



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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 24th, 2023 - Year B

Liturgical Colour - Purple

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

Hail To The Lord's Anointed

CPWI 251

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader: Last Sunday we lit the candle of joy. We light it and the candles of hope and peace again, as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy. (*light candles of hope, peace and joy*)

The **FOURTH** candle of Advent is the candle of **LOVE**. God's love is a perfect love. It holds nothing back. God, in love, gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace. The bible says that "*God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*" Jesus shows us God's perfect love. This is what love is like: Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the truth. There is nothing that love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends. We light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus brings us God's love and shows us how to love others. (*light the candle of love*)

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

All: Thank you God for the love you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you will 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 love with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Advent Carol (*Hymn Tune: Now That The Daylight Fills The Sky*)

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

Give Love, O Lord, to us this day, make in our hearts a ready way. That Christ, our Hope, our King, may show His Love and grace from heav'n above. (*Thomas F. Fischer*)

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

THE COLLECTS

ADVENT IV: 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.**

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 the Word of God written in Second Samuel, chapter 7 verses 1 to 11 and verse 16.

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks Be To God

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

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Reader: A reading from the Word of God written in Romans, chapter 16 verses 25 to 27.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith--to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks Be To God

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

Gradual Hymn Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus CPWI 34

(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

LUKE 1:26-38

(All stand)

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

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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 Fr. Lynden Douglas

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED..... BCP 106

INTERCESSIONS FORM D BCP 111

(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 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding CPWI 41

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.**

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 E	BCP 142
THE ACCLAMATION	
THE LORD'S PRAYER.....	BCP 144
THE BREAKING OF BREAD.....	BCP145
THE AGNUS DEL.....	BCP 147

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please remain reverent as you move to receive communion)

We Share in His Feast

Communion Hymns	Amazing Grace	CPWI 495
	Thy Way, Not Mine, O Lord	CPWI 480
	Jesu, Gentlest Saviour	CPWI 599
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER.....	BCP 147	
THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL.....	BCP 149	
Recessional Hymn	Blessed Assurance	CPWI 497

SYMBOLS AND MEANINGS

HOLY WATER, symbolizes spiritual cleansing. The prayers used by the Church to bless water indicate that it protects from evil, that it cleanses us and recalls us to our baptismal faith. Holy water is used to bless us (e.g. in stoops at the doors of churches) and to bless houses and religious articles (*Numbers 8:7*). When we dip our fingers in the Holy Water in the stoops, it is to remind ourselves of our baptism and our promise to fight valiantly against the world, the flesh and the devil.

OILS, are blessed by the Bishop (usually in the Cathedral) on Holy Wednesday before Good Friday and Easter, and then distributed to all the Churches in the diocese. Oils are used during the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders or Ordination (*Exodus 30:30*). They are also used during the dedication of churches, altars, sacred vessels (*Exodus 30:25-29*) and the anointing of the sick (*Mark 6:13; James 5:14*).



Church News

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.



PLEASE **PRAY** FOR:

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: Rowena Albury (Mother of James Albury), 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-in-law 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, Livingston Stuart (Step-father of Ann Major), 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.

The Usher Ministry is inviting persons to join. A special appeal is being made to those who attend the 7:00am service

An appeal is being made for small vases, in good condition. These will be used to make up small bouquets from the arrangements received for Sunday morning services, and distributed to the sick and shut-ins.



Thanks to all who made contributions towards poinsettias and decorations for the Christmas season.

We are grateful to all who made contributions of flowers, to breakfast fellowship, to our social outreach, and in other ways over the course of 2023.

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.

A Special Thank You to all who helped to brighten the lives of the children for Christmas, by your acts of kindness, and through the giving of gifts from the Jesse Tree.



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

December 31st Mass - 7:00am & 9:30am
Carol Singing & New Year's Eve - 10:00pm

Midweek Mass: There will be **NO Wednesday morning Mass** this week.

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**



Wedding Anniversaries: Dec 24 - Gary & Caffieann Smith; Dec 25 - Reno & Ann Major; Dec 27 - Mark & Xhante Wilson; Dec 29 - Cardrington & Karen Coleby



Birthday Celebrants: Dec 25 - Aquindo Colebrooke; Dec 27 - Shantara Russell; Dec 29 - Matthew Miller, Jay Johnson

Readers for the Advent Candle Lighting

7:00a.m. - Audra Gardiner & Family

9:30a.m. - Elizabeth Curtis-Hall & Family



Today

7:00a.m. - Elkan Johnson, Crystal Johnson, Kai Wells

LECTORS

9:30a.m. - Zenen Seymour, Jakaylen Wallace, Carolie Grant



USHER SCHEDULE

7:00a.m. Joel Cunningham, Elsworth Johnson, Julie Harts, Vince Symonette

9:30a.m. Kenva Mullings, Schneika Campbell, Rebby Storr, Jacintha Wallace



DECEMBER 17TH

7:00a.m. - 75
Wednesday - 11

9:30a.m. - 32
Sunday school - 11

PLEASE PRAY FOR MY DADDY, FADDER... HE GER BE LIKE DIS UNTIL AFTER JUNKANOO SEASON!!!



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 hymn writer, 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, 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.

PEACE IN OUR TIME

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

Those who are forty to forty-five years and older remember when we had fewer parish organizations than we have at present. Along with the Vestry, Singing Choir and Servers, parishes maintained Boy Scouts, Girls Guides, and Cricket Clubs. There were ad hoc Bazaar Committees, and one or two parishes sponsored a dramatic society.

Today in addition to fellowship and outreach, there are the A.C.M., A.C.W., Youth Movements, Guilds, Prayer Bands, Bible Study Classes, and renewal and support groups like the Cursillistas.

This is not to say that in the old days parishioners did not visit the sick or otherwise extend a helping hand in their parishes and in their communities.

What is new is that, along with working as individuals, we tend today to organize for action. Rather than have the whole congregation address each and every issue in an unwieldy body, we divide into smaller groups, each of which focuses on a particular ministry or project. This means that we are not working individually in isolation, but have the support of a group that is of manageable proportions.

We must not, however, consider our particular parish organization more than others in the congregation, or nourish a spirit of rivalry or competition. Neither does membership in one organization preclude assistance to other groups. In a parish in the United States I once had a Sunday school superintendent who considered the Sunday school as her personal bailiwick, separate from the adult congregation, and resented the Rector's supervision.

St. Paul wrote to advise the Romans (12:6-8) that they use their various talents to the best of their ability: teaching, counseling, healing, leadership, charitable giving, even speaking in tongues as common in this day; yet they must remember that all their talents were gifts from the same Holy Spirit, and that, whatever their ministry, they were all members of the same self-same Body of Christ. They must respect and support one another's ministries, all of which Glory of the same Lord Jesus Christ. This consideration must inspire our parish organizations today.

"But I'm not an organization person," some people say. "I work better on my own." If this due to shyness, try to overcome it; but make sure it's not to follow anyone else's direction – or we just can't be bothered to get to know or work with others.

If you are not already working in one or more of our parish organizations, speak to a chairman or chairwoman TODAY!

DAILY READINGS

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	Ps. 2, 85	Ps. 28, 30	Ps. 97, 98	Ps. 2, 26	Ps. 18:1-20	Ps. 20, 21:1
	Micah 4:1-5,	2 Chronicle	Proverbs	Isaiah 49:13	2 Samuel	-7 (8-14)
M	5:2-4	s 24:17- 22	8:22-30	-23	23:13-17b	1 Kings
P	1 John 4:7-16	Acts 6:1-7	John 13:20-35	Matthew 18:1-14	2 John 1-13	17:17-24
	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>St. Stephen</i>	<i>St. John</i>	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>	<i>Thomas Becket</i>	3 John 1-15
	Ps. 110:1-5 (6-7), 132	Ps. 118	Ps. 145	Ps. 19, 126	Ps.18:21-50	Ps. 23, 27
E	Zechariah 2:10-13	Wisdom 4:7 -15	Isaiah 44:1-8	Isaiah 54:1-13	Isaiah 12:1-6	Isaiah 25:1-9
P	John 3:31-36	Acts 7:59-8:8	John 5:1-12	Mark 10:13-16	John 2:1-11	John 4:46-54

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)**