
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 2020 - CHRONICLE



Our 150th year—Steadfast and growing since 1870

Where we seek to glorify God, follow Jesus Christ, and serve all people through the power of the Holy Spirit.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS Seasons



“A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’”

ISAIAH 40:3-5

From the Rector

The Simplicity of St. Andrew's Cross Marks the Spot of God's Advent

for Times-Standard (Dec 5, 2020)

Fr. Daniel DeForest London, Rector



The symbol associated with St. Andrew the Apostle is the x-shaped cross, also known as the saltire cross. I love the simplicity of this symbol and its ubiquity in flags, especially the Scottish flag¹. The letter “x” was used among the ancient Greek-speaking Christians as a symbol for Christ since “X” is the first letter of “Christos.”² Appropriately, this first letter of Christ is associated with St. Andrew, the *first* disciple called by Christ. Known by Eastern Orthodox Christians as *Protokletos* (which means “the first called”), Andrew introduced his brother Simon to Jesus and thus became instrumental in his brother’s growth and transformation into St. Peter (John 1:41-42). According to legend, Andrew was also instrumental in introducing the Gospel of Christ to what is now Ukraine, Romania, and Russia, countries that now hail him as their patron saint (along with Scotland and Barbados).

After becoming the first bishop of Constantinople, Andrew was crucified on an x-shaped cross by a jealous king; but even while dying, he continued to preach. In his final words, Andrew urged his listeners to repent from greed and corruption in order to make room in their hearts for God’s arrival. Andrew encouraged his listeners to slow down, to de-clutter their lives, and to live simply so that others may simply live. The message of St. Andrew’s final sermon is the same message that Episcopalians hear at Advent, a season that calls us to remove the sinful clutter that accumulates in our hearts in order to make room for God’s Coming (*adventus*). So, it is no coincidence that the First Sunday of Advent is always the Sunday closest to the Feast Day of St. Andrew (Nov 30).



This year, St. Andrew’s Day happened to fall on “Cyber Monday,” a day when many of us are tempted to fall into the feverish frenzy of online shopping, hyper-consumerism, and holiday commotion. I imagine that we are all feeling more anxiety than usual this year as we learn to navigate this holiday season in the midst of a global pandemic. In the din of all the stress and commercial clutter, St. Andrew and Advent invite us to slow down and clear out some space for God’s presence in our lives.

As I reflect on the simplicity of the apostle’s x-shaped cross carved into the frame of a portrait designed by Fr. George Shultz (1896-1971) at Christ Church Eureka, I feel invited to write an “x” on certain hours and days of my calendar in order to mark certain times as sacred moments for slowing down. In this way, I can prevent my heart from becoming overcrowded, like the Inn in Bethlehem which did not have enough room inside when the divine arrived. Just as the “x” is used to mark the spot of treasure on a map, the simplicity expressed in the x-shaped cross of St. Andrew marks the spot of God’s Advent among us, by helping us slow down enough to see and make room for the God who comes to us in the sacrament of the present moment.

¹ The symbol also shows up frequently in nature. There is a St. Andrew’s cross spider which spreads its legs out in the shape of an “x” and a St. Andrew’s cross plant that blooms yellow, x-shaped flowers in the summer.

² This is partly why the word “Christmas” is abbreviated as “Xmas.”

Nicolas, Bishop of Myra

Mtr. K. Lesley McCloghrie, Associate Priest

Each year on December 6 we celebrate the life and witness of Saint Nicholas, a man about whom we actually know very little, but whose name is beloved by children, and is forever associated with gift giving, and all the secular festivities we enjoy during the Christmas season.

We believe Nicholas was born in 280 A.D. and died around 342, living in Asia Minor, in a region that is now Turkey. He became Bishop of Myra, a town in Turkey now known as Demre, and some scholars believe that he was one of the bishops who attended the Council of Nicaea in 325. This meeting produced, with some later modifications, what we now know as the Nicene Creed, used at celebrations of the Eucharist on Sundays and other major feast days. Some research indicates that Nicholas' name did not appear on the roster of attendees at the council until the Middle Ages, when his following was at its height.

Nicholas suffered torture and imprisonment during the persecution under the Emperor Diocletian and was later honored as a saint by the Emperor Justinian. For centuries Nicholas' bones were held in a sarcophagus in the church in Myra, dedicated to him. Around the year 1,000, some of his relics were donated to the city of Kiev, leading to the adoption of his sainthood in Russia. In 1087, or there about, sailors from the Italian city of Bari, seized all the remains of Nicholas from the church in Myra, and took them home with them. Once Nicholas' bones were established in Bari, a steady train of pilgrims began to visit the town, prompting the archbishop to commission a new basilica dedicated to Nicholas to house them.

There are many stories and legends associated with St. Nicholas. Perhaps the most well known is that of the three maidens. These women were unmarried because their father was poor and could not afford dowries for them. Nicholas heard of the maidens' plight and, one night, he tossed three bags of gold



over the wall, into the garden of house where the girls lived. They were then able to marry and as they say, lived happily ever after. Some say Nicholas tossed the bags of gold down the chimney, which possibly led to our tradition of hanging stockings on the fireplace mantel. This legend gained such popularity that the three bags of gold became an emblem of the saint. The saint and his symbol were adopted by pawnbrokers, by this time as artists had simplified the bags of gold into gold

balls. It is said that the three pawnshop sign of three gold balls recalls the act of reclaiming something valuable. You can see the sign of three gold balls outside the pawnbrokers on Fifth Street in Eureka, as well as on a painted sign on Broadway.

Another legend tells how Nicholas rescued sailors from storms at sea. A ship caught by a storm, became grounded, the men had heard accounts of Bishop Nicholas' help to distressed sailors and they called on Nicholas for aid, as they believed they might be saved by his prayer and intervention. Nicholas is said to have appeared on the ship and helped free the boat. Once they had set sail again the image of Nicholas vanished. After landing safely in

Myra, the sailors set out to look for a church where they could give thanks to God for their rescue. On their way, they were startled to see Bishop Nicholas, recognizing him from the image they had seen on the ship, and asked how he had heard their pleas and so come to their rescue. Nicholas replied that a life devoted to God, allows a person to be so clear-sighted as to be able to actually see others in danger, and to hear their calls for help. He urged the sailors to devote their lives to God, and so to



St. Nicolas and bags of gold

Nicolas, Bishop of Myra—Mtr. K. Lesley McCloghrie

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help people in need. This and other stories led to Nicholas' adoption as the patron saint of seafarers. Many port cities and towns have churches dedicated to St. Nicholas.

Nicholas is also widely known as the patron saint of children. A number of stories related to him tell of children being rescued from calamity and returned to their families. In France, the most familiar story, both told and sung, is of three little children lured into the clutches of an evil butcher and rescued by St. Nicholas. Other stories tell of children who disappeared, were kidnapped, fell into a well, or suffered some other disaster, all to be delivered through the good offices of St. Nicholas. These accounts of a child forcibly taken from parents, followed by a time of grieving and despair, then the miraculous return of the child, have profound and universal appeal which makes Nicholas the much valued Guardian of Children. It is no wonder he is the beloved patron saint of children.

So what of Santa Claus? Nicholas is known to the Dutch as *Sinterklaas*, the saint who brought gifts to children on his feast day, December 6. The children would leave out their shoes and the next day find them filled with candy and other treats. Originally brought to the United States by Dutch immigrants, the name and traditions of *Sinterklaas* evolved into those of the Santa Claus we know today. The 1822 Clement C. Moore poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" and illustrations from the nineteenth century are said to have played a significant role in creating the image familiar beloved figure.

Father Christmas is the traditional name for Santa Claus in the U.K. The origins of Father Christmas, now aligned with those of St. Nicholas, come from darker pagan and secular traditions, but that is another article.

Collect for the Feast of Nicholas of Myra

"Almighty God, in your love you gave your servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness both on land and sea: Grant, we pray, that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

Blessings,

Lesley+



Advent 2020

The Rev. David Shewmaker, Associate Priest

Does it not often seem as if we are always waiting for something? Right now, in the midst of another surge in the Covid-19 Pandemic, are we not waiting for it to end, so that we can get back together? On a positive note, our kids are expectantly awaiting for Christmas presents! (We adults are also awaiting, though we are more used to the waiting than are the little ones.) Furthermore, in view of all the world's troubles, are we not awaiting for God to fix it all? ("How long, O Lord?" Rev. 6:10.) In these late times, which many have declared to be "the end times," we are quite tired of all the waiting. When will it end? When will it be better?

The Season of Advent teaches about waiting, waiting for the first and for the second coming of Christ. This is at the beginning of the church year, so it appears that learning to wait is the first lesson to be learned. In this yearly lesson in anticipating, our attention is drawn each Sunday to the aspects that can turn this waiting from anxious and frustrating into a holy experience. These aspects are Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace, each represented by a lighted candle, all finally followed by the lighting of the Christ candle. We are therefore guided to hope for the coming of God's reign on earth, meanwhile growing in our love for each other and for our Lord, which brings joy and peace to us, so that we can learn to accept Christ being with us, despite the frustrations of life in this sick world.

When I dare, to hope I am acknowledging a greater power than the destructive influences of this world and of those same forces within myself. When I strive to love, I recognize the positivity that is there in the object of my love. I thereby can see the sources of hope that resides in everyone as well as the great strength of God who continues to create in us clean hearts. When I discipline myself by prayer and scripture and fellowship to practice hope and love, then I will experience joy, which leads me then to the peace that surpasses all understanding. "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7 NRSV.)

Finally, we must remember and keep in our attention the understanding that this is ALL from God. God gives us the Hope, the Love, the Joy, the Peace, and the Christ! Our job is to learn to be attentive to that presence within us that is hope, Love, joy, peace, and



Christ. We must keep our minds on this both individually and corporately. Therefore we pray, even when we are exasperated with waiting. Therefore we read scripture, even when its promises seem vague or unrealistic. Therefore, we do not forsake gathering together, even if that is only by Zoom or YouTube. All of these actions are merely turning to God in faithful trust. All of these actions are enabled by us being in the spirit of Christ.

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-8. NRSV.)

That is, Let God do it all! Not one's ego! Only then will hope, love, joy and peace be in each of us and continue to move throughout this wounded world that is running hell-bent in the opposite direction. Therein is the defeat of all the negativity, all the cynicism, all the violence, all the destructiveness. Amen! Hallelujah!

Oh, and don't forget the words of Isaac Watts, who recognized long ago the sound of joy in the world.

*Joy to the world
Joy to the world
Joy to the world, the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing....*

Indeed, let our hearts prepare for the Christ room within by being attentive to prayer, scripture, and the joy of fellowship. Remember the voice of nature singing is the voice of the Lord creating. He speaks (or sings,) and it is so. Praise Him from whom ALL blessings flow.



The Venerable Pam Gossard

Deacon Updates

*Serving all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick,
and the lonely in our community*

The Betty Kwan Chinn Center

Working Together to Help Those in Need Move Forward

Betty Chinn called me this week overjoyed and thankful for the Christ Church community. A couple of Episcopal Angels (you know who you are!) had recently brought a large bouquet of beautiful, still opening flowers that had once adorned our chancel. Along with the flowers was a card thanking the Center staff for their service to others. Betty went on to say that while her crew was used to taking in donations of all kinds, rarely had they received something meant just for them. They continue to be truly moved and encouraged by this simple, thoughtful gesture. With a momentary catch in her voice Betty said Christ Church had brought color into all their lives.



Each conversation with Betty is peppered with fresh and amazing stories on how she sees God at work in our community. While many of us have greatly missed helping her put together Thanksgiving bags or serving at the holiday dinners she sponsors, Betty has continued to find new ways to feed people in this time of pandemic. This year found her delivering Thanksgiving meals from Rio Dell to Trinidad for close to four hundred families. She told me it was not just for the homeless but for anyone she heard who had need of food.

After being asked how we could continue to support her, she first wanted to thank Christ Church for the Bibles we had given her. Some of them made their way into homeless camps. She said, “they read them”. She said she could use more Bibles.



Thanksgiving 2018

A faithful reader of Christ Church Email Updates, Betty said that while she would not be able to attend the Advent Sacred Saunters, she will be with us in spirit. She finds herself imagining she is outside with us, listening to the readings and praying and walking together.

Thank you for walking with Betty and her ministry this year.

Toys and warm clothes for children of all ages would be greatly appreciated during this month of December. Please talk with Peg Gardner or Archdeacon Pam if you have any questions. Thank you.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH: A Devotional Commentary

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people ...

Comfort Ye – what a good word to the human heart from the heart of God. That first word is the best word. To know that the Creator is also the comforter is to have peace at the center. Behind the cosmos is One who cares. He who knows all is he who loves most. You are known completely. And you are loved eternally. Therefore: “Comfort ye.”

There are other words from God to us. They, like this first word, are authentic. The other words will speak of obedience, discipleship, and judgment. Some of them are hard to hear, and harder yet to obey. In all honesty, could we expect the One who knows us fully to comfort us only? That would not be kind, for we know in our hearts that to gloss over our infection would be to leave us as we are, and as we are, we are not whole.

Just because our need is great there will be words of challenge and rebuke, stringent surgery for our healing. We may not welcome those other words, but we will surely meet them on this spiritual journey.

But the first word is: “Comfort ye.” Amid our crushing burdens, and those gnawing anxieties which torment so terribly, it speaks to us. Right beside the suffering we endure, which might drive out the saving trust, there stands the word to lift up our hearts: “Comfort ye.” For our iniquity is pardoned. That is the news beautiful which breaks upon us in Advent.¹

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God;
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto Her,
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is
pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare
ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.

Recitative [Tenor]

¹Handel's Messiah: A devotional Commentary, Joseph E. McCabe, The Westminster Press, page 14.

From the Senior Warden Royal McCarthy



Happy Church New Year! We started off with a wonderful service of Lessons and Carols. Thanks to the tireless work of Merry Philips, David Powell, Paul Gossard and all the musicians in the virtual choir the music was fantastic. Unfortunately due to the change in the COVID restrictions, we were not able to bring the readers into the Nave / Sanctuary. Thomas and Paul are doing excellent work getting our live stream out so that all who would like to participate virtually are able to. In spite of the increased restrictions, we will continue to live stream from the Sanctuary for the foreseeable future. I encourage you to set up your own Advent wreathing your home and light the candles as we light the candles on the Advent wreath in the Sanctuary.

There are three Sacred Saunters scheduled for this month at Deacon Anne Pearson's. They will be held on the 5th, 12th, and 19th at 1100. Space is limited so be sure to let the Church office know if you want to attend.

Looking back at November, I hope that everyone had a safe and fulfilling Thanksgiving. Ours was quiet with the exception of a Zoom call to family, which was a real treat.

Earlier in November the Diocese held the Diocesan Convention, it was a qualified success due to several technical glitches.

We are facing increased challenges in dealing with the COVID restrictions. At the request of Father Daniel and with the approval of Bishop Megan, I will be extending my term on the Vestry for one more year and remaining Senior Warden. Hopefully this will enable our regathering to proceed more smoothly. Please keep us all in your prayers and be sure to let the Church office know of any needs, concerns or prayer requests.

Thank you to our Parish Administrator, Thomas, and all the volunteers that are helping keep the church campus in good shape.

Have a wonderful Advent and a very merry and blessed Christmas.

God Bless

Royal McCarthy
Senior Warden



Monthly Reflection

from the Lectionary
Matthew Taylor



Luke 19:28-40

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. **29** As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, **30 “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”**

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

34 They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Advent has historically played a paralleling role to the Lenten season in our liturgical calendar; being a time of preparation, anticipation, and self-reflection. Traditionally, this also involved similar practices to those taken during Lent such as fasting and penitence, a practice still kept in predominantly Eastern and Oriental Orthodox communities. Over the years, in the Western denominations however, it’s almost become a sort of inversion, the other side of the coin sort of symbol. It’s a change that I actually love and hold dearly in my own heart.

Those who are close to me know that I oddly love the season of Lent. For many of the reasons why others tend to dread it. So logically many would probably come to the conclusion that the Advent season is thusly, due to its perceived antithesis, one of my least favorite liturgical seasons. This is far from the case! The above scripture, Luke 19:30-38, is a common reading within the season of Lent yet it also perfectly captures the way you celebrate the Advent season! Riding on a humble colt, probably similar to the ones he was born around in the manger that night in Bethlehem. While we play up the grandness of this scene in the Bible during our Holy Week celebrations there is no doubt that it too was both as grounded and human as the Nativity scenes we set up during the Advent season.

Advent, as opposed to Lent, shows us the other co-existing side of our preparation for the anticipation of Christ. While Lent is a season of solemnness, Advent is a season of jubilation for us. Both exercising different yet completely valid forms of worship. In Advent we worship not only with voice but music and dance, taking the time to appreciate both the material and spiritual gifts that God has given to us by simply existing as his children on Earth. In many ways, it is this sense of celebration that balances out and helps us to appreciate the more solemn practices of worship during the Lenten times. It is important for us to facilitate a healthy appreciation of the things God has gifted to us on Earth without letting them rule over us. A discipline that the season of Advent, I believe, gives us.

If I may, I encourage us all this Advent season to keep God in mind when we are gifted with something that makes us happy or content. During this season of giving let us realize and give thanks to all the gifts our Creator gives to and has given to us, as we do to the friends and family who will gift us this coming Christmas. Most of all, anticipating his greatest gift of all, Christ our Savior, on Christmas Day.



CHOOSING ADVENT

Merry Phillips, Music Coordinator



It is the week between Christ the King and Advent I and I am writing my December *Chronicle* article unusually early (for me). I find myself thinking a lot this week about the upcoming season of Advent as we plan and record music for Lessons and Carols and for the coming season of Advent. Christmas is just around the corner it seems; but I like to pretend it is a long way off and that there is plenty of time to enjoy this beautiful time of the year, reveling in the true meaning of Advent.

On my “to do” list this week is to choose an Advent devotional to follow, as I have been doing the past few years. I have several to choose from – some have been gifts and some I have stumbled upon – but the one that has captured my interest this year is a newly purchased one I came across this summer. It is by Heidi Haverkamp, an author whose writings I have found inspirational; the title is *Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season*. “These twenty-eight devotions feature Scripture passages and excerpts from C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, prompting meditation on Advent themes such as grace, love, and sacrifice.” I have treated myself to a copy of C.S. Lewis’ book as well and look forward to reading it for a first time, simultaneously along with the daily devotions. I look forward to incorporating this devotion into my daily routine, along with “unwrapping” a small surprise each day on the beautiful Advent Calendar quilt made by Catherine Mace (donated at last year’s Stewardship auction). And I will again this year begin each day with the wonderful CCCA Advent Calendar (which I mentioned last year). Beginning each day with a scripture reading, a work of art, a poem, and a gift of music which are wonderfully woven together with a daily devotion is truly a gift indeed.

And that is what our preparations during the season of Advent are about – taking the time to enjoy, appreciate, anticipate, and feel the spirit of the season. I hope that you find your own meaningful way to experience this beautiful season. It’s a magical time filled with many special traditions that heighten our sense of excitement and expectation.

Among the emails I received today was an announcement from Paraclete Press about an Advent activity being offered – a book discussion on *Henri Nouwen & The Return of the Prodigal Son*. In the press release, the author of the book, Gabrielle Earnshaw, writes, “[w]ith all that is going on in our world in 2020, it seems to me we need the gifts of Advent more than ever, and Henri Nouwen, beloved Catholic priest and writer of thirty-nine books on the spiritual life, is a wonderful companion for the journey. Just this morning, I came across a letter Henri wrote in December 1980. Penned nearly forty years ago, it could have been written today. He writes, *The situation in our world is frightening and many people experience deep anxieties. More than ever we will be tested in our faith. I hope and pray that the Lord will deepen our faith during these weeks of Advent and will fill us with peace and joy, which belong to his kingdom. Hope is not optimism and I pray that we all will be able to live hopefully in the midst of our apocalyptic time. We have a promise and God is faithful to his promise even when we are doubtful and fearful* (Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life, Convergent Books, 2018).”¹

¹Gabrielle Earnshaw, author of *Henri Nouwen and The Return of the Prodigal Son: The Making of a Spiritual Classic*

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Behind the Scenes



Do you recognize this photo? It is the photo that displays on YouTube when our Sunday morning services are about to premiere. Can you tell where it is taken from? It is taken from behind the façade pipes in the chancel; you can see the braces that hold the beautiful wooden façade in place. There is a ‘secret’ door that opens in the wall behind the altar and when you enter you are literally “behind the scenes” of the chancel. And now, I want to take you “behind the scenes” of our virtual choir videos production.

It’s been almost a year ago now that I saw, for the first time, a virtual choir performance. Our neighbors at the Gospel Outreach church have produced an annual Christmas concert for many years that is always a joy to attend. They have several choirs of all ages as well as instrumentalists and last year, for the first time, they had a full orchestra. Since the choir members were also members of the orchestra, they created a wonderful “virtual” choir that “sang” with the live orchestra – that is, we saw them on stage with their instruments and via video, singing in their own homes. It was amazing to watch and listen to. None of us knew at the time, of course, that virtual choirs would become a necessity to keeping the music alive in our churches during this pandemic. I was amazed at the technology a year ago; and am equally awed and amazed by the technology now and those who use it to bring our virtual choir to life.

There are many types of virtual choirs out there, from extremely large ones (numbering thousands of voices) directed by Eric Whitacre and the international “Stay at Home” Choir, to the many church choirs of all sizes that are attempting to stay engaged and supportive of our worship services. At Christ Church we are blessed to have choir members who have successfully conquered their fears and inhibitions and learned how to use technology to add their voices to the choir. Instead of hours of rehearsal together, choir members now dedicate their time to learning and rehearsing their parts at home, making a video recording of themselves, and uploading that video to share, and slowly but surely mastering Google Drive.

In their usual spirit of cooperation and collegiality, choir members help each other with technical questions and support, sharing information at weekly Zoom meetings under the leadership of choir director David Powell. When an announcement goes out via Google Drive that a piece is ready to share, the subject line says it is an “Invitation to Collaborate.” And that is ultimately what it is all about – collaboration!

I think it is important to know and understand what goes into the making of the virtual choir videos that you have been enjoying; if you’ve been curious, here is a brief explanation.

We begin with the selection of the music; and then posting of the scores on Google Drive. Accompaniments for the selections are recorded in the Chancel on the piano or organ, by Paul Gossard. And here I want to offer my personal thanks to Paul – especially for his patience with an organist who doesn’t always get it right the first time! If a piece is in four part harmony (SATB) the voice line for each part is played and recorded while listening to the original accompaniment. Then Paul works his magic and software to overlay the voice part on the accompaniment.

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Have you wondered why some choir members wear headphones? Everyone is wearing either headphones or earbuds (not as visible) when they record because they are listening and singing along to the original accompaniment overlaid with their part. Each choir member must have two devices; one which makes the recording, and one on which the accompaniment can be heard through headphones so it is not heard in the video. In addition to the two devices, choir members are juggling their music, figuring out camera angles, and trying to keep the cats out of the way!

Recordings are then submitted to Paul Gossard and Francis Rivinus and the wizardry begins!



Precis for “Joy to the World” in 4-part harmony

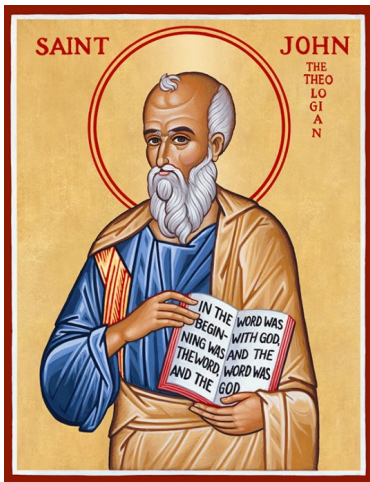
- Record accompaniment and vocal parts
- Paul uploads to computer for editing and mixing (including cleaning up the beginning and ending and balancing the volume)
- Upload and organize files on Google Drive and send out to choir members with any special instructions and due date
- Choir members learn, rehearse, and record and send their videos to Paul and Francis
- Paul downloads, duplicates, and strips out the video to make one copy audio only
- The original accompaniment track is placed in editing software, followed by one vocal track at a time
- Each track needs to have the volume ‘normalized’
- Each vocal track is manually synched with the accompaniment track
- After all vocal tracks are added, adjustments are made in volume, rhythm, sometimes pitch, to achieve the best balance possible

It takes roughly 8-10 hours of technical work to produce one virtual choir video!

At this point, Francis takes over putting the video together and working his ‘magic’ on that part. Selecting images or putting the individual choir members videos back together with the music is another complex and time-intensive process. Thank you, Francis!

Our virtual concerts also require a team of technicians, mainly Paul Gossard who films and records individual pieces, and Father Daniel who compiles all the recordings into an actual concert. Many hours are spent on this end as these videos often take a long time to upload. I am deeply grateful to both of them. Thomas has beautifully decorated the chancel for the filming and Father Daniel has provided warm welcomes and introductions to the concerts. Thank you, thank you, and heartfelt thanks to all the musicians who have shared their time and talent!

Liturgical Calendar — December 2020



ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

December 27

John, the son of Zebedee, with his brother James, was called from being a fisherman to be a disciple and “fisher of men.” With Peter and James, he became one of the inner group of three disciples whom Jesus chose to be with him at the raising of Jairus’ daughter, at the Transfiguration, and in the garden of Gethsemane.

John and his brother James are recorded in the Gospel as being so hotheaded and impetuous that Jesus nicknamed them “Boanerges,” which means, “sons of thunder.” They also appear ambitious, in that they sought seats of honor at Jesus’ right and left when he should come into his kingdom; yet they were faithful companions, willing, without knowing the cost, to share the cup Jesus was to drink.

When the other disciples responded in anger to the audacity of the brothers in asking for this honor, Jesus explained that in his kingdom leadership and rule takes the form of being a servant to all.

If, as is commonly held, John is to be identified with the “disciple whom Jesus loved,” then he clearly enjoyed a very special relationship with his Master, reclining close to Jesus at the Last Supper, receiving the care of his mother at the cross, and being the first to understand the truth of the empty tomb.

The Acts of the Apostles records John’s presence with Peter on several occasions: the healing of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple, before the Sanhedrin, in prison, and on the mission to Samaria to lay hands upon the new converts that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

According to tradition, John later went to Asia Minor and settled at Ephesus. Under the Emperor Domitian, he was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he experienced the visions recounted in the Book of Revelation. Irenaeus, at the end of the second century, liked to recall how Polycarp, in his old age, had talked about the apostle whom he had known while growing up at Ephesus. It is probable that John died there. He alone of the Twelve is said to have lived to extreme old age and to have been spared a martyr’s death.

ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE

December 21

The Gospel according to John records several incidents in which Thomas appears, and from them we are able to gain some impression of the sort of man he was. When Jesus insisted on going to Judea, to visit his friends at Bethany, Thomas boldly declared, “Let us also go, that we may die with him” (John 11:16). At the Last Supper, he interrupted our Lord’s discourse with the question, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” (John 14:5). And after Christ’s resurrection, Thomas would not accept the account of the other apostles and the women, until Jesus appeared before him, showing him his wounds. This drew from him the first explicit acknowledgment of Christ’s divinity, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28).



Thomas appears to have been a thoughtful if rather literal-minded man, inclined to skepticism; but he was a staunch friend when his loyalty was once given. The expression “Doubting Thomas,” which has become

Continued on page 12

LAY MINISTRIES

By Marty Vega



Our Advent Lessons and Carols service was an absolutely wonderful welcome to the Advent Season. When we watched the service and enjoyed the beauty of our sanctuary from our homes I'm sure we all were touched by the many things we miss – our organ pipes, the beautiful altar, our eternal light, and the baptismal font. We always see paraments with the proper colors, watch as the candles are lit then extinguished at the end of each service.

Our lay ministry group responsible for this beauty is the Altar Guild, which needs your assistance to prepare for the upcoming special Advent and Christmas services. It's time to polish those lovely candelabra, as well as the pulpit and lectern. The candles need refilling every week. That beautiful wood we all love needs a bit of polish as well; and it's time for a good dusting and vacuuming.

The altar guild is also responsible for assembling packets of pre-consecrated wafers that you will use at home during our Eucharistic services.

All of these little tasks, taken one at a time, can be easily finished by volunteers, following our current safe distancing health regulations. If you are able to lend a hand, for however short a time, please contact Kathy Clague at (707) 273-3896 or kjc7001@humboldt.edu to discuss your favorite area of expertise.

Continued from page 13—Liturgical Calendar—December 2020

established in English usage, is not entirely fair to Thomas. He did not refuse belief: he wanted to believe, but did not dare, without further evidence. Because of his goodwill, Jesus gave him a sign, though Jesus had refused a sign to the Pharisees. His Lord's rebuke was well deserved: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (John 20:29). The sign did not create faith; it merely released the faith that was in Thomas already.

According to an early tradition mentioned by Eusebius and others, Thomas evangelized the Parthians. Syrian Christians of Malabar, India, who call themselves the Mar Thoma Church, cherish a tradition that Thomas brought the Gospel to India. Thomas' honest questioning and doubt, and Jesus' assuring response to him, have given many modern Christians courage to persist in faith, even when they are still doubting and questioning



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2020

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS Seasons

SUNDAYS OF ADVENT—CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 13 & 20
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
10:30 ONLINE WORSHIP

Parishioners will be able to obtain pre-consecrated communion wafers at the church office: Tues, Wed, and Fri, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. If you need your wafer(s) delivered email: christchurcheureka@gmail.com or telephone: 707 442-1797

ADVENT SACRED SAUNTERS—IN PERSON
DECEMBER 12 & 19

During the three Saturdays in Advent (at 11 AM), we will celebrate Eucharist outside among the redwoods at Deacon Anne's lovely home. Watch your weekly Email Updates for registration details.

ADVENT CHORAL COMPLINE
PREMIERES DECEMBER 13 AT 7:00 PM ON
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHRISTCHURCHEUREKA/](https://www.youtube.com/ChristChurchEureka/)

THE FEAST OF CHRIST MASS
MUSICAL PRELUDE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
PREMIERES DECEMBER 24 AT 7:00 PM ON
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHRISTCHURCHEUREKA/](https://www.youtube.com/ChristChurchEureka/)

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:
CHRISTMAS DAY
HOLY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS
PREMIERES DECEMBER 25 AT 8:00 AM ON
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHRISTCHURCHEUREKA/](https://www.youtube.com/ChristChurchEureka/)

Watch your weekly Email Updates for more information!



December Birthday Wishes



Watch over your child, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ken Musante	12/05	Carol Moorehead	12/16
Patricia Brantley	12/06	Denise Braafladt	12/16
Susan Brantley	12/06	Anne Van Zandt	12/19
Richard Streufert	12/06	Daisie Harris	12/20
Kaley Smithler	12/08	Paul Gossard	12/20
Karen Stanley	12/08	Austin Bozzoli	12/25
Lesley McCloghrie	12/08	Chris Hamer	12/25
Leslie Allen	12/09	Peach Bond	12/27
Anne Pierson	12/13	Kamryn Bozzoli	12/31



Happy Anniversary



O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church. Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Howard and Peg Gardner

Dec 22

Dr. Angus and Joan Stewart

Dec 24



Did we miss your special day? The staff apologies for our time perception disorder with any omissions of birthdays and anniversaries. Send your special day information to:
christchurcheureka@gmail.com
We want to acknowledge and celebrate your special day next year!



The December 2020

Cycle of Prayers

for our Diocese and the Anglican Communion

Please pray for the diocese, congregations, and clergy listed below on the Diocesan and Anglican cycles of prayer as well as those prayers requested by our Bishop, Dean and Diocesan Search & Transition Committees.

Every Sunday, the Diocesan Transition Committee requests that we pray for our bishop.

Look graciously on your Church and our bishop, The Rt. Rev Megan Traquair, as she so graciously and ably serves as a caring, faithful pastor for your people, guiding and supporting us in our ministries during this time of Covid-19.

Every Sunday, The Very Rev. Sara Potter, Dean of our Semper Virens Deanery, has asked us to pray for:

St. Francis, Fortuna

Intercessor We pray for the congregations of our deanery and for the people of St. Francis, Fortuna, that your grace will renew and guide them as they continue with on-line worship and that they may be witnesses of your light and truth in their community during this season of preparation and hope Lord,

People Hear our prayer.



December 6

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Woodland
The Rev. Carren Sheldon, Interim Rector

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain
(*Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury*)
The Rt. Rev. Carlos Lopez-Lozano
Bishop of the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

December 13

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Calistoga
The Rev. William McImoyl (Fr. Mac),
Priest in Charge,
The Rev. Susan Napoliello, Deacon

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
The Falkland Islands
(*Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury*)
The Rt. Rev. Timothy Thornton
Bishop to the Forces and
Bishop to the Falkland Islands

December 20

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:
St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Paradise
The Rev. Delia Fay, Priest-in-Charge

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
Mission agencies and their ministry
throughout the Anglican Communion,
including the Mothers' Union around the world.

December 27

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Galt
The Rev. Barbara Elizabeth Nixon, Vicar

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan, Rector
The Rev. Ernie Lewis, MD, Associate Priest
The Rev. Margaret Grayden, Archdeacon
The Rev. Alex Leach, Curate

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
Christians in other denominations and the work of
the ecumenical movement:

His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome
His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew
of Constantinople, New Rome and
Ecumenical Patriarch

The General Secretary of the
World Council of Churches

Bishop Ivan M Abrahams
General Secretary World Methodist Council
The Rev. Chris Ferguson
General Secretary of the World Communion
of Reformed Churches





If you wish to offer prayers daily for the church in the world, our Anglican Cycle of Prayer has a daily list of diocese and clergy who would benefit from your prayer ministry. This list can be obtained via this website: https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/352680/acp_2020.pdf. If you do not have a computer, I would be glad to make a copy of the 2020 Anglican Cycle of Prayer for you. Anne Pierson, Deacon





December 2020

SUN	M	T	W	Th	F	SAT
		Compline 1	2		3	4 5 Nicolas of Myra
		9:00 pm – Episcopal Bedtime Prayer https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchEureka/			Sacred Saunter—see your weekly Email Updates for registration information. ➡	Sacred Saunter 11:00 AM
6 ADVENT 2 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka	7	Compline 8	9		10 Sacred Saunter—see your weekly Email Updates for registration information. ➡	11 Sacred Saunter 11:00 AM
13 ADVENT 3 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka	14	Compline 15	16		17 Sacred Saunter—see your weekly Email Updates for registration information. ➡	18 Sacred Saunter 11:00 AM
13 ADVENT 3 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka		9:00 pm – Episcopal Bedtime Prayer https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchEureka/			18 Sacred Saunter—see your weekly Email Updates for registration information. ➡	19 Sacred Saunter 11:00 AM
ADVENT CHORAL COMPLINE Premieres at 7:00 PM On YouTube https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka						Sacred Saunter 11:00 AM
20 ADVENT 4 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka	21 St. Thomas Apostle	Compline 22	23	The Feast of Christ Mass 24	25 Christmas Day	26
		9:00 pm – Episcopal Bedtime Prayer https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchEureka/		Musical Prelude for Christmas Holy Eucharist: Rite II Premieres December 24 at 7:00 pm on YouTube	Holy Eucharist with Carols Premieres December 25 at 8:00 am on YouTube	
27 Christmas 1 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka	28 St. John Apostle & Evangelist	Compline HOLY INNOCENTS 29	30		31	



The Right Reverend Megan M. Traquair
Bishop
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Daniel D. London - Rector
The Rev. David Shewmaker - Associate Priest
The Rev. K Lesley McCloghrie - Associate Priest
The Venerable Pam Gossard - Archdeacon
The Rev. Anne Pierson - Deacon

Merry Phillips - Music Coordinator and Organist
David B. Powell - Choir Director
Dr. Douglas Moorehead - Organist Emeritus

Thomas Swanger - Parish Administrator

THE VESTRY

Royal McCarthy, Senior Warden; John Patton, Junior Warden; Peg Gardner, Clerk;
Dr. Robert (Bob) Hines, Treasurer; The Venerable Pam Gossard; Lynne Bean, Sharon Kalberer,
Bev Olson, Laura Rose, Christina Strevey, Nellie Thompson, Jannetje Vrieze

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