

**31st December 2017 ~
First Sunday of Christmas
10.00 am Holy Communion**

President & Preacher: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

Isaiah 61:10—62:3	OT page	702
Galatians 4:4—7	NT page	186
Luke 2:15-21	NT page	56

7th January 2018 ~

**1st Sunday of Epiphany ~ The Baptism of Christ
10.00 am Holy Communion**

President: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

Preacher: Dr. Marion Gray

Genesis 1:1—5	OT page	1
Acts 19:1—7	NT page	135
Mark 1:4—11	NT page	33



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Our weekly newsletter for you to take home



Immanuel and St Andrew

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24th December 2017 ~

**Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Christmas Eve
10.00 am Holy Communion**

President & Preacher: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

Readings:	2 Samuel 7:1—11,16	OT page	290
	Romans 16:25—27	NT page	161
	Luke 1:26—38	NT page	54

11.30 pm First Communion of Christmas

President: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

Preacher: Dr. Marion Gray

Isaiah 52:7-10	OT page	693
Hebrews 1: 1-4	NT page	215
John 1: 1-14	NT page	88

**25th December 2017 ~ Christmas Day ~
10.00 am Family Communion**

President & Preacher: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

Isaiah 9: 2-7	OT page	648
Titus 2: 11-14	NT page	212
Luke 2: 1-14(15-20)	NT page	55



Collects

4th Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Communion of Christmas

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on
earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Christmas Morning

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

1st Sunday of Christmas—31st December

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Pray for our Christmas celebrations and the Services ~that we can share God's Love with others.
Knowing Jesus ~ Making Him known
- For those of our congregation facing the limitations of ill health or who are alone this Christmas. For those facing Christmas without loved ones for the first time.
- For those who will find Christmas difficult—that they will know God's love.
- Pray for the ministry of CAIAS ~ **CAIAS ~ next meeting on 11th January 2018**

Immanuel Prays!

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 4th January at 7.30pm in the Chapel**. Please do join us if you can, as we continue to pray for the life of our church and for one another. If there is someone or something you wish to pray for but cannot be present, please contact Lorraine or Marion. There will be no meeting in the week after Christmas—hopefully we will all find time to pray on our own!

Lorraine and Marion

The Advent Candles

(Tune: Away in a Manger) Words by Sandra Dean,
former Director of Music
at Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Canada.
Used with her permission and blessing.

1. A candle is burning,
a flame warm and bright;
A candle of **Hope** in
December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings
from heav'n's starry sky
Our hearts we prepare now,
for Jesus is nigh.

2. A candle is burning,
a candle of **Peace**;
A candle to signal
that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming
to show us the way;
A message of Peace
humbly laid in the hay.

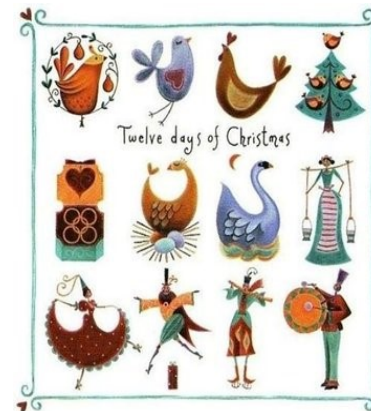

3. A candle is burning,
a candle of **Joy**;
A candle to welcome
brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder
and eyes light and glow
As Joy brightens winter
like sunshine on snow.

4. A candle is burning,
a candle of **Love**;
A candle to point us
to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas,
a wonderful birth;
For Jesus is bringing
God's Love to our earth.

5. We honour Messiah
with the **Christ-Candle's** flame;
Our Christmas Eve candles
glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all ye faithful,
rejoice on this night
As God comes among us,
the Christian's true Light.

Ministry Musings Christmas Blessings

INDESCRIBABLE
Gift



- Babe in a manger or a bird in a tree ~
celebrate Christmas ~ but what do you
see?
- 2 turtle doves ~ the Old and New
Testament.
- 3 French hens ~ Faith, Hope and
Charity.
- 4 Calling birds ~ The four Gospels
and/or the four
Evangelists.
- 5 Golden rings ~ The first five books of
the Old Testament ~ the "Pentateuch".
- 6 Geese a-laying ~ the six days of creation.
- 7 Swans a swimming ~ the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit ~ (Roman
Catholic the seven sacraments).
- 8 Maids a milking ~ the eight Beatitudes.
- 9 Ladies dancing ~ the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- 10 Lords a-leaping ~ the ten Commandments.
- 11 Piper piping ~ the eleven faithful apostles.
- 12 Drummers
drumming ~ the twelve points of doctrine in the
Apostles Creed.

Give thanks this Christmastide that we do not have to 'hide our
faith' but can admit to '**Knowing Jesus ~ Making Him known**'.