

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 22, 2019**

**The Collect:** Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-16 read from the King James Version Bible**

10 Moreover the Lord spake again unto Ahaz, saying,

11 Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.

12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord.

13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

### **Epistle: Romans 1:1-7 read from the Lexham English Bible**

1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was born a descendant[a] of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared Son of God in power according to the Holy Spirit[b] by the resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship for the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles[c] on behalf of his name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ. 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God, called to be saints. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25 read from The Message Bible**

18-19 The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

20-23 While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the

dream: “Joseph, son of David, don’t hesitate to get married. Mary’s pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God’s Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—‘God saves’—because he will save his people from their sins.” This would bring the prophet’s embryonic sermon to full term:

Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son;  
They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for “God is with us”).

24-25 Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God’s angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing Prayer on December 22nd we remember : Henry Budd Priest, read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Henry Budd was the first person of First Nations ancestry to be ordained in the Anglican tradition in North America. He is remembered for his service among the Cree in Western Canada.

Budd was an orphan, and the date of his birth is unknown. He entered a mission school that was a joint venture with the Hudson’s Bay Company to provide a Christian education to the First Nations people in the area of Rupert’s Land, the vast expanse of land that encircled Hudson Bay before its division into Canadian provinces. Before embarking on a vocation as a priest and teacher, he worked as a clerk for the Hudson’s Bay Company.

Henry Budd’s ministry began as a lay teacher in the Red River region of Manitoba, where he taught at St. John’s Anglican Parish School. He and his wife, Betsy, remained in the area for the next thirteen years, where Budd taught school and served as a lay minister in the Anglican Church.

Ordained to the priesthood on December 22nd, 1850, having been trained largely by

personal mentoring and tutoring from other clergy, Budd was assigned to the Mission at Nipawim where he worked as a pastor until 1867. Thereafter, Budd returned to The Pas, where he was put in charge of a vast area encompassing several communities, and where he continued his vocation as both priest and teacher. Records of the Church Missionary Society indicate that Budd was paid half of what the white missionaries were paid on account of his race.

Henry Budd is remembered as an eloquent speaker and writer in both Cree and English. He endeared himself to those he served by exhibiting clearly in the living of his life the Christian principles he preached and the values he taught. Enduring among his many contributions are his translations of the Scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer into the Cree language.

Budd died on April 2nd, 1875, just a few days after he had conducted Easter services. He is buried in The Pas, Manitoba.

**Let us pray:** Creator of light, we thank you for your priest Henry Budd, who carried the great treasure of Scripture to his people the Cree nation, earning their trust and love. Grant that his example may call us to reverence, orderliness, and love, that we may give you glory in word and action; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**