted that you have come to share with us in this worship experience. If you do not have a Church home, we welcome you to come and be a part of our worshipping community.

MEMBERS, if you were away, it is good to have you back home and we give thanks to God for your safe return.



Our nation & community, the unemployed, the homeless, the sick and shut-in, the disabled, members who are abroad, those who are travelling, fishermen and farmers, teachers and students, the lapsed and indifferent members of our church, all those who have requested our prayers.

PRAYER: Almighty Father, we commend to Your loving care all who suffer, especially the sick in body and mind. Grant them patience in their suffering; strengthen and uphold them with the knowledge of Your love; and restore them to health and wholeness; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Members: Sabrina Bain, Pauline Bastian, Granville Brown, Barbara Chong, Jocelyn Munroe, Beverly Wallace-Whitfield

RELATIVES & FRIENDS: Willimena Allen (Aunt of Kenva Mullings), Ken Bethel, Peter Bowe, LaShay Brown (Daughter of Lenora Brown), Marvin Cooper (Brother of Bradley Cooper), Natalia Cowderoy (Daughter of Natalie Duncombe), Clara Cox (Mother of Robert Cox), Jeffery Cox (Cousin of Sherry Walkine), Theron Hepburn (Brother-inlaw of Carol Roach), Samuel Hunter (Father of Kenva Roxbury, Samantha Hunter, Shantia Goodwin-Davies), Bernadette Ingraham (Sister of Bridgette Ingraham), Sandra Kemp, Alexander Knowles, Vanria Lightbourne (Sister of Cheyvonne & Cheryl Bethel), Logan McCaulsky, Benjamin Miller (Husband of Anya Miller), Oswald (Sr.) & Betty Nixon (Parents of Brian Nixon), Sylvia Pinder, Innis Robinson, Archdeacon Dwight Rolle, Steven & Helen Rolle, Ollie Sands (Sister of Cleo Hepburn), Canon Peter Scott, Maryann Sokal, Mazel Turnquest (Mother of Rochelle Turnquest), Almond Weech (Brother of Kenva Mullings)

RECOVERING MEMBERS: Alinda Bowe, Cheryl Bethel, Shanae Forbes, Suzette Hanna, Crystal Holder, Delores Johnson, Garnell Johnson, Isabella Jones, Joan Neymour, Frankie Smith

RECOVERING FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Louise Blyden (Veta Brown's sister), Lorelda Burrows, Coralee Butler, Andree Campbell (Daughter of Canon Sebastian Campbell), Gloria Goodridge, Cora Johnson, Errol Johnson, Errol Rolle, Ismae Smith, Aaron Spencer

SHUT-INS: Leaenza Beneby, Maeroni Black, Francine Val Bowe, Hazel Hunt, Petrona Major (Mother of Katherine Cartwright), Aura Maycock, Florence Pratt



We extend condolences and the assurance of our prayers to all who are grieving the loss of loved ones, and also those whose memories are called to mind at this time.

Clergy Exchange: We welcome Canon Sebastian Campbell, and Rev. Dr. Kari Marcelle, from St. Gregory The Great, as our celebrants and preachers, today.

Please note that we are now in the season of Advent, a time when no flowers will be placed on the altars. However, we are seeking contributions towards poinsettias and decorations for the Christmas season. Anyone wishing to contribute is most welcome to do so. All wishing to donate can do so via online banking or drop off at the office.



Jesse Tree: The deadline to return gifts and tags selected from the Jesse Tree is Friday, December 22nd.



Thank you to all those who continue to give via tithes and offering. Your gifts to the greater glory of God and commitment to Him and the work of His Church are graciously acknowledged.

Thanks to all who contributed flowers, to breakfast fellowship, to our social outreach, and in whatever way other way this past year.

2023 Annual Reports: Heads of organizations are asked to begin preparing annual reports, which are to include financial reporting. Reports are to be submitted electronically to stambrose@bahamasanglican.org by December 22nd, 2023.



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Friday, December 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

December 24th Mass - 7:00am & 9:30am Carol Singing & The First Mass of Christmas - 10:00pm

December 31st Mass - 7:00am & 9:30am

Carol Singing & New Year's Eve - 10:00pm

Tithes & Offerings or making financial contributions using online banking facilities, can be sent to St. Ambrose Anglican Church, Royal Bank of Canada JFK, Account 1002534, Transit Number: 05165



A Special Thank You to all who contributed in any way toward the preparations and celebrations of our Patronal Festival.

Wedding Anniversaries: Dec 18 - Ethan & Carolie Adderley; Dec 19 - Austin & Maeroni Black, Bacchus & Kimberley Rolle; Dec 20 - Timothy & Cozetta Johnson





Birthday Celebrants: Dec 17 - Mazie Russell, Jemma Smith; Dec 20 - Kalista Miller, Alexis Williamson; Dec 21 - Julie Harts, Bridgette Nixon, Julane Robinson; Dec 23 - Gennae Hepburn-Knowles, Ann Major

Readers for Advent Candle Lighting 7:00a.m. - Hazel Carroll & Janna White 9:30a.m. - Kimberley & Darius Rolle





Today 7:00a.m. - Theresa Kemp, Cheyvonne Bethel, Nicara Sands

\$9:30a.m. - Pamela Miller, Tanisha Brathwaite, Norma Dean



7:00a.m. Alma Albury, Melony Batmus, Philippa Robinson, Gina Ross

9:30a.m. Nickeva-Eve Benjamin, Alinda Bowe, Norma Dean, Cleo Hepburn

DECEMBER 10TH

7:00a.m. - 75 9:30a.m. - 40 Wednesday - 11

Sunday school - 16 Patronal Festival - 243



A Message for Christmas 2023 The Rt. Rev'd. Laish Boyd

"Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by..."

A stable is a smelly place full of animals, straw, urine, dung and dampness. Animals, though cute and adorable, are not easy on the nostrils. But that is where Jesus was born. A stable does not meet our present-day standards for public health, sanitation or sterile conditions - you would not want your baby or grandbaby to be born there. But that is where Jesus was born.

The Irish hymnwriter, Cecil Francis Alexander, (1818-1895) wrote these words in her famous hymn "Once in Royal David's City". Her point was that while we may see Jesus in the manger at Christmas, that was NOT his final form or destination. "Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by. We shall see him but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high".

Here is just the point: Jesus put off His divine nature and took on human form, the *form of a servant* (Philippians 2:6-8). Jesus became fully human to the extent that he was born of a human mother in circumstances that were not far-removed for an ordinary poor person of the first century (0-99 AD).

Although born in a stable, that was not the extent of His worth or impact - not in that poor lowly stable.

He went on to be baptized, and to have an impactful earthly ministry, teaching, preaching, working miracles, inspiring others, transforming lives, confronting selfishness and turning Palestine upside down. Jesus had an impact after His earthly life down through the ages, affect-

Jesus had an impact after His earthly life down through the ages, affecting human history and current affairs more than any other single human being.

The Christmas message is here to teach us that our best self is not in our humble beginnings, nor in our lowest moments, nor is it when we dwell in the "stables" and "mangers" of our lives. Our best self is *not in that poor lowly stable*. Our destination is where God has for us to be, what we can become and where we can go – because of God.

Embrace this for yourself and help others to realize this in their various struggles and circumstances.

The joy of Christmas only has meaning when we can BECOME...and when we help others to BECOME as well.

My wife and family join me in wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHANGE

Fr. John E. Taylor (R.I.P.)

"The old order changeth, giving place to new, And God fulfills Himself in many ways, Lest one good custom should corrupt the world..."

These are the dying words of King Arthur of the Round Table to one of his knights, Sir Bedivere, in Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem, "Morte d'Arthur" (Death of Arthur).

It's part of being human, to resist change. No one, of course, objects to the change which alters one's salary from five to six figures (!) or moves one's theatre seat from the last row to front row center; but don't change the time of the Church service or use a different tune for my favourite hymn!

Nothing in nature remains the same for ever – not our looks, not our state of health nor the colour of our hair: not the seasons nor the temperature: not our interests, not even, sometimes, our affections. To realize the inevitability of change is to save ourselves a lot of unnecessary grief. We're probably familiar with the prayer that has humour along with common sense: "God give me the courage to change the things I can, which need to be changed, the serenity to accept what I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference". Let's pray this with sincerity.

We're not talking about change for the sake of change, or because "everyone's doing it": for instance, a woman changing to a dress or hair style meant for a younger person; or a man of mature years starting to use his grandson's "jive talk". We are referring to such changes as in supervisors, perhaps, job requirements, office accommodation; neighbours whose accent may be different from ours; a new kind of church music; a preacher whose "delivery" seems a bit strange; a new parliamentary representative whose ideas do not reflect ours in every detail. Things like this drive some people who are "set in their ways" up the wall, and turn them into complainers former friends avoid.

But the coming years – probably this year - will bring such changes, and perhaps more basic ones, changes that will come in spite of our likes or dislikes. Don't let us let them disturb our peace.

There are, of course, some unchangeables: God Himself, and our need to love and worship Him and obey His immutable laws; our obligation to be faithful to marriage vows, to nurture our children; our duty to love and help our neighbour. Here again, we need the wisdom to know the difference between what is fundamental in our relationship with God and our neighbour, and what is "just frills", dispensable.

Of one thing we may be certain: Changes come in friendships, preferences, occupations, places (which may include even countries) of residence, finances, even marital status; but in God "there is neither change nor shadow of turning" (James 1:17). "Jesus Christ (is) the same yesterday, today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

	DAILY READINGS								
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat			
M P	Ps. 41, 52 Zechariah 1:7-17 Revelation 3:7-13 1:1-8	Ps. 45 Zechariah 2:1-13 Revelation 3:14-22	Ps119:49-72 Zechariah 3:1-10 Revelation 4:1-8 Ember Day	Ps. 23,121 Job 42:1-6 1 Peter 1:3- 9 St. Thomas	Ps. 40,54 Zechariah 7:8-8:8 Revelation 5:6-14 Ember Day	Ps. 55 Zechariah 8:9-17 Revelation 6:1-17 Ember Day			
E P	Ps. 44 Isaiah 8:16- 9:1 Matthew 24:15-31	Ps. 47,48 Isaiah 9:1-7 Matthew 24:32-44	Ps.49, (53) Isaiah 9:8-17 Matthew 24:45-51	Ps. 27 Isaiah 43:8- 13 John 14:1-7	Ps.51 Isaiah 10:5- 19 Matthew 25:14-30	Ps.138,139: 1-7 (18-23) Isaiah 10:20 -27 Matthew 25:31-46			

PARISH VESTRY



Fr. Lynden Douglas - **Rector**Dr. Ricardo Crawford - **Priest's Warden (327-2678)**

Mrs. Cleo Hepburn - People's Warden (361-3989)

Ms. Pamela Miller - Elected 2022-2024 Interim Treasurer (357-5738) Mrs. Leja Burrows - Asst. Secretary/Sunday School Supt. (676-2341)

Miss Anatchas Hart - A.C.W. President

Mr. Ethan W. Adderley - A.C.M. President (808-5750)

Mr. Brian Nixon - Audio Visual Chairperson (341-6040)

Mrs. Terri Bellot - Legal Advisor (361-7589)

Ms. Diane Stewart - Music Ministry (327-7559)

Mrs. Norma Dean - Pastoral Care & Counselling (364-8635)

Ms. Frances Dean - Social Outreach (327-4031)

Mrs. Gale Sheryl Forbes - Ushers Ministry (455-0120)

Ms. Alinda Bowe - Elected 2022-2024 (341-0781)

Mr. Reno Major - Elected 2022-2024 (376-6211)

Dr. Julian Stewart - Elected 2022-2024 (432-9080)

Mr. James Albury - Elected 2023-2025 (424-9042)

Miss Tanisha Brathwaite - Elected 2023-2025 (426-0457)

Mr. Joel Cunningham - Elected 2023-2025 (421-2589)

Mr. Philip Styles - Elected 2023-2025 (362-1378)

Mr. John Michael Clarke - Appointed (601-5777)