



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div (Hon)
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Bishop's Advent Message Advent 2024

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As we enter this sacred season of Advent, a time of great significance in our faith, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on its powerful message of hope. Advent, which means 'coming' in Latin, symbolizes a journey from darkness into light, from despair into hope, and from the longing of our hearts to the fulfillment of God's promises. It is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of our Lord.

In the hustle and bustle leading up to Christmas, it is easy to get caught up in the rush. However, remember that Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas. It is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord, allowing us to reconnect with the centre of our faith and the promises of Emmanuel - who is God with us.



As we light the candles of our Advent Wreaths this year, let each tiny flame remind us of the transformative power of hope that Christ brings into the world. Hope is not merely wishful thinking but the profound assurance that God is with us in joyful and challenging times. It is the belief that God's light can pierce through even the darkest moments, turning despair into joy and darkness into light. This hope, with its transformative power, should uplift our spirits, reminding us that we are never alone.

Our Diocese comprises diverse communities that face challenges and uncertainties in these times. Yet, I encourage you to hold fast to hope. Let us be a beacon of light for one another, reaching out in love and support, as Christ has called us to do. This can be realized through volunteering at local food banks, listening to those in distress, or simply sharing a kind word with a neighbour. Together, we can embody the grace and compassion that are the foundations of our faith, serving those in need and nurturing one another.

As we eagerly await the birth of Jesus, let us also remember our vital role in sharing that hope with others. Each of us is an essential part of Christ's mission, and our actions can bring hope to those who feel lost or alone. Let us reach out to them, reminding them they are never forgotten and that love is always within reach. This could be through a simple act of kindness, a listening ear, or a helping hand. Let us be the bearers of hope in our communities.

In this Advent season, I pray that you will find peace and joy and that your hearts will be open to receive the incredible gift of Christ—today and always. May the hope of Advent fill you with a renewed spirit and inspire you to shine brightly in the world, knowing that the birth of our Saviour is near and that His coming carries a message of hope and joy for all.

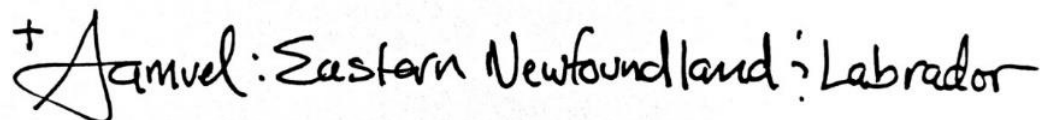
I offer an Advent Prayer from Henri Nouwen:

**Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do
and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.**

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

Wishing you and your families a blessed and hope-filled Advent season.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "† Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland; Labrador". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Rev. Samuel Rose
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador