



Christ Church Christmas Newsletter 2024

What is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season dedicated to reflective preparation for the arrival, “advent”, of Jesus Christ’s Nativity at Christmas time as well and Christ’s expected return in the Second Coming. During this important event on the church calendar, each week of Advent focuses on a different theme- hope, peace, joy and love. Christians from all denominations and backgrounds celebrate Advent in different ways but all focus on the anticipation of waiting for the arrival of Jesus.

Prepare for Advent 2024 by knowing the holiday dates, spiritual meanings and Christian practices. Discover the beauty of Advent’s history, traditions and symbolism!

Blessings to you all for the season that is upon us!

The Rev. Deacon Maureen



A little humor for your day from your layreaders:


The Preacher and his Horse

A circuit riding preacher trained his horse to go when he said, “Praise the Lord” and to stop when he said “Amen”. The preacher mounted the horse, said “Praise the Lord,” and went for a ride in the nearby mountains.

When he wanted to stop for lunch by a mountain stream, he said, “Amen”.

He took off again saying “Praise the Lord”.

The horse started heading toward the edge of a cliff on a narrow mountain trail. The preacher got excited and said “Whoa”. Then he remembered and said “Amen” and the horse stopped just short of the edge. The preacher was so relieved he looked up to heaven and said, “Praise the Lord”



Christ Church- Financial information at ten (10) months into 2024 was as follows:

	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL @ October 31	VARIATION (-) (Budget minus 10 month of actual)
REVENUE			
Open Collection	\$900.00	\$1,091.16	\$191.16
Weekly Pledges	\$43,000.00	\$30,723.04	(\$12,276.96)
Other Donations	\$2,000.00	\$395.00	(\$1,605.00)
Easter	\$1,500.00	\$1,618.60	\$118.60
Harvest	\$1,500.00	\$1,870.00	\$370.00
Christmas	\$4,300.00	0.00	
Other Revenue *see note 1	\$34,700.00	\$30,357.92	(\$4,342.08)
EXPENSE			
All Personnel *see note 2	\$15,575.00	\$9,659.10	\$5,915.90
Diocese of Brandon	\$3,950.00	\$3,100.00	\$850.00
Church, Hall & Rectory *see note 3	\$27,618.00	\$20,282.94	\$7,335.06
General & Administration	\$8,407.00	\$5,712.80	\$2,694.20
TOTAL REVENUE	\$87,900.00	\$66,055.72	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$55,550.00	\$38,754.84	
NET INCOME/(LOSS) *see note 4 (a) & (b)	\$32,350.00 (a)	\$27,300.88 (b)	

Note 1 - Other Revenue: Budget and Operating– includes Rectory rent, ACW for \$4,000.00 at year end, dependent on their fundraising plus soup & sandwich lunches, teas, hall use donations, annual suppers, Trappers Tea Shack, etc and \$3,000.00 from the May Yard Sale fundraising for Fair Share to the Diocese of Brandon.

Note 2 – There was significant reduction under Personnel as we do not have a Priest.

Note 3 - – Church / Hall and Rectory property taxes and insurance have been paid for the year. Rectory utilities are paid by the Rectory tenants.

Respectfully Submitted,
Val Miron, Parish Treasurer

Please note that you may make your Christmas donations online at christchurch.thepas@gmail.com



*Services and Happenings Christ Church Advent through
Epiphany and beyond*

December 7 at 1 pm Pre Christmas Tea and Bake Sale

December 8 at 1030 am Morning Prayer

December 15 at 1030 am Holy Baptism Bishop Rachel Parker

-Potluck following the service

December 18, 20, 21 are Advent Ember Days; a time for prayer

December 22 at 1030 am Morning Prayer

December 24 at 8 pm Holy Communion Candle light Christmas Eve Service with The Rev. Dr. Kara Mandryk

December 29 at 1030 am Reserved Sacrament Book of Common Prayer

January 5 at 1030 am Holy Communion Epiphany The Rev. Dr. Kara Mandryk

January 12 at 1030 am The Baptism of our Lord Morning Prayer

January 17 at 1130 am Soup and Sandwich

February 23 Annual General Meeting at 1030 service

Every Tuesday afternoon at 1 pm we get together for bible study, a little crafting and chatter

You can make your own simple advent wreath. Here are a few ideas

1. Gather supplies.
2. Cut or buy fresh greens. You can also use faux greens.
3. Depending on the size container or vessel you are using, cut floral foam to fit.
4. Add tapered candles.
5. Start with a layer of fresh greens to drape over the edge of the container.
6. Add filler greens.
7. Tuck in pinecones and berries.
8. Decorate with gold stars, dried floral, or other themes if you wish

[How to Make an Advent Wreath - Quick and Frugal DIY Tutorial - Affording Motherhood](#)





From Your Vestry:

We have been meeting regularly and working hard to help our church. A few highlights from this fall's meetings:

-Henry Budd tombstone has been repaired thanks to Ralph McLean

-Flooring has been ordered for the hall and breezeway- we have requested \$19,200.00 from our diocesan trust fund [M. Dupas donated funds] to cover the cost. Flooring options are also being explored for the church.

-We ask everyone to consider a contribution from Christ Church to the salary of a deanery position that would provide all of us in the north with some coverage. Please think about what you would like to see in a leader for our church, recognizing that 1 church and 1 clergy is not a possibility. Please share your vision of how this might work. Lets not get too bound up in what was; rather make some room for resurrection

-If you have any items, pictures etc you would like to share in the Mustard Seed please forward them to Shirley Dickens

-Next meeting is January 13 at 7pm

We wish that the joy and wonder of Christmas is yours every day in your journey of faith.



Please keep the parish office informed of any parishioner who may be experiencing difficulties and would like a visit from our clergy or contact from a member of the Pastoral Team. Despite ongoing efforts to keep in touch with parishioners at all times, you might have information that is important to share with our clergy or pastoral team and your help is greatly appreciated.





O Antiphons

The *O Antiphons* are seven titles for the Messiah from the prophet Isaiah. They were put together by monks in the early Middle Ages and were used in prayers on the seven days leading up to Christmas. In Latin, the seven titles form an *acrostic* (alphabet poem):

Sapientia (Wisdom)
Adonai (Lord and Ruler)
Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)
Clavis David (Key of David)
Oriens (Dawn/Morning Star)
Rex Genitum (King of the Nations)
Emmanuel (God with Us)

When read backwards, the first letter of each title spells ***ero cras*** which in Latin means *tomorrow I come* – all leading up to the Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth. These titles are the basis for the prayers of the Advent Litany in the BAS (pages 119-120). You can also find these titles, in a different order, in the wonderful hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel".

All of this is not just an interesting but irrelevant historical curiosity – these titles for the coming Messiah, who we know as Jesus, all point to an aspect of Jesus' life and ministry. They remind us most powerfully that Jesus IS the promised Messiah, who was incarnated (took on human flesh) as a baby and reigns as the King of all creation. The *O Antiphons* are special meditations on who Jesus is as Messiah and uniquely prepare us for recognising him for who he is.



Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Kara Mandryk

