



# St. Ambrose Anglican Church



Gladstone & Carmichael Roads

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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.



*New Year's Eve Service*



**THE HOLY NAME/NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**Sunday, December 31st, 2023**

**10:00 p.m.**

**Introit**

**Across The Skies, The Shades Of Night**

Across the sky the shades of night  
This New Year's Eve are fleeting, We  
deck Thine altar, Lord, with light, In  
solemn worship meeting; And as the  
year's last hours go by, We raise to  
Thee our earnest cry, Once more Thy  
love entreating.

4. We gather up in this brief hour The  
memory of Thy mercies; Thy wondrous  
goodness, love and power Our grateful  
song rehearses; For Thou hast been  
our Strength and Stay In many a dark  
and dreary day Of sorrow and revers-  
es.

2. Before the cross subdued we bow,  
To Thee our prayers addressing,  
Recounting all Thy mercies now, And  
all our sins confessing; Beseeching  
Thee this coming year To keep us in  
Thy faith and fear And crown us with  
Thy blessing.

5. Then, O great God, in years to  
come, Whatever may betide us, Right  
onward through our journey home Be  
Thou at hand to guide us; Nor leave us  
till at close of life, Safe from all perils,  
toil, and strife, Heaven shall enfold and  
hide us.

3. And while we pray, we lift our eyes  
To dear ones gone before us, Safe  
home with thee in paradise, Whose  
peace descendeth o'er us; And beg of  
Thee, when life is past, To reunite us  
all at last With those who've gone be-  
fore us.

*Hymn Tune*  
*(Great God What Do I See and Hear)*

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

**THE COLLECTS**

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Saviour of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day; forgive us the wrongs we have done in the year that has passed. Let the radiance of Your Spirit renew our lives, warming hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and faith; through Him who is the beginning and the end, Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**Reader:** A reading from the word of God written in Numbers, chapter 6 verses 22 to 27.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

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

## PSALM 8

*(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 Philippians chapter 2 verses 5 to 11.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

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

**Gradual Hymn**

**O God Our Help in Ages Past**

**CPWI 234**

*(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 2:15-21**

*(All stand)*

Gospeller: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

**All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and

found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

Leader: As the gift of a new year dawns, let us come before the Lord in prayer for the peace and safety of all people: For our church and parish community that our work and prayer together this coming year may bring the reign of God a step closer to fulfilment; let us pray to the Lord. **All:ord hear our prayer.**

Leader: For Laish our Bishop, Drexel and Gilbert our Assistant Bishops, for our priest and the other clergy of this diocese. For our Catechists, Lay Readers and all who minister in Christ, and for all Believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God; let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the nations and peoples of the world, especially the people of this commonwealth, that all of us may recognize one another as sons and daughters of our Father in heaven; let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord hear our prayer**

Leader: For all families and households that this coming year may be a time of health and happiness; let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: For families in crisis, for those in mourning, for families estranged and separated, that Christ may be present to them in the loving support of neighbours and friends; let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the poor, the suffering and the forgotten, that with our unconditional love and support this new year may be an opportunity for them to rebuild their lives, let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: For our deceased relatives and friends especially those who have died during this year, that the graciousness of God may shine upon them for ever; let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph her spouse, blessed Ambrose and St. John the Baptist, our patrons, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. For all of the intentions which we hold in our hearts and which we now recall in silence. (*pause...*) let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God give us grace upon grace to meet the challenges of the coming year. Give us a vision of what we can become in Your Kingdom. You have called us to serve You in the lives of others, and equipped us for work and ministry. Grant us grace to fulfil and complete the work You have given us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen**

THE ACT OF PENITENCE/THE PEACE

BCP 123-125

**HYMN FOR THE PEACE**

### **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**

**The Year Is Gone, Beyond Recall**

**CPWI 95**

*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**

**Angels We Have Heard**

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains:

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

4. See Him in a manger laid,  
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
sing with us our Saviour's birth.

## THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

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

THE SURSUM CORDA .....	BCP 126
THE PROPER PREFACE	CHRISTMAS BCP 127
THE GREAT CONSECRATORY PRAYER	FORM C BCP 137
THE LORD'S PRAYER .....	BCP 144

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(Please remain reverent as you move to receive communion)*

### *We Share In His Feast*

<b>Communion Hymns</b>	<b>How Sweet the Name of Jesus</b>	<b>CPWI 253</b>
	<b>The First Nowell</b>	<b>CPWI 88</b>
	<b>There Is A Name I Love To Hear</b>	

There is a name I love to hear,  
I love to sing its worth;  
it sounds like music in my ear,  
the sweetest name on earth.

O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
because he first loved me!

2. It tells me of a Saviour's love,  
who died to set me free;  
it tells me of his precious blood,  
the sinner's perfect plea.

3. It tells of One whose loving heart  
can feel my deepest woe;  
who in each sorrow bears a part  
that none can bear below.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER .....	BCP 147
THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL .....	BCP 149

### **Recessional Hymn**      **O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem**

O beautiful star of Bethlehem Shining afar through shadows dim Giving the light for those who long have gone And Guiding the wise men on their way Unto the place where Jesus lay O beautiful star of Bethlehem Shine on	2. O beautiful star the hope of life Guiding the pilgrims through the night Over the mountains 'til the break of dawn Into the land of perfect day It will give out a lovely ray O beautiful star of Bethlehem Shine on
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<i>O beautiful star of Bethlehem. Shine upon us until the glory dawns O give us a light to light the way Unto the land of perfect day O Beautiful star of Beth- lehem Shine on, Shine on</i>	3. O beautiful star, the hope of rest For the redeemed, the good and the blessed Yonder in glory when the crown is won For Jesus is now the star divine Brighter and brighter He will shine O beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on
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## Can Forgive - But Can't Forget!

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

I know people who claim - as though it were a virtue! - that they can forgive but can't, or WON'T forget! I also know a man who - although he obviously has faults like the rest of us - has one most engaging quality: He does not hold grudges. The latter gentleman, I would say, is more likely to enjoy that "Happy New Year!" we all wish one another today for 2024, while those who cannot forget are clutching a recipe for gloom and doom.

We can't, of course, forget at will an injury from someone else by punching the "DELETE" button as on a computer; besides it is only prudent to guard against being hurt by the same person a second time. We can refrain, however, from endlessly dwelling upon the wrong and planning to get even with the offender.

"Be not swift to take offence - Let it pass!  
Anger is a foe to sense - Let it pass!  
Brood not darkly over wrong  
Which will disappear ere long;  
Rather sing this cheery song: "Let it pass!"

GOD forgives and forgets. Punishment may come as the unavoidable result from our transgressions, BUT GOD WIPES OUT REPENTED SIN AS THOUGH IT HAD NEVER BEEN COMMITTED! "Wash me through and through from my wickedness," David begs God, in Psalm 51:2, after the heinous sins of adultery and murder, "and cleanse me from my sin." In John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress", Christian staggers repentant to the foot of the Cross; the burden of sin falls from his shoulders and rolls to the bottom of the hill. Likewise with us after God's repeated forgiveness.

Ancestors of those of us of African heritage were cruelly treated in slavery, while our own generation often suffers racial injustice still. We cherish and guard our freedoms, but must not become bitter, dwelling upon the past.

There are grievances and challenges we must encounter and overcome in 2024 - there is no time to dredge up old ones to torment us. A week or two ago we were singing in Advent: ".....Cast away the dreams of darkness, / O ye children of the day!....."

"Echo not an angry word - Let it pass!  
Think how often YOU have erred - Let it pass!  
Time at last makes all things straight;  
Let us not resent, but wait,  
And our vict'ry shall be great - Let it pass!"

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

# Happy New Year

God be with you in

# 2024

*I, along with My family wish you a Blessed and Fruitful New Year  
(Fr Douglas)*

## Directions... **BAHAMAN** Style!

ARRIGHT!... YOU GOTTA TURN RIGHT BY DA STOPLIGHT,  
GO DOWN EAST STREET DEN TURN LEFT BY DA CHINY  
SHOP, WAIT FUH DAT CAT TO RUN CROSS, DEN COUNT  
4 LAMP-POLE, GO ROUND DA BEND AN TURN LEFT BY DA

FIFTH SPEED BUMP  
GO ROUND DAT HOLE  
IN DA ROAD...  
WATCH OUT FOR DA  
DEAD RAT... MAKE  
ANUDDA RIGHT  
YOU GON SEE A  
JONESER DIGGIN  
IN HE NOSE...  
HOLD ON YOU  
EEN DERE YET!!!!

GO DOWN PAST  
TINGUM DEM HOUSE  
YOU KNOW TINGUM...  
HE DADDY IS SELL  
SODA BOTTLE... WE  
IS DA 14TH HOUSE IN  
DA MIDDLE TO DA  
LEFT LIL BIT... I YOU  
GO PAST DA DOG  
WIT DA BROKE LEG  
YA GONE TOO FAR!!

STEVE BURROWS

