
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



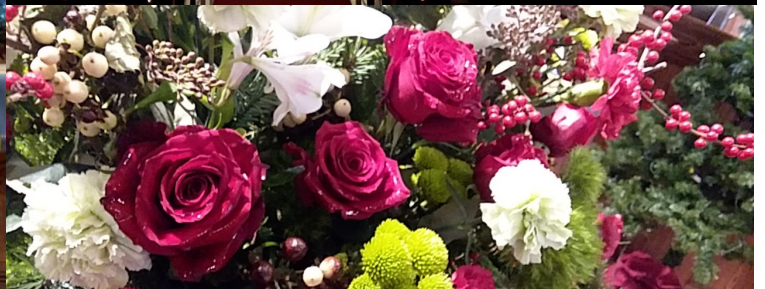
JANUARY 2021 - CHRONICLE



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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS Seasons



From the Rector

An Epiphany which Will Live in Infamy

“...they left for their own country by another road” (Matthew 2:12)

Fr. Daniel DeForest London, Rector



Wednesday January 6th was the Feast of the Epiphany and unfortunately it was an Epiphany which will live in infamy because of the violent rioters who stormed the US Capitol. Epiphany is about revealing, unveiling, and illuminating a truth that is already there. During Epiphany, the church celebrates three great Illuminations: the Star of Bethlehem which illuminated the location of the Christ child for the Magi,¹ the divine voice that revealed the belovedness of Christ at his baptism, and the miracle at the Wedding in Cana which unveiled Christ's radiant glory.

Last Sunday, Archdeacon Pam read about this first Illumination—the Star of Bethlehem—from the Gospel of Matthew, which is the same Gospel passage read on the Feast of the Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12). I believe this beloved story of the wise men can offer us some helpful (ahem) “wisdom” during this troubling time in our nation's history. The wise men were led by the Star of Bethlehem to Jerusalem and eventually to the place of Jesus's birth, where they paid homage to the newly born “King of the Jews.” On the way, they met with King Herod who asked them to inform him of the young king's location so that he too could pay him homage. The magi may have initially felt honored to be in Herod's company since the king was well known for constructing impressive walls, buildings, temples, and fortresses. However,

the magi were far too wise to fall prey to Herod's twisted duplicity. They saw straight through the superficial sweet talking of this tyrant. Underneath all the glitter and gold, the magi saw a profoundly insecure, narcissistic, and violent despot who felt threatened by a baby.

After the great light in the night sky showed them to Jesus, another divine light appeared to the magi in their dreams, illuminating to them what they had already felt to be true: the monstrous behavior of King Herod. They realized that returning to Herod with information about Christ's location would likely jeopardize the safety and wellbeing of the Holy Family. They were right because, according to Matthew's Gospel (2:16-18), Herod grew furiously unhinged and ordered his henchman to commit atrocious acts of violence that resulted in the tragic death of hundreds of young children. The magi were wise enough to keep their distance from this despot and to leave “for their own country *by another road.*”

PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY 2021

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; lead us, like the Magi, away from the violence and duplicity of tyrants like King Herod; and to the country we know and love by another road, the road of unity and compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The despicable behavior of King Herod, who murdered the Holy Innocents, did not diminish his legacy; it illuminated it. Similarly, a friend and professor of theology at St. Louis University Grant Kaplan said, “The storming of the Capitol [on the

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¹ Many suggest that the “Star of Bethlehem” was the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter which was visible to us in the night sky during December 2020, but was even more visible in the sky around the time of Christ's birth when Saturn and Jupiter aligned even more closely, according to extra-biblical ancient texts.

Feast of the Epiphany] does not at all diminish Trump's legacy; it illuminates it.” Now let me be clear that I love and respect many Republicans and many people who voted for Trump, but I believe we have all been given a disturbing Epiphany that makes it clear that this president is unstable and is not to be trusted. And I believe that the wisdom of the wise men urges us now to keep our distance from this president and all his enablers; and to return to the America we know and love *by another road*; not the road of division, conspiracy theories, and selfishness, but the difficult yet fruitful road of unity, facts, and compassion. By walking together in this way of love, we will be guided by God’s bright Epiphany light towards healing and wholeness.

² The church remembers these children and their tragic death on December 28th, the Feast of Holy Innocents.





Presiding Bishop Curry's Word to the Church: Who shall we be?

[January 8, 2021] Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has issued the following Word to the Church.

And now in the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

In another time of national crisis, another time of danger for our nation, in 1865 on March the fourth, Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with these words:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

Lincoln knew in that moment, in the moment of a national crisis, a moment of great danger, that such a moment was a moment of decision, when a nation, when a people must decide who shall we be? What kind of nation, what kind of people shall we be? A hundred years later, Martin Luther King faced the same reality. Who shall we be? The civil rights movement was waning. The great victories that had been won had been won. And yet now questions of poverty and economic despair and disparities raised an awesome specter on the nation. We were at war.

We were at war in another country, but there was war on our streets. The nation was deeply divided. Cities burned. There were riots. Riots at national conventions of political parties. The future of the nation was in question, and it was at that time that Dr. King realized that in moments of danger, a decision must be made. And he titled his last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. I believe as he believed, as Abraham Lincoln believed, as I believe you believe, that we must choose community. Chaos is not an option. Community is our only hope.

The truth is Dr. King spoke often of all that he did and labored for was for the purpose of realizing as much of the Beloved Community of God as it is possible on this earth. He spoke of Beloved Community, the Bible, the New Testament, Jesus spoke of the kingdom or the reign of God. Jesus taught us to pray, and to work, and to labor for that Beloved Community, that reign of God's love in our time and in our world, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth just as it is in heaven. Those are our marching orders from Jesus himself.

I am a follower of Jesus of Nazareth because I believe that his way of love and his way of life is the way of life for us all. I believe that unselfish, sacrificial love, love that seeks the good and the welfare and the well-being of others, as well as the self, that this is the way that can lead us and guide us to do what is just, to do what is right, to do what is merciful. It is the way that can lead us beyond the chaos to community.

Now, I know full well that this may to some sound naive, to others, idealistic, and I understand that. And yet, I want to submit that the way of love that leads to beloved community is the only way of hope for humanity. Consider the alternative. The alternative is chaos, not community. The alternative is the abyss of anarchy, of chaos, of hatred, of bigotry, of violence, and that alternative is unthinkable. We have seen nightmarish visions of that alternative. We saw it in Charlottesville just a few years ago when neo-Nazis marched through the streets of an American city, chanting, "Jews will not replace us." That alternative is unthinkable. We saw it in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where a public safety officer knelt with his knee on the neck of another human being. A child of God, just like he was, and snuffed out the breath of life that God gave him. The alternative is unthinkable.

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Continued from page 4—Presiding Bishop Curry's Word to the Church: Who shall we be?

And we have seen it this past Wednesday, when a monument to democracy, the Capitol of the United States of America was desecrated and violated with violence by vandals. Lives were lost. A nation was wounded. Democracy itself was threatened. My brothers and sisters, this way of love that Jesus taught us when he said, "Love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself." This way of love that Moses taught even before Jesus. This way of unselfish, sacrificial love, it is the way to redeem a nation, to save a world. It is the way of hope for us all. But do not make the mistake of thinking that I speak of a sentimental and emotional love.

Jesus spoke of love most consistently the closer he got to the cross. This way of love is the way of sacrifice, the way of unselfishness, the way of selflessness, that seeks the good of the other as well as the self. And that is the way of the cross, which is the way of life. And if you don't believe me, ask another apostle of love. Not Dr. King, not Abraham Lincoln, ask Archbishop Tutu. Ask one who has given his life for the cause of God's love in the way of Jesus. Ask him; ask Nelson Mandela in your mind. Ask them what love looks like. They knew that the way of love was the only way that could guide South Africa from what could have become a bloody nightmare and civil war to the way that could build a nation.

And it was not sentimental. Remember truth and reconciliation. They had to face painful truths. They had to do what was just and what was merciful. They had to do what the prophet Micah said, that the motivation and the guide was love. Archbishop Tutu said this:

Love, forgiving, and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved ones is not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back or turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness of the abuse, the hurt, the truth. It could even sometimes make things worse for a while. It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring forth real healing. Superficial reconciliation only brings superficial healing.

This is the way of love that can heal our hurts, that can heal our land, that can help us to become one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. So, I would ask you to do two things. I'm asking you to make a commitment, a renewed commitment, to live the way of love as Jesus has taught us and to do it by making a commitment to go out and bless somebody. Bless somebody you disagree with. Bless somebody you agree with. But to go out and bless somebody by helping somebody along the way. Go out and bless somebody by listening to their story and their life. To go out and be an instrument of God's peace, an agent of God's love.

And then I would ask you to pray. Pray for this nation but pray with some specificity. Pray that we may have the wisdom and the courage to love.

*God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy pow'r.
Crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour*

- Harry Emerson Fosdick, God of Grace and God of Glory

With malice toward none, with charity toward all. With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. Let us strive to finish the work, the work that we are in. To bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan. To do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

HAPPY NEW YEAR OR WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Mtr. K. Lesley McCloghrie, Associate Priest



As the clock struck midnight and we entered into January 1, 2021, we said goodbye to the year 2020, which will not go down in history as one of the best years of our lives. Our celebrations were most likely more modest than in years past, as we looked forward to a year with COVID 19 still present in our communities. For us January 1 is also the Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, formerly known as the Feast of the Circumcision, falling eight days after Jesus' birth. We hear of the event in the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 2:15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

"And he was called Jesus", the name given by the angel before the child was conceived in the womb. Jesus, for us it is a very familiar and simple name, but I wonder, have we ever stopped to think about its meaning? Those of us who have had the privilege of naming a child, may well have researched the meaning of names before we made our selection, Mary and Joseph did not have that choice. As with Mary, an angel appeared to Joseph telling him of the child, and how he was to be named.

Matthew 1:18-21

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Jesus, it derives from the Greek *Iesous*, which in turn is transliterated from the Hebrew *Yeshua*, a later form of *Yehhosua* (*Joshua*), meaning, "YHWH is salvation" or "YHWH saves/has saved".

In the scriptures Jesus is called by many names and titles. The title Christ, like Jesus, also comes from the Greek, from *Christos*, itself translated from the Hebrew *masiah*, from which we also get Messiah, signifying "anointed one". Combining the names Jesus and Christ brings together the historic figure of Jesus, with the messianic role we have attributed to him.

The name Jesus was common in the society of his time, and as was their custom, a "specifier" was often added, to correctly identify the particular individual. This is a practice still used in many cultures today. We hear of Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus, son of Mary, and Jesus the Galilean.

Jesus is also known by many titles both in scripture, and by the Church for example, Messiah, Son of David, Son of Man, Redeemer, Savior, Lord, King, to name but a few. His name is often represented in symbolic form, in carving, metalwork work, windows, on vestments and hangings, our worship booklets, newsletters, and other places. Here are a few of the more common forms.

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Happy New Year or What's in a Name? — Mtr. K. Lesley McCloghrie

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This is a monogram for ΙΗΣΟΥΣ, the Greek abbreviation for Jesus. It comes in a variety of forms, sometimes with a crown above it, symbolizing “Jesus (Christ) the King”.



Known as the Chi Roh, this is derived from the Greek for the first two letters of Christ. Again this comes in a variety of styles, sometimes with the Greek letters alpha and omega attached, symbolizing “Christ the beginning and the ending”.



Here is the sign of “Jesus Christ, Victor”, an abbreviation from the Greek “Jesus Christ conquers”.



As our church symbol, this should be familiar to us all, from the Latin “Agnus Dei”, the Lamb of God represents Christ as Savior.



Usually seen during Lent and Holy Week, The letters INRI are an abbreviation of the Latin “Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews”, the words nailed above the cross when Jesus was crucified. The crown of thorns and nails are self explanatory.



Known as “Ichthys or “Ichthus” the letters contained are an abbreviation for the Greek words meaning “Son of God, Jesus Christ (our) Savior”, while the stylized fish, something that could easily be drawn in the dirt or sand, is a symbol used by the early Christians as a secret sign to identify meeting places, as well as friends and foes. If you drew an arc in the dirt, then a follower of Christ would draw another, thereby completing the sign of the fish. Someone who was not a Christian would just see a curved line. The fish was an obvious choice for a sign, as it was a common food and was often used by Jesus as symbol.

Names, they become so familiar to us that we rarely stop to think about them. What does your name mean? Where did it come from, and do you know why your parents named you as they did? This might be something to find out, possibly a story to share at one of our Coffee Hours? My hope is that when you next read, pray, or sing the name Jesus, you might think a little more about its meaning, likewise if you should happen to notice one of the symbols for his name.

Happy New Year and Happy Feast of the Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Lesley+

EPIPHANY 2021

The Rev. David Shewmaker, Associate Priest

In the Gospels for Advent, We are instructed to stay awake, to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, to make straight the pathway of the Lord. We are given the incredibly beautiful example of Mary's intense listening to the Angel and of her humble acceptance of God's message. We learned that much of the waiting that is associated with Advent may be the waiting of God upon us to come to understand and to act within his reign of peace.

Inherent in the message of the kingdom of God is an implicit call to humans to change their ways. In the words of John the Baptizer, it was to repent (meaning to change direction) and receive forgiveness for sins. In the Gospel readings for January, we see this theme begin to be fleshed out, culminating in the explicit call of the disciples by Jesus to become "fishers of men." Jesus calls people out of this world of extreme rivalry to a world of extreme cooperation, the kingdom of God, the reign of heaven. This summons is to come out of the seemingly overwhelming power of the earthly empires around them. In the midst of this call resides the direct guidance of the gentle spirit of God, Holy by its being predicated upon the love of God.

We can see this Spirit at work in guiding the mother of Jesus and her husband out of harm's way to Egypt, then calling them back after the death of the rivalry-filled Herod. We see this in the voice that tears open the heavens and declares Jesus to be "the beloved." We see this in Jesus' declaration that we will see angels ascending and descending upon Him. We see this in the immediate following of Jesus by Andrew and Simon.

Now, the call becomes clear! Disciples are to trust in the power of this invisible, immaterial Spirit of God in the face of the very real danger and vicissitudes of earthly life. We are to trust in this power and we are to bring others to trust in this power! That is the call! That is the challenge of being a living, practicing disciple of Jesus. This would seem to be impossible to many, but history has shown a steady and global growth in discipleship for the last 2100 years. This is what Saint Paul called "the boundless riches of Christ.... so that the wisdom of God in its rich varie-



ty might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." (See Ephesians 3: 1-12, the Epistle for Epiphany.)

The Collect for Epiphany also recognizes that we must turn from the noise of the world to the serenity of God: "O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, *to your presence*, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

The forgiveness of God is available to all who turn to Him, no matter how boldly or how timidly they do so. Sin is not hitting the bullseye that is God's loving presence by being distracted by the world's gaudy, flashing lights. (Think of your TV screen, your smart phone screen!) If that doesn't get you, then the world throws darkness at you, through the exaggerated fears that are within us all. (Pandemic, terrorists, crime, etc.)

Therefore, let us who believe turn to our blessed guide and advocate that Jesus left us, the Holy Spirit. Hear what St. Paul said to us: "And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined, he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified." (Romans 8:27-30, NRSV.)

Let us open our hearts to "the mind of the Spirit." Let grace flow down like a river!



ABOUT THE VESTRY

Origins

Originally the word referred to the room where the priest would put on his vestments, at which time local laity would meet with him to discuss the affairs of the parish. Over time the name of the room came to signify the group of people who governed a parish because it was where they met. While the vestry meeting location has changed, the name has remained the same.

Role of the Vestry

The vestry of an Episcopal church has three primary responsibilities. The first two are managerial: to take care of parish finances and the parish buildings. The third is to choose individuals to fill various positions of leadership and representation: the choice of a rector, the choice of delegates to the diocesan convention, and the selection of others as the diocesan canons may stipulate. The vestry also serves as an advisory council to the rector who by church law is the parish's chief liturgical and pastoral officer.

Vestry Nominations

It's time to consider if God may be calling you to the ministry of the Vestry. If you are regular in attendance at worship, 18 years of age or older, a member of record for the last six months, a communicant in good standing, and pledge, you have the requisite qualifications. Vestry members are elected for a three-year term and attend monthly Vestry meetings, generally on the last Sunday of each month, in addition to committee and other special meetings. Consider what attributes or talents you would bring, what ministries you have participated in, and which leadership area you could help grow, expand, and be an advocate for. If you have questions or think you may be interested in serving, please contact Royal McCarthy, Senior Warden, and complete the Vestry Questionnaire by **Friday, January 15th**.

****See Vestry Questionnaire on page 7****



The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 31st online! The meeting will begin with Holy Eucharist: Rite II at 10:30. Immediately following the service there will be a short online coffee hour followed by the business meeting.

Watch the weekly Email Updates for more information!

VESTRY MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

Vestry members are servant leaders. The basic qualifications are:

- You are regular in attendance at worship
- You are 18 years of age or older
- You are a member of record for at least six months
- You are a communicant in good standing
- You are a pledging member of the parish

Vestry members are elected for a three-year term and attend monthly Vestry meetings, dates and times will be determined by the newly elected vestry, in general the meetings are held the fourth Sunday of the month, in addition to committee and other special meetings.

Here are several questions to prayerfully consider:

What attributes or talents will you bring to the Vestry?

What ministries have you participated in within the last two years at Christ Church?

Which leadership area do you believe you could help grow, expand and be an advocate for?

From the Senior Warden **Royal McCarthy**



I hope that all had a safe and wonder filled Christmas. I want to express my thanks for all the work done by the “worship team” in putting the Christmas Eve Mass and Christmas Day services together. The team, Fr. Daniel, Paul, Thomas, Merry, David, Pam, Anne, Mother Lesley, Kathy, Elizabeth and Lyn (the altar and flower guilds), Doug, the virtual choir, Marty, the readers, John, Heidi did a marvelous job in bringing us the two virtual Services. As Senior Warden, it has been a privilege to be a part of the team and to participate in the virtual Services. I finally figured out how to watch YouTube on our television and it was wonderful.

We have come to the end of a very “interesting” year. The campus has been holding up fairly well with the aid of our Jr. Warden, Thomas and volunteers. Due to the inactivity in the Church, we have developed an extensive powder mold problem. Restif has been retained to come in and take care of it. The work will be done in the middle of January.

The work to be done on the stained glass windows is scheduled for the first part of February and should take about a week.

With the current COVID-19 situation, the Annual Meeting is going to be a virtual event. I encourage you all to join us via Zoom for the meeting. We all look forward to being able to gather in person and hopefully we can later this year.

Thank you again for all your support and if there are any concerns or needs, please let me know or contact the Church office. God Bless and here is to a successful 2021.



From the Junior Warden **John Patton**

Greetings and Happy Year!

As Royal mentioned above, the church will be receiving a thorough cleaning—an early spring cleaning—to treat for powder mold.

Restif Cleaning Service will be on campus, Monday, January 11 performing mold cleaning on the walls in the nave, chancel, pew kneelers, restrooms, bell tower stairwell, and Heritage Room. The Heritage Room carpet will also be cleaned with a hot water extraction. This will bring the mold situation under control. We have added large, commercial fans to run for a couple of hours a day to move the air in the main church to help with the mold problem as well.

Monthly Reflection

from the Lectionary
Matthew Taylor

Hebrews 10:35 - 11:1

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷ For,

“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”

³⁸ And,

“But my righteous one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.”

³⁹ But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. ¹¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Another year has finally closed its pages and never one so memorable, tumultuous, and arduous in the recent decades as 2020. Page upon pages could be dedicated to the numerous and overwhelming amount of things that have happened within only this single year, few positive and unfortunately many unpleasant. As many of us do during this month; we take the time to reflect on the steps we took, accomplishments we gained, and mistakes we made. By the end of the New Year Ball dropping in New York City I'm sure we were all exhausted in the thoughts we were ruminating in for the past hours, days, and weeks. Reflection and contemplation are important and healthy habits, but as we come into the new year we shouldn't let it stifle us in our repair and growth. Doing so in too much quantity often leads to an emotional and spiritual wall keeping us from moving forward with confidence, hope, and faith.

This month's chosen lectionary reading was appointed on December 21st, it comes from a letter traditionally attributed to Paul likely to the Hebrew Christians living in Jerusalem at the time. During this time persecution and exclusion from their Jewish peers were beginning to grate and weaken the hearts of the early Christians there. Surely similar to how our hearts have come



out of this last year; the message here even though different in context still holds true now and forever more. As Christians we persevere together, comfort each other together, as we await the reward and peace that our Father has promised us when all in this life is said and done. Each new year reflects this promise in a small way. Each new year gives us a new hope and confidence even when we think we have no more to gather.

A new year often feels like walking into a room with the lights off and the switch located on the far side of a room of which size you have no idea. When in those moments, we can only hope that we do not step on a tack or trip over a chair leg on our way to seeing the bigger picture. Faith and hope are very similar ideas however as illustrated in 11:1 “faith is the confidence of what we hope for and assurance about what we don't see”; hope comes without reassurance, faith comes with the knowledge and conviction that things will get better. God has promised us that our hope is not in vain and that he is there time and time again encouraging us to keep our confidence in him and his plan. Let this new year begin with a rekindling of our vigor, washing away the mistakes and worries of the previous year. Knowing that we will receive our reward for our hard work in keeping faith and hope in 2021. Keeping in mind God's promise to us in the personage of Jesus Christ that everything we go through on earth, year after year, is not in vain but in God's hands. May we all have an easier year this 2021 and, even if it comes to be difficult as well, may we know that we have each other as brothers and sisters and are always in the loving arms of God; since the day of our birth to our returning to him in death.

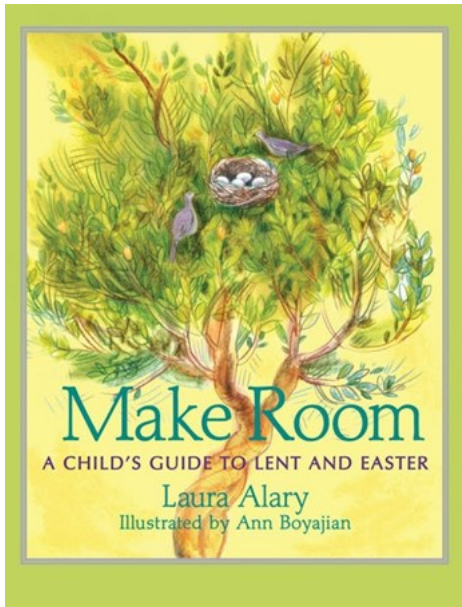
Happy New Years, Christ Church Congregants.

With great affection,

Matthew Taylor

LOOKING FORWARD WHILE BEING FULLY PRESENT

Merry Phillips, Music Coordinator



There it was, staring me in the face as I opened my email box today ... an email with the subject line “6 weeks until Ash Wednesday.” I opened the email, from one of my favorite publishers, so see what they were offering for the season of Lent. I really did not want to be thinking about Lent just yet, but I found myself curious and as I explored their offerings, I found my Lenten ‘devotion’ for this year. Having ventured into Narnia for Advent and thoroughly enjoyed it, I decided to continue to feed my inner child by purchasing a book titled *Make Room: a child’s guide to Lent and Easter*. The following brief description of the book confirmed for me that this is indeed what I need and want for my Lenten journey: “*Make Room* presents Lent as a special time for creating a welcoming space for God. Other books offer excellent ideas for going through the Lenten season with children, but *Make Room* uniquely connects its projects to the story of Jesus. Simple and practical activities such as baking bread, having a neighbor over for dinner, uncluttering your room, and watching less TV become acts of justice and kindness, part of a life of following

and imitating Christ, and a way to make room for God in our lives and in the world around us.” It is beautifully illustrated, the writing is simple and heartfelt, and while we may not be able to have our neighbors over to dinner, there were suggestions for many intentional activities worth pursuing.

So, now I have that settled, I am back to the season Epiphany, and looking forward to being present in all the beauty of this liturgical season. One of the challenges for church musicians is to learn how to balance the need for planning and preparing with the need to be fully present in the moment. It is a strange juxtaposition and made even stranger in this time of pandemic, where we are preparing and recording music ‘ahead of time’ for services. One of the wonderful tangible benefits for me has been being able to sit and watch/participate fully in services without juggling the duties of a church musician. I think the title of the Lenten devotion I have chosen speaks well to finding this balance – “Make Room” – the dictionary definition says, “to rearrange or organize existing [people, objects, etc.] to create space for new objects.” This is perhaps one way to look at what is happening now; it is a way to keep our balance.

For this season of Epiphany, we will again be using Simplified Anglican Chant during our worship services. William Bradley Roberts writes the following on Simplified Anglican Chant:

Chanting the Psalms is a practice that goes back thousands of years to the time of ancient Israel. Indeed, the Book of Psalms is the hymnal of Israel. Speaking the Psalms is an anomaly, because Psalms are for singing. It is easy to picture the shock that might have appeared on the faces of Israel’s musicians if they could witness the widespread practice of speaking Psalms in American parish worship today. to understand their reaction, just imagine celebrating someone’s birthday, for example, by speaking the words to the birthday song. The effect would be comic.

Continued on page 14

When Robert Knox Kennedy popularized “Simplified Anglican Chant” in 1979, many people were emboldened for the first time to sing the Psalms. Far easier than full Anglican Chants, this newer form has fewer notes in the tune. When these chants are based on already familiar hymn tunes, they become even easier to sing. Leaders who wish to encourage the singing of Anglican Chant might even find that Simplified Anglican Chant is a step in that direction, preparing people for the more complex form and building up their confidence until they are ready to try.

I do not entirely agree with his assertion that we should only sing the Psalms – there are times when speaking them (considering the comfort and needs of worshipers) seems more appropriate. But it is glorious to sing them when we can, and we are blessed with David as our cantor to lead us. It will be tempting to sit back and listen, but I encourage you to join in with him at home! The music will be in the bulletin and the Psalms will be “pointed” – they are marked so you know when to change notes (the word you change on is underlined). And when there are an odd number of verses, we sing only the 2nd half of the music to the last verse. There are four measures of music: two measures for each line of the Psalm verse. Listen to David and you will hear the pattern and please join in as soon as you are comfortable!

On Sunday, January 14th, at 4 pm, we will premiere another virtual concert – it will be an Epiphany Concert, featuring solo organ music, organ and flute music, and virtual choir anthems. Please mark you calendars and join us for the premiere; and, of course, you can watch it anytime afterwards as it will be on YouTube.

The Baptism of our Lord and the Transfiguration frame this beautiful Season after Epiphany. The seasonal theme is, “...well-expressed in Christopher Wordsworth’s great hymn ‘Songs of thankfulness and praise’ (#135) (Planning for Rites and Rituals: Year B, p. 56). We will sing this hymn together on the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany when Deacon Pam is to preach.

May the joy and light of this season after Epiphany sustain you as we embark on a new year!



2016 – Epiphany Choir Dinner



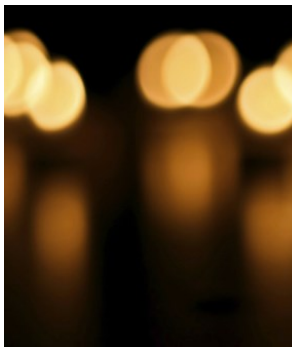
Food for People

The Food Bank for Humboldt County

For those that have given or thought of giving, please check out the corner of 14th and Summer Streets in Eureka. The site is the location of the Food for People building that suffered damage last year rendering the building unusable as a food distribution center. PLEASE see what they are doing now. The old building is gone, and the site is a hub of activity as they make great strides toward the new building. Thanks for all that you have done for Food for People in 2020.

The new year has got to be better. Stay Safe. Bev

LEFT: Artist rendering of the new food for people distribution warehouse. A complete transformation and renovation of the site is ongoing to provide more warehouse space, increased cooler and freezer capacity, and offices and meeting spaces for program staff and community partners.



Centering Prayer Series

With Fr. David Shewmaker



Beginning January 18, 6:30 pm

Please email the church office to receive the Zoom link for series.

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

A Letter from Sandy in Honduras

Dear friends,

It has been such a difficult year. I know some of you must have suffered terrible losses and my heart feels your pain. I feel so helpless to uplift anyone, including myself.

Today I want to let you know about our efforts in Honduras, although it may be small comfort for your personal suffering. I refuse to let this traumatic year end my program of helping Honduran children.



In January I was in Honduras to meet and help facilitate our surgical brigade, as I have done for over 20 years. This amazing medical team came and performed over 30-foot surgeries, sending many children off to a brighter future.

Operation Smile arrived in March to operate on children with cleft lips and palates. As usual I brought some children for help. One Sunday, I went to see one of my patients, although I did not feel very well. Fortunately, my constant companions, Maribel and Cristóbal, were with me so when I began to have trouble reacting and speaking, they understood that I thought I was having a stroke. I could write a book about their heroic efforts to help me, from getting me to a local private hospital, to buying costly stroke medication, to contacting my family and getting my daughter to my bedside the next day. Everyone agreed I should stay in Honduras to recover from this bleed that was caused by high blood pressure.

March brought worldwide turmoil with the Coronavirus, and all Honduran airports were closed for five months. Thus, my intended stay of two months turned into eight, but I was able to recover completely.

As I began to feel better, I wanted to get back to work. Due to Covid-19, all activities for children were terminated. Clinics were closed, all public transportation stopped, and all international travel, to send kids to the states for surgery, ceased. Stay at home orders were enforced in various ways, with some police checkpoints to leave town, and travel for essential errands restricted to one day every two weeks. I turned to some local non-profits to see what they were doing and found a clinic making prosthetics for adults. I decided to buy a full leg for a 67-year-old man. The leg costs \$700; I reached out to one donor who paid the entire amount. I have three other amputees on my list to help.

I returned to California in October where I was able to reschedule a cancelled hip transplant and cataract surgery. You can see I have stressed my body a great deal this year. I am so grateful to report that I seem to be myself again.

I would like to dedicate this year and our work to my dear friend Jackie Henderson who has valiantly fought cancer for almost five years. We were doubles partners in tennis for ten years and she has always been a dear confident. Her love has improved the lives of so many.

Finally, this year will not include any gatherings. There are just too many obstacles to overcome during the pandemic. I will miss that very much as it is always so enjoyable to see you, and to speak about our work face to face.

May health and goodwill be your companions this holiday season.

Stay safe and healthy.



Sandy in Honduras • PO Box 886 • Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896 • Tax ID# 823995165

Liturgical Calendar — January 2021

From Lesser Feasts and Fasts • 2018



CONFESSION OF ST. PETER, APOSTLE

January 18

Almighty Father, who inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God: Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

When Jesus's disciple Simon confessed, "You are the Christ," Jesus responded, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church." This fisherman and his brother Andrew were the first disciples called by Jesus. Peter figures prominently in the Gospels, of-

ten stumbling, impetuous, intense, and uncouth.

It was Peter who attempted to walk on the sea, and began to sink; it was Peter who impulsively wished to build three tabernacles on the mountain of the Transfiguration; it was Peter who, just before the crucifixion, three times denied knowing his Lord.

But it was also Peter who, after Pentecost, risked his life to do the Lord's work, speaking boldly of his belief in Jesus. It was also Peter, the Rock, whose strength and courage helped the young Church in its questioning about the mission beyond the Jewish community. Opposed at first to the baptism of Gentiles, he had the humility to admit a change of heart, and to baptize the Roman centurion Cornelius and his household. Even after this, Peter had a continuing struggle with his conservatism, for Paul, writing to the Galatians, rebukes him for giving way to the demands of Jewish Christians to dissociate himself from table-fellowship with Gentiles.

Though the New Testament makes no mention of it, the tradition connecting Peter with Rome is early and virtually certain. According to a legend based on that tradition, Peter fled from Rome during the persecution under Nero. On the Appian Way, he met Christ, and asked him, "Domine, quo vadis?" ("Lord, where are you going?"). Jesus answered, "I am coming to be crucified again." Peter thereupon retraced his steps, and was shortly thereafter crucified, head downwards. "I am not worthy to be crucified as my Lord was," he is supposed to have said.

As we watch Peter struggle with himself, often stumble, love his Lord and deny him, speak rashly and act impetuously, his life reminds us that our Lord did not come to save the godly and strong but to save the weak and the sinful. Simon, an ordinary human being, was transformed by the Holy Spirit into the "Rock," and became the leader of the Church.

Since 1908, the eight days between the feast of the Confession of Saint Peter and the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul have been observed ecumenically as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Lesser Feasts and Fasts • 2018

A collection of proper collects, lessons, and psalms for the eucharist on each of the weekdays of Lent, weekdays of Easter season, and each of the lesser feasts of the church year. It also includes a biographical or historical sketch for the lesser feasts and fixed holy days.



The Conversion of Saint Paul by Caravaggio

CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE

January 25

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Paul, or Saul as he was known until he became a Christian, was a Roman citizen, born at Tarsus, in present-day Turkey. He was brought up as an observant Jew, studying in Jerusalem for a time under Gamaliel, the most famous rabbi of the day. Describing himself, he said, “I am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin” (Romans 11:1).

A few years after the death of Jesus, Saul came in contact with the new Christian movement, and became one of the most fanatical of those who were determined to stamp out this “dangerous heresy.” Saul witnessed the stoning of Stephen and approved of it. He was on the way to Damascus to lead in further persecution of the Christians when his dramatic conversion took place.

From that day, Paul devoted his life totally to Christ, and especially to the conversion of Gentiles. The Acts of the Apostles describes the courage and determination with which he planted Christian congregations over a large area of the land bordering the eastern Mediterranean. His letters, which are the earliest Christian writings, established him as one of the early founders of Christian theology. He writes, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Paul describes himself as small and insignificant in appearance: “

His letters are weighty and strong,” it was said of him, “but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account” (2 Corinthians 10:10). He writes of having a disability or affliction which he had prayed God to remove from him, and quotes the Lord’s reply, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, Paul went on to say, “I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” 90 (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Paul is believed to have been martyred at Rome in the year 64 under Nero.

The feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul marks the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Lesser Feasts and Fasts • 2018

A collection of proper collects, lessons, and psalms for the eucharist on each of the weekdays of Lent, weekdays of Easter season, and each of the lesser feasts of the church year. It also includes a biographical or historical sketch for the lesser feasts and fixed holy days.

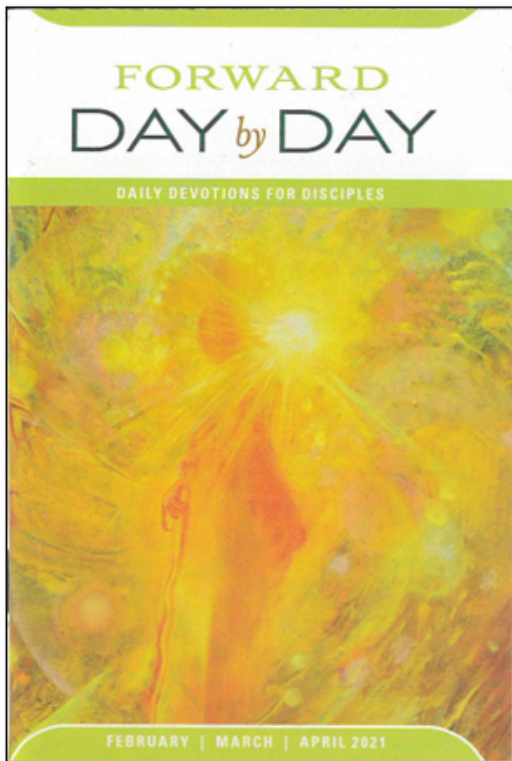
LAY MINISTRIES

By Marty Vega

Our Advent and Christmas services were an inspirational demonstration of how our technical team has grown in experience and expertise over the past months. Some YouTube viewers stated that until we told them, they were unaware our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were pre-recorded.



If you have experience in recording, filming, or editing, consider joining this team. They would love to have your assistance and knowledge.



***The FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL 2021
issue of Forward Day by Day has arrived!***

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer.

The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author.

We will be happy drop the current edition into the mail for you. Please email the church office at: christchurchureka@gmail.com

and put Forward Day by Day in the subject line

or call 442-1797 and leave message.

About the cover of the current issue: Angel Raphael, painted by Anne Cameron Cutri with oil over acrylic on wood, is the patron saint of the sick and of those who heal them. Cutri was inspired to paint her vision of the angel in response to COVID-19 pandemic. An artist for more than thirty years, Cutri seeks to listen, hear, and see the Holy Spirit through scripture and interpret its essence.



January 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.**

Joanne Loureiro	January 5	Kathleen Lake	January 11
Latanya Jacob	January 6	Karen Price	January 13
Madelon Moore	January 8	Evan Smithler	January 17
Shirley Davis	January 11	Fr. David Shewmaker	January 18



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.**

Jimmie and Celia Nord

January 4

Bill and Barbara Walser

January 11



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 January 2021 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. Alban's, Arcata

Intercessor We pray for the congregations of our deanery, this month for the people of St. Alban's, Arcata. Grant them sensitivity to the Spirit's leading in worship, care for each other and service to their community.

People Hear our prayer.



January 3

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Redding
Father Aidan Rontani, Rector

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria
Archbishop Mounseer Anis of Alexandria
and Bishop of Egypt

January 10

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
All Saints' Memorial Episcopal Church, Sacramento
The Rev. Michael Monnot, Rector,
The Rev. Portia Hopkins, Associate,
The Rev. Virginia McNeely, Deacon

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Elk Grove
The Rev. Dr. John E. Day, Priest-in-Charge,
The Rev. Roy Coloma, Associate
The Rev. Dr. Raymond Potter, Associate
The Rev. Ronald Zoesch, Associate

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand
and Polynesia
The Most Rev. Philip Richardson
Bishop of Taranaki and Archbishop of New Zealand,
The Most Rev. Donald Tamihere,
Bishop of Te Tairāwhiti and Aotearoa
Head of the Maori Anglican Church and
Primate & Archbishop of New Zealand
The Most Rev. Fereimi Cama,
Archbishop of Polynesia

January 17

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
The Belfry Episcopal-Lutheran Campus Ministry
The Rev. Casey Dunsworth, Pastor, ELCA

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
The Anglican Church of Australia
The Most Rev. Geoffrey Smith,
Primate of Australia and Archbishop of Adelaide

January 24

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
Christ Episcopal Church, Eureka
The Rev. Dr. Daniel DeForest London, Rector
The Rev. David Shewmaker, Associate,
The Rev. Lesley McCloghrie, Associate
The Venerable Pam Gossard, Archdeacon
The Rev. Anne Pierson, Deacon,

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Napa
The Rev. Robin Denney, Rector
The Rev. Don Callison, Deacon

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
The Church of Bangladesh
The Most Rev. Samuel Sunil Mankhin
Moderator, and Bishop of Kushtia

January 31

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
Christ The King Episcopal Church, Quincy,
The Rev. Matt Warren, Vicar

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil,
The Most Rev. Naudal Alves Gomes
Primate and Bishop of Curitiba

February 7

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
Our Savior Episcopal Church, Placerville
The Rev. Debra Sabino, Rector
The Rev. Christine Leigh-Taylor, Associate
The Rev. Stephen Shortes, Deacon

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Sacramento
The Rev. Canon Anne Arthur, Priest Associate
The Rev. Grant Bakewell, Jr., Associate
The Rev Rik Rasmussen, Associate
The Rev. Babette Haggenjos, Deacon

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:
The Anglican Church of Burundi
The Most Rev. Martin Blaise Nyaboho, Archbishop

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



JANUARY 2021

SUN	M	T	W	Th	F	SAT
					HAPPY NEW YEAR! 1	2
Second Sunday after Christmas 3 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka	4	Compline 5	The Epiphany 6	7	8	9
First Sunday after the Epiphany 10 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka	11	Compline 12	13	14	DEADLINE: Annual Reports Nominations for Vestry 15	16
Second Sunday after the Epiphany 17 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka	Confession of St. Peter, Apostle 18	Compline 19	20	21	22	23
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/				
Third Sunday after the Epiphany 24 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka	Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle 25	Compline 26	27	28	29	30
ANNUAL MEETING 31 10:30 Online Worship Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka						



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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