**Scripture Readings for December 12th – Third Sunday in Advent**

*Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18*

**Schedule of Services**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2021**

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Joy)

***Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021***

**11:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist (BCP) The Dressing and Blessing of the Creche.

Archdeacon Gregory Mercer, Presiding

**4:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist (BAS) The Dressing and Blessing of the Creche.

The Dispersed Gathering of the Children - Bishop Samuel Rose, Presiding

Family Ukulele Group will offer two selections

**7:30 p.m.** Holy Eucharist (BAS) - Reverend Jotie Noel, presiding

***First Sunday After Christmas, December 26, 2021***

10:30 a.m. Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols

***The Epiphany (In Anticipation), Sunday, January 2, 2022***

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BCP) Birthday Sunday.

Remember to bring your recyclables and donations for the Food Bank.

***The Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 9, 2022***

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BAS) with Renewal of Baptismal Vows

 **Welcome to the**

**CBS/Paradise Food Bank**

The food bank is in need of the following items:

**Teabags**

**Tin Milk**

**Tin Soup, Stews, etc.**

**Monetary donations are gratefully accepted**

Diocesan Bishop: The Right Reverend Samuel Rose

Diocesan Administrator: The Venerable Charlene Taylor

Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend Jotie Noel, T.S.S.F.

Parish Deacon:  The Reverend Lisa Cox

Organists/Choir Director: Stephanie Gavell, Amanda Dawe-Ledwell

Parish Wardens: Sharon Smith and Rex Hillier

Office Administrator: Madonna Scott

**Parish of St. John the Evangelist**

Conception Bay South, NL

December 12, 2021

[www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com](http://www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com/)

Facebook: SJTE Topsail

Office email: sjtetopsail@nfld.net

Office phone number: (709) 834-2336

Address: P.O. Box 13033, CBS, NL, A1W 2K1

E-transfer: sjtetopsail@nfld.net

Priest-in-Charge Email: jotienoel@gmail.com

 Rector’s Cell: (709) 325-2366

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The Bulletin is given to the Glory of God

and in Loving Memory of:

Parents, Ron & Minnie Fowler & Ferd & Violet Earle

By

Kelvin & Marg Fowler

**Our Parish Mission Statement**

**We believe in nurturing a community of faith dedicated to inclusion, support and sharing the story of God's love with all people regardless of the stage of their spiritual journey**

****Welcome to all who are joining us for worship this morning – in person and online, as we come together to praise and worship God. We hope this service will be a blessing to you. We offer the invitation for you to join our wide and varied parish family life – worship, fellowship, nurturing or mission.**

***December – A month filled with ‘Blue’ emotions***

“I’ll have a blue Christmas without you, I’ll be so blue just thinking about you. Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree won’t be the same dear, if you’re not here with me … I’ll have a blue, blue, blue, blue Christmas.” This song, made famous by Elvis Presley in 1957, is about lost love, but it seems to express how many people feel at this time of year.

In addition to the emotional pain of a broken relationship, the lyrics evoke the absence of a loved one for those who are bereaved and grieving. The journey of grief can be long and complicated, and the Christmas season can be a trigger for waves of grief to resurface.

Grieving is a reaction to a significant loss and can evoke many “blue” emotions. It is not uncommon for people to experience volatile emotions such as anger, hate, blame, terror, resentment, rage and jealousy. These emotions are outward expressions of deeper feelings of pain, helplessness, frustration, fear, hurt and a strong sense of yearning, longing and sorrow. This cluster of emotions can make many people feel unable to engage in traditional Christmas celebrations.

Still others feel “the blues” because of difficult circumstances—unemployment, financial stress, infertility, sick children, troubled teens, the care of aging parents, a recent diagnosis of cancer or another life-changing disease. With these life stresses come a multitude of emotions that can leave us feeling “blue,” with the ever-present threat of despair and depression knocking at our mental-health door.

And this Christmas, as we approach two years of the impact and strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all fatigued.

This evening we gather for our service, ‘Candles in Memory’. While the emphasis may be for those experiencing grief through loss of a loved one, we appreciate that many other people in various circumstances find this time of year challenging to celebrate. If you know of someone who may be in this predicament, pray for them, and if appropriate, reach out to them.

Reverend Jotie, tssf

*God of all, when we feel alone, you draw nearer;*

*when we lose our footing, you guide us toward a good path.*

*Through the ages, you have promised to be a comfort to your people,*

*and you call us to be a comfort to others.*

*In all our living, may we never lose the memory of our most cherished relationships,*

*and may we feel the courage and strength you offer to us through those who surround us,*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord,*

*who walks beside us each and every day. Amen.*

A donation has been given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of:

 **Our Dear Son, Geoffrey Tooton**

by

**Parents, Raymond & Catherine and Family**

**The Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

**Central Newfoundland Synod Office Staff**

The Rt. Rev. John Watton The Ven. Terry Caines The Rev. Harvey Bullen

Ms. Ada Fudge Ms. Lori Wheaton

**People who are sick who have asked us to pray for them**

Salem, Michael C., Eleanor M., Fred T., Phyllis H. & Lorraine G., Hilda S.

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**Holly Tea –** We have a few tickets left for the Holly Tea on Saturday, Dec. 18th @ 2;30 pm in the church hall. The cost remains at $10.00. Get your bubble together and reserve a table, please call Louise at 834-7385 or Shirley at 368-9504.

**Christmas Memorials -** The Parish office is now accepting Christmas Memorials. Because of the busyness of the office during the Advent and Christmas Season, **any memorials received after DECEMBER 21st at 1:00 p.m. will be published in the January weekly bulletin.**

**Home Communions/Pastoral Visits** – In preparation for Christmas Reverend Jotie is planning to offer Home Communion to those who are sick, shut-in or unable to attend public worship. To request a Home Communion Visit or a Pastoral Visit, please call the Office (834-2336) or Reverend Jotie’s Cell (325-2366). If you request on behalf of another person, please check with the person beforehand to confirm that it is appropriate for Reverend Jotie to contact the person. Please do not assume we know what is best for other people before checking with them personally.

**2022 Envelopes -** If you need a new box of envelopes for 2022, please contact the parish office by email sjtetopsail@nfld.net or call 834-2336. We also have the option of Pre-Authorized payment or e-transfer. To learn more about these options please call the office.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** - You are invited to participate in our Reverse Advent Calendar as we support our ministry to provide food to people who are hungry. Copies are available in the back of the Church.

**Please ensure your envelope number is written on all financial correspondence!**