

THE SCEPTRE

VOLUME 54, No.12

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

DECEMBER 2014

An inclusive parish of The Episcopal Church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition

FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

traditionally signals a return to the beginning. Communities of faith start all over, taking up their ancient texts. In the midst of a world where God is rarely felt, we yearn to experience God again for the first time. So we read and listen to our ancestors in faith. We do this trusting that somehow memory and hope will come alive.



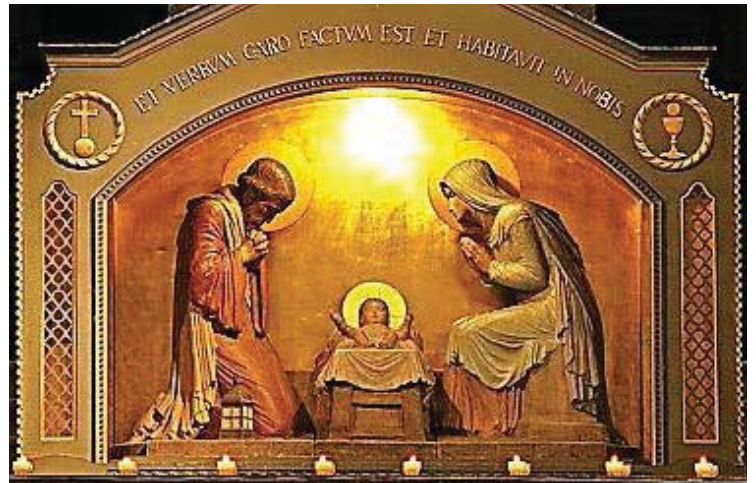
The scriptural texts for these four weeks lead us deeper into an examination of the function of time and how God is at work in our world. We are told that "...salvation is nearer to us than when we became believers; that night is far gone, the day is near" (Romans 13: 11b-12a). We are urged to be awake and live honorably in the world. We are to live as God's people, doing God's work and not allowing ourselves to be consumed by the ways of the world. This is a radical, countercultural message that challenges the sentimental and commercial aspects of our cultural holiday season.

So, during this season of Advent, with all the shopping, writing cards, gathering with our friends and decorating our homes, we do not need to diminish the importance of these aspects of our tradition. Rather, we need to look for God's presence in each beautiful or absurd circumstance of these days of preparation and expectation. Advent is not a celebration of victory of the sacred over the secular or

the reverse. Advent is meant to proclaim the God who comes to us in even the most unlikely circumstances, persons, or events.

During this season of Advent, seek God in all of those unexpected places and times. Reach out to the forgotten people of the streets in our city and in our community. Please give of yourself with no conditions and receive the many blessings of the season.

- Father Mark



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STEP 1: *Our Parish Profile*

Some of us attend the Latin Mass, some the 9:00 mass, and some attend High Mass as our weekly obligation. I would ask that regardless of the mass you attend, that you make a special effort to be in Lathrop Hall up on Sunday, December 7th to take part in the second Town Hall meeting. The committee will do its utmost to keep the meeting on a 60 minute schedule gavel to gavel.

As chair of the last such committee at Advent, I can tell you that full participation of the congregation in the process is absolutely vital to engendering confidence and a positive spirit in the committee as it does its work. I urge you to please take the time to add your voice and opinion to this exciting and necessary process. May the Holy Spirit be with us and guide us as we exercise this most important prerogative of Anglican Laity. May joy and the desire to share motivate us as we walk this path together. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday December 7.

Stephen Rucker, Junior Warden

PARISH THANKSGIVING DINNER 2014



**SECOND TOWN HALL MEETING:
SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 1 PM
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Please plan to attend
and contribute to this essential
process !*



Christmas at CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Christmas Eve - Vigil of the Nativity

Wednesday December 24 11 pm

The Lord at first arr. Christopher Bowers-Broadbent
Resonet in laudibus Jacob Handl
O magnum mysterium G. P. da Palestrina
Verbum caro factum est Hans Leo Hassler
In the bleak midwinter Harold Darke

Christmas Day - Nativity of Our Lord

Thursday December 25 11 am

Resonet in laudibus Jacob Handl
O magnum mysterium G. P. da Palestrina
Verbum caro factum est Hans Leo Hassler
Quelle est cette odeur agréable Harold Darke

- festive receptions after each service -

SCHOLA ADVENTUS

Jennifer Ashworth
 Lauren Carley
 David Alban
 Jonathon Hampton
 James Monios

Directed by Dr. Paul Ellison



SPECIAL LITURGIES IN DECEMBER *All are welcome !*

Evening Low Masses in December at 6:30pm, preceded by Evening Prayer at 6 pm:

- Monday, 1 Dec, St Andrew, Apostle (tr)
- Monday, 8 December: Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Monday, 15 December: Monthly Requiem Mass
- Monday, 22 December: St Thomas, Apostle (tr)
- Friday, 26 December: St Stephen, Protomartyr
- Monday, 29 December: The Holy Innocents (tr)

Our Consecration in Christmastide Our current church building saw its first mass celebrated at Christmas 1910, but was not consecrated until the mortgage was paid off. On 1 January 1944, the present church building was consecrated by Bishop Block. Thursday, 1 January 2015, is the 71st anniversary of this consecration.

Grant, we beseech thee, blessed Lord, that whosoever shall draw near to thee [at Church of the Advent], to give thee thanks for the benefits which they have received at thy hands, to set forth thy most worthy praise, to confess their sins unto thee, and to ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul, may do it with such steadiness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devotion of mind, that thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give whatever in thy infinite wisdom thou shalt see to be most expedient for them. All which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

-- Book of Common Prayer 1928



The O Antiphons

Before the Magnificat (BCP p. 119) the antiphon below for the appointed day is said. The antiphon is repeated after the canticle. Each Antiphon begins with "O" and addresses Jesus with a unique title which comes from the prophecies of Isaias and Micheas (Micah), and whose initials, when read backwards, form an acrostic for the Latin "Ero Cras" which means "Tomorrow I come: Sapientia Adonai Radix Jesse Clavis David Oriens Rex Gentium Emmanuel. The O Antiphons are the source of the lyrics of the Advent hymn "Veni, veni Emmanuel" ("Come, O come Emmanuel").

17 December – O Sapientia

O Wisdom, which came out of the mouth of the Most High, and reaches from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Sapientia, quæ ex ore Altissimi prodiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiæ.

18 December – O Adonai

O Adonai, Leader of the house of Israel, who appeared in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gave him the law in Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammæ rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

19 December – O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse, which stands for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall stop their mouths, whom the Gentiles look for: Come and deliver us, and do not delay.

O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem Gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

20 December – O Clavis David

O Key of David, Sceptre of the house of Israel; that opens and no person shuts, and shuts and no person opens: Come and bring the captives out of prison.

O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

21 December – O Oriens

O Day-spring, Brightness of the Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Oriens, splendor lucis æternæ, et sol justitiæ: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

22 December – O Rex Gentium

O King of the Nations and their Desire; the Cornerstone, who makes both one: Come and save mankind, whom you formed of clay.

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

23 December – O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, Desire of all nations and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos Domine Deus noster.



SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVENT READING

Advent and Christmas Wisdom by Henri Nouwen

The inspiring words of Henri J.M. Nouwen guide the faithful on a spiritual journey through the Advent and Christmas season in this book of waiting, hope, anticipation, and celebration. Each day contains an excerpt from the writings of Nouwen, a related quotation from Scripture, a prayer for the day, and a suggested activity that offers a concrete response to mark the season.

Advent with Evelyn Underhill by Evelyn Underhill

A curated collection of passages drawn from Underhill's deep spiritual vision. One for each day during Advent and Christmas.

Between Two Worlds: Daily Readings for Advent by Kate Moorehead

Insights for each day in Advent explore the tension of living after Jesus's resurrection while anticipating his return.

Light Upon Light

This collection contains daily and weekly inspirational readings to help the reader prayerfully experience God through the liturgical seasons of winter. Well-loved classics by Andersen, Dickens, and Eliot join contemporary works by Frederick Buechner and Gary Schmidt. Poems by Donne, Herbert, and Rossetti are paired with newer voices: Scott Cairns, Benjamín Alire Sáenz, Susanna Childress, and Amit Majmudar. Readers are invited to experience Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany in its raw strangeness, stripped of sentiment, and to turn toward Emmanuel.

Preparing for Christmas by Richard Rohr

"Advent is not about a sentimental waiting for the Baby Jesus," Richard Rohr asserts. Advent is a time to focus our expectations and anticipation on "the adult Christ, the Cosmic Christ," who challenges us to empty ourselves, to lose ourselves, to surrender. Richard Rohr's Scriptural reflections for Advent are the perfect preparation for the Christmas season. He provides daily reflections for the Advent season, along with each day's Scripture readings and questions for reflection.

Run, Shepherd, Run: Poems for Advent and Christmas selected by L. William Countryman

Countryman shares a poem a day for Advent and Christmas from classical voices like John Donne and Emily Dickinson, along with many of their contemporary counterparts.

Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas

C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Annie Dillard, and more offer daily wisdom and nourishment, Advent to Epiphany.

The Ewing Cobb Memorial Library is open on weekends and by appointment. Please come and browse and sign out any books. We are happy to assist you in finding reading materials. See any member of the Guild of Saint Faith for assistance. The members of the Guild are Suellen Thompson, Fr. Rod Thompson, Jennifer Usher and Sam Cantin.

HIGH MASS SUNDAYS 11:00 AM**2nd Sunday of Advent, Sunday December 7**

Celebrant:

Preacher:

3rd Sunday of Advent, Sunday December 14

Celebrant:

Preacher:

4th Sunday of Advent, Sunday December 21

Celebrant:

Preacher:

Vigil of the Nativity, Wednesday December 24**11 PM**

Celebrant:

Preacher:

Nativity of Our Lord, Thursday December 25**11 AM**

Celebrant:

Preacher:

1st Sunday after The Nativity, Sunday, Dec. 28

Celebrant:

Preacher:

LATIN CHANT MASS**SATURDAYS 5 PM**

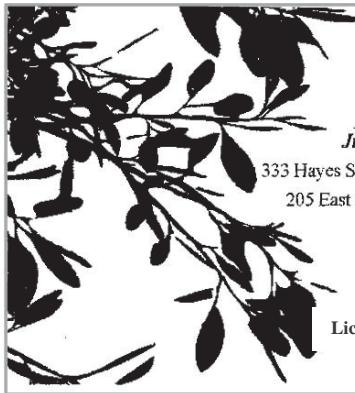
Celebrant: Fr. Rod Thompson

Vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 6**Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 20****DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Dec... Jude Hill SSF + (priesthood)
 2 Dec...Lauran Pifke + (priesthood)
 2 Dec...Rod Thompson + (birthday)
 4 Dec...Catherine Costas (diaconate)
 4 Dec...Vincent Jang (diaconate)
 4 Dec... Ricardo Avila + (priesthood)
 5 Dec...Paul Burrows + (confirmation)
 6 Dec...Martha Stookey (birthday)
 8 Dec...Lesley McCloghrie + (birthday)
 8 Dec...Mark Rose (baptism)
 9 Dec...Loren LeJeune (birthday)
 9 Dec...George Irving (birthday)
 11 Dec...Cameron Fitzsimmons (confirmation)
 11 Dec...Lesley McCloghrie + (confirmation)
 11 Dec...Michael McGinley (reception)
 11 Dec...Daniel Schwartz (birthday)
 11 Dec...Daniel Schwartz & Christopher Fredricks
 (marriage)
 12 Dec...Jim Cromwell (birthday)
 12 Dec...Basil Matthews + (confirmation)
 13 Dec...Lizette Larson-Miller + (bap & confirm.)
 14 Dec...Michael Barlowe + (priesthood)
 14 Dec...Jack Fredricks + (priesthood)
 15 Dec...Kimba Anderson (birthday)
 16 Dec...Geoffrey Glaser + (diaconate)
 19 Dec...Lou Tropa (birthday and baptism)
 20 Dec...Vincent Jang (baptism)
 24 Dec...Patrick Russell (confirmation)
 26 Dec...Fred Hansen & Lauran Pifke + (marriage)
 28 Dec...William Ray Branson Jr. (birthday)
 28 Dec...Bob Kossler + (confirmation)
 31 Dec...Megan Anderson (birthday)

**WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE****DAILY MASS Sundays** Low Mass 9 am, Mass at the Episcopal Sanctuary (8th & Howard) 8:30 am.**Saturdays** Low Mass 9 am **Wednesdays** Low Mass 7:30 am**EVENING MASSES FOR HOLY DAYS IN DECEMBER 6:30 PM, Evening Prayer at 6 PM:** Mon. Dec. 1, St. Andrewy (tr), Mon Dec. 8 Conception of the Blessed Virgin, Mon Dec 22 St. Thomas, Fri Dec. 26 St. Stephen, Mon. Dec. 29, The Holy Innocents

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 Contributions in memory of Fr. Jim may be
 sent to Brother Jude SSF at the San
 Damiano Friary for their ministry among
 the homeless in San Francisco.
 The Society of St. Francis
 San Damiano Friary, 573 Dolores St.
 San Francisco, CA 94110



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AND NOW FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE ABIDE, THESE
 THREE; AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.
 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13