

The Sceptre

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CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

DECEMBER 2012

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

FROM THE RECTOR

On Tuesday, November 20, 2012, the Anglican Communion and the Church of England reached a moment that will, in time, be seen to have been a watershed, one of those moments in history that can be pointed to as the end of the beginning of a major shift in the way the world is. Growing up in England in the 1950s and 60s, as I did, almost everyone was C of E and proud of it. If only a relatively small percentage of the population attended Church, it was assumed that it would always be there for baptisms, weddings and funerals and that it reflected the spiritual side of the national character. Anglo-Catholic and Evangelical practitioners were considered extremist and to some extent vulgar, and an excessive religiosity was discouraged. It is difficult to point to just when all that changed. Indeed, the assumptions of society at large still tend toward that sort of benevolent toleration of religious belief. The change has come in the practitioners of the faith of the Church of England. Although many of the faithful members of the Church of England are still open minded and welcoming, a vocal and moneyed minority have taken control of the Evangelical wing filling it with religious fundamentalism. This has led them to make allies of similarly fundamentalist Anglo-Catholics to defeat women in the Episcopate seeing the razor thin failure to achieve the required super majority as a triumph for reason. Only time will tell whether that is in fact the case but it is telling that the Church of England now faces a crisis of identity. For now it must face becoming increasingly a fundamentalist sect that stands against the society in which it finds itself. Good or bad that does mean that it can no longer claim to be the Church of England or even particularly Anglican, but rather a faith that is led by certain immutable truths that are not subject to critical analysis.

Having served five years in the Established Church I can see both the benefits and the disadvantages of being part of the fabric of society. The benefit being the license to minister to everyone in a geographic area regardless of their faith; the



disadvantages being some of the mental gymnastics necessary to hold true to fundamental Christian teaching. Being in the Episcopal Church is both freedom and constraint but at heart gives a better sense of the balance needed to fully proclaim the theological truth the coming Holiday sets before us. For we believe in a truth that is both immutable and inclusive, that God became incarnate in the man Jesus of Nazareth, and lived among us. The consequence of this immutable truth is that we are all invited to become Children of God and that we in our humanity share in the very nature of God. It is in being Christian that we are part of human society and it is in being part of human society that men and women have the opportunity to be children of God; an established national religion is neither necessary nor desirable because the Incarnation has already made it a redundant notion. Living into the freedom of the Children of God is the more difficult task because we cannot do that by making judgments about who is and who is not acceptable in this society without undermining the fundamental truth: that it is God's own nature that we share.

I cannot predict what will happen to the Church that nurtured me, whether it will pull back from the cliff that faces it or plunge forward into becoming a fundamentalist sect. I do see that we in the Episcopal Church must continue to proclaim the Good News in ever more creative and inclusive ways that make the truth of God with us manifest to a hungry world.



Fr. Paul

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EVOLUTION OF AN IMAGE

Marshal Cousins, our talented resident photographer, describes his adventures in producing one of his many beautiful images.



tion site and ask there.

I interrupted another worker and asked if he knew whose truck it was. Seeing my large camera and lens hung around my neck he said, "pictures?" I replied yes. He told me I would have to ask the boss, as it was his truck. I said, "I don't have a hard hat." He offered me one sporting the SF Jazz Center logo.

I thanked him and walked into the construction site. Another worker nodded his head to the right. I saw a makeshift desk with a man seated behind it. As I approached he looked at me and said, "You want me to move my truck? You don't like my truck?" "Yes, that would be great, thanks. I just want to photograph the church."

I returned the hard hat and headed back to Fell Street. I photographed quickly in manual mode to have complete control over the image. I noticed light filtering through the trees making what looked like "light graffiti" on the front of the church. Don't complain about God's lighting, work with it later in Photoshop, I thought.

I looked to my right and saw a man approaching with a shopping bag. I thought, "If he lives in this apartment building, I can ask permission to shoot from one of the fire escape windows."

James told me he had lived in the building for 15 years and is delighted with the new paint job. He invited me to his fifth floor apartment and said I could photograph from his window. Now I was delighted! After I created a few images he told me I was welcome to photograph on the fire escape. I was

While patience is a virtue, according to some, it most often escapes me. I had been waiting somewhat patiently for the completion of the exterior painting of the church and the removal of the scaffolding. Finally the day arrived.

The stunning beauty of the new paint was more than I had anticipated. However, there was a Jazz Center construction truck parked directly in front of the church!

I photographed the church around the truck and after about two dozen exposures decided to ask someone to move the truck. The fourth worker I asked told me to go to the Jazz Center construct-

a pipe organ technician during college and was accustomed to tight places and great heights. But being on a narrow fire escape with a low hand railing in front was very different!

James asked when the church would repair the broken window. I told him it was part of the rectory and would be repaired soon. Photoshop again came to mind - dancing white graffiti light and now a broken window.

After a hundred or so images I climbed back into James' apartment, gave him a business card, and left. I rushed home, and started working with the images in Photoshop. After hours of work I still was not satisfied. My friend, Ed, who knows more about computers than anyone really needs to know, responded to my request for help.

The next day he sent the two images back to me saying something like, "it's the best I could do." Best? His work was wonderful! He replaced the broken window, removed the lighting graffiti and saved my photo shoot! Thanks again Ed!





This Endris Night

Medieval carols and works by William Byrd, Alessandro Grandi, Girolamo Frescobaldi, Heinrich Schütz and others

Jennifer Ashworth, soprano • Kevin Baum, tenor
Stephen Main, harp & lute • Roy Whelden, viola da gamba

Sunday, December 16, 2012, 4:00 pm
Church of the Advent of Christ the King
261 Fell Street, San Francisco, CA

Music News

*Sharing God's gift of music
with the wider community*

Enjoy the sublime musical contributions of our professional ensemble, *SCHOLA ADVENTUS*, on Sundays and feast days.



Dr Paul Ellison,
Director of Music

Photo: Marshal Cousins

2013 Third Sunday Series

- Jan 20 *Interfaith Service - SF Jazz opening*
- Mar 17 *Schola Adventus
Choral Evensong at Grace Cathedral*
- May 19 *MUSA
baroque instrumental ensemble*
- Sep 15 *Schola Adventus*
- Oct 20 *Lauren Carley*
- Dec 15 *Adaiha Macadam-Somer*

CHRISTMAS

AT
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

with
SCHOLA ADVENTUS

Paul M. Ellison, Director

Monday December 24

10:45 PM Musical Prelude ~ Perotinus, Lassus, Dupré

11:00 PM MIDNIGHT MASS

Music of Handl, Palestrina, Hassler, Darke, J.S. Bach

Tuesday December 25

11:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Music of Brahms, Byrd, Handl, Praetorius, Vaughn-Williams



The GUILD OF ST. FAITH at Church of the Advent is happy to announce that the newly re-organized parish library is open for business !

ACCESS

Any Sunday after High Mass, or any time Sam or Suellen or Fr. Rod are available.

CHECKING OUT BOOKS

...couldn't be simpler. There is a blue binder on the black shelf near the closet. To check out a book, just fill out a line on the sign-out sheet in the binder. Books are 'due' after one month, so a book checked out on the 5th of December is due on the 5th of January. Contact information (email or telephone number) is required. Any of the Guild members will be happy to assist with finding things or answering questions.

Here are some *reading recommendations*, courtesy of The Guild of Saint Faith: Fr. Rod Thompson, Sam Cantin, Jennifer Usher and Suzanne Thompson.

The Churches of Eastern Christendom BJ Kidd
Covers church history from 451 to 1927, in particular the beliefs, formation and conflicts in the Eastern Churches.

The Four Great Heresies JWC Ward, sometime Bishop of London
Looks at Arian, Appolinarian, Nestorian, and Eutychian heresies, discussing the rise of the Creeds in response to them, and the conflicting beliefs about Jesus and Salvation reflected in them.

The Church and the Age of Reason, 1648-1789
Gerald R Cragg

Examines the Church during an unstable period in Europe, and at the efforts of the Roman Church to make order in both religion and society.

Problems in European Civilization: Henry VIII and the English Reformation Arthur J Slaviv, ed.
Addresses the struggle between England and Rome and the development of the Church of England.



The Everlasting Man GK Chesterton

Excerpted from Chesterton's own preface: *The view suggested is historical rather than theological ... and its thesis is that those who say that Christ stands side by side with similar myths, and his religion side by side with similar religions, are only repeating a very stale formula contradicted by a very striking fact.*

The Screwtape Letters CS Lewis

In a series of letters a senior devil advises a trainee in the art of temptation providing the reader with insight into his or her own spiritual development.

Juliana of Norwich: An Appreciation and An Anthology P. Franklin Chambers

A discussion of the mystical visions and writings of Dame Julian in the context of her time.

The Joy of All Creation: An Anglican Meditation on the Place of Mary A. M. Allchin

Discusses Anglican writings about the Blessed Virgin from the time of Andrewes and Taylor to the early 20th century.



*“He that loves a book,
will never want a
faithful friend, a
wholesome counselor, a
cheerful companion, an
effectual comforter.”*

Barrow

DEVOTIONAL MANUALS

The library has a variety of devotional manuals that can be borrowed, all with different features. **Saint Augustine’s Prayerbook** includes a Novena in preparation for Christmas and prayers for use at the Crèche. **The Practice of Religion** is half Instructional and half prayers for all occasions. Select one to use for the season of Advent into Christmastide.



Library Memorial – Ewing Cobb

Ewing Cobb was a longtime member of Church of the Advent. He was married to his wife Margaret here in 1950, and his funeral was held here in 2009. A sizable percentage of the books in the Pittman Library originated with him.

Therefore it is fitting to consider a memorial donation in honor of Ewing Cobb for the refurbishment of our library, and specifically for the purchase of two custom-size bookcases which are needed to complete the shelving of the books.

Once the shelves are in place, an appropriate plaque in memory of Ewing Cobb will be placed in the library.

Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted. You can donate using the PayPal link on the church website, via check in the alms basin (specify “library memorial” in the memo line), or speak to any member of the vestry.

LATIN CHANT MASS Saturday Dec. 1 5 PM

HIGH MASS / SUNG MASS
SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

Advent 1, Sunday December 2**High Mass and Great Litany in Procession**

Celebrant: Jude Hill

Preacher: Paul Burrows

Advent Liturgy and Candlelight Procession
Sunday, December 2, 6 PM

Advent 2, Sunday December 9

Celebrant: Jude Hill

Preacher: Paul Burrows

Advent 3, Sunday December 16

Celebrant: Rod Thompson

Preacher: Paul Burrows

Advent 4, Sunday December 23

Celebrant Paul Burrows

Preacher: Alex Martin

Midnight Mass, 11 PM Monday, December 24

Celebrant: : Paul Burrows

Preacher: Rod Thompson

High Mass of Christmas, Tuesday December 25

Celebrant: Rod Thompson

Preacher: Paul Burrows

First Sunday after Christmas, Sunday December 30

Celebrant: Jude Hill

Preacher: Paul Burrows

Holy Hour - 5 PM Saturday Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29

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)
 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 Troga (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 Monday 10:00am, Tuesday 6:30pm, Wednesday 7:30 am, Thursday 6:30pm (except feast days), Friday 10:00am (except feast days), and Saturday (and Federal holidays) 9:00am. There will be no low mass Saturday November 3 due to the Glaser wedding. Thanksgiving Day Thursday Nov. 22: Low Mass with Hymns, 10:00 am.

EVENING PRAYER Monday 6:00 PM, Friday 6:00 PM (excluding Federal holidays)

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Check out Marshal's new website !

**Advertise in The Sceptre !
Contact Jude Morton for information.**

The Season of Giving

Christmas is universally seen as a season of giving, which should give us as Christians a feeling of triumph since it is because of God's gift of himself in Jesus that is at the heart of this celebration. We will all be giving to our favorite charities as well as to our family and friends. As a community, Church of the Advent has, for a number of years, given to the residents of the Episcopal Sanctuary in two ways. First in putting together care bags to be given to each resident (about 120 in all) containing those necessities hard to come by for them; toiletries, toothpaste and brushes, and a small treat. We will again be putting these together during coffee hours in Advent. Second, we take them to the Sanctuary as a group and sing carols with them taking hot chocolate and cookies to share. This will be in the week before Christmas, most likely on **Thursday, December 20th**. I hope that all of you who are able will take part in this important effort to reach out beyond ourselves to some of those most in need in our community.



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Photos: Marshal Cousins



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