
The Weekly Parish Light 2023

St. James Episcopal Church · 2 S Augustine St. · Wilmington DE 19804 · 302-994-2029

**From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson
December 1, 2023**



“The season is upon us now,” as John Denver begins one of his Christmas carols. “A time for gifts and giving. And as the year draws to a close, I think about my living.”

And so it is the season that we know in the church as Advent. A time to prepare ourselves for the incarnation, the birth of the Christ child. We all know the story. I typically hear the story of the birth and hear it as told by Linus of *Peanuts* fame. There is something about that voice of a child, innocently telling the story of the birth of the Divine King. It speaks to my heart. It speaks to the simplicity of the story amidst the complexity of life in this world. The story speaks to the core of my faith. It occurred to me that at this time of new beginnings, having the language to speak of our journey of faith is appropriate.

During Advent, the tradition of our parish is to have a different family light the candles on the Advent wreath each week. Each candle represents one of the words of our faith. The words are hope, joy, love, peace and, on Christmas Eve, faith. This year in church we will build a crèche each week adding a word and a symbol of our faith. You will be given a card with each of these symbols so that you can carry it with you throughout the week.

The first candle is the candle of Hope. Hope is defined as the feeling that what is desired can be attained. The covenant promise of our God is familiar. The covenant promise articulates our assurance of hope. That promise is, “I will be your God and you will be my people.” We have hope that God’s kingdom will come and we will live on earth as God intended. That we will be raised to eternal life forever in God’s loving and graceful embrace. Advent begins with hope. The knowledge that what we long for will come into being.

As we speak of our journey of faith, the language of hope is a foundation. For what do we hope? As a child, I hoped for a pony. I could hope because my father had a pony growing up. I figured if he had a pony, there was the reasonable hope that I might also get one. I did not get a pony. Another important lesson about hope and grace: by God’s grace we receive everything we need, not everything we desire.

Our prayers of hope speak of asking that our hearts and eyes might be opened to see the gifts of God. In the mornings when I peel myself away from the warm cocoon of my blankets, I layer up and put jackets on Anselm and Melchizedek. The cold air feels like an assault and my first thought is ... well, we will only have a short walk until it warms up to some reasonable temperature. I hope for a short excursion. Once out, I watch the pups, undaunted by the temperature, play and roll and bark at all sorts of nothings. Their delight is palpable. My hope for a short outing and a return to

warmth is soon overshadowed by beholding the delight of my pups simply present in the moment. My eyes and heart are slowly opened to another reality: the grace of this moment. The hope of God's assurance is made known in the wonder of creation. *(continued on page 2)*

Hope is one of the pillars of our faith. Our hope is in life both now and eternally of life in and with God. Our hope is in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When Christ comes again, we have the hope of being raised with Him to eternal life.

In Advent we begin with hope, the knowledge that we will know the covenant promise of God's presence, God's grace and, most especially, God's love.

Faithfully,

Sarah



MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES
from Dr. Michael Larkin,
Director of Music Ministry

My St. James Friends,

I hope that each of you had a most blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

It is hard to believe, but after we just observed Christ the King Sunday, the past liturgical year is completed and we now observe the Christian New Year, the first Sunday in Advent. The word Advent is from the Latin "adventus" which translates as "arrival" and is always associated with the four weeks of time of preparation for Christmas. The first Advent celebrations took place as far back as the 5th century in northern Italy. In the Italian tradition, churchgoers observed weeks-long spiritual preparation for the feast day of Christmas that involved a period of fasting, prayer, and reflection on the values of the Christian Church. Observation of Advent soon spread throughout France and then to Rome by the end of the 6th century.

Unfortunately, often the Advent Season can get "lost" amid both the secular and sacred hustle and bustle of the holiday season. The Advent season, however, invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties, shopping, and holiday noise to consider how we commemorate and better appreciate the birth of Jesus, except for the resurrection, the most important event in human history. Without Jesus' birth, of course, there would not have been a glorious resurrection. Especially on the first Sunday, Advent is also a time of reflection on the triumphant return "arrival" of Jesus at the second coming.

As is also true for Lent, Advent is an extremely rich time for both liturgy and music. Over the next 4 weeks we will sing in worship, both by congregation and choir, many of the great and very meaningful Advent hymns that capture the themes and importance of the Advent Season. I invite you to sing boldly and carefully consider the meaningful text as we do so.

This Sunday during the Offertory, the Parish Choir will sing my arrangement of the English carol, "The Truth from Above," which captures the fall of humankind and our ultimate redemption through "God's son." See you in church on Sunday.

Blessings,
Dr. Michael Larkin

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2023

SUNDAY'S LITURGIES – *Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18;*

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Gospel: Mark 13:24-37.

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry:	Dr. Michael Larkin	Greeter:	Sandy Grim
Worship Leader:	Marti LaRue	Usher:	Carol Hall
Old Testament Reader:	Lisa Bowe	Altar Guild:	Carol Hall
New Testament Reader:	Kenny Stafford	Counters:	Tom Reilly & Tom Hall
Acolyte:	Tom Reilly		



The first candle on the Advent Wreath (the Candle of Hope) will be lit by the Washington/Garden Family.

HOPE, JOY, LOVE, PEACE

HEALING SERVICE will be in the Chapel after the 10:00 a.m. service this morning.



Sunday School is available for all children during the 10:00 am worship service.

Sunday School Lessons are planned to match the Lectionary reading for the week. A discussion about the lesson and a craft or activity will follow. The children join their families in church for the Eucharist, or if Miss Tina is singing in the choir, the children will come in during the peace. All children are welcome to attend our class, even if they are not here every week or are just visiting. Please ask a Greeter to direct you to the classroom.



PARISH PRAYER LIST – Please see the last page of this newsletter and pray for those in need of our prayers for strength, guidance, or healing, especially Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Carmen Scott, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave. Pray for those who have died.

Anyone wishing to have someone **placed on or taken off the prayer list** may email Marti LaRue (martilarue828@gmail.com) or call the church office at 302-994-2029.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Samantha Holmberg, Christian Padovani, and Chase Carew.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Yeatman family. Please remember to pray for Emily, Jason, Danielle, and Alexander during the service on Sunday and keep them in your thoughts during the week.

A Prayer for Families: Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray to you to guide and govern us by the Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget you, but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for The Church of North India (United).

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for St. Peter’s Church, Smyrna, The Rev. Donna Jean Kiessling, Rector.



We have been so active and busy at St. James for the past many months and **YOU** have helped us make each event successful by giving us your help and support! Here are some highlights:

- *Over the summer, we asked for help in filling the **bookbags for the students** at Richey Elementary School and that project was very successful!*
- *In July, what a marvelous turn-out for our **Parish Pot-Luck Picnic** which we had to hold in the Parish Hall this year due to the weather. Everyone brought their own special dishes to share and even had food left over to take home! We couldn't have had a successful event without you!*
- *Recently, the Hospitality Team introduced you to "**Norm the Turkey**" and we're still plucking his "feathers" to buy things for the Kitchen that we desperately needed in order to replenish our supply! Again, you all came through which was a **MAJOR** accomplishment!*
- *The Hospitality Team is very thankful that its **Circle of Blessings** was very much accepted by parishioners! The **Circle** is filling up with ornaments that your own blessings for which you're thankful – we hope to keep it up for a while, for we always have Blessings!*
- *Hopefully, our request for Cookies to be baked and brought in **THIS SUNDAY** for a **Cookie Walk** to help the Town of Newport celebrate Pearl Harbor Day! They'll be selling our cookies to the Vets and, in turn, St. James will receive proceeds!*
- *We are honoring The Rev. Margie Pumphrey again this year by decorating the Christmas tree in the foyer with socks, hats, mittens/gloves for local children. **Margie's Tree is up and***

ready for you to fill its branches! Thanks to Betty & Butch VanHekle who are spearheading this project.

- *We are collecting **Food for Families at Richey School**. The list of food items needed are Sunday bulletin's inserts.*


(continued on page 5)

THANK YOU (continued from page 4)

AND NOW, WE HAVE ANOTHER REQUEST! Please start collecting small glass jars. We need them to use for votives for the Epiphany Three Kings Sunday Celebration in January. (One suggestion is the size of glass jar that *Oui* Yogurt comes in.)

You may start bringing in your clean glass jars (no labels, please) next Sunday, Dec. 10th, running through Sunday, Dec. 24th. Thank you.

MEETINGS

 **BIBLE STUDY (Weekly)** – Bible Study is generally scheduled every Wednesday at 10:00am in the Lounge. **There are only two more meetings this year: Dec. 6th (Mark 1:1-8) and Dec. 13th (John 1:6-8, 19-28).** *Than on to 2024!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS



*Now's the time to place your order for **RED POINSETTIAS*** to be placed on the Altar at Christmas In Memory Of or In Thanksgiving For Loved Ones. There will be a form in the Sunday Bulletins from November 26 through December 10. The cost of each Poinsettia is \$10.00. You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve service on December 24. (**Deadline** to place and pay for your order is Sunday, **December 10th.**)

DINNER & FELLOWSHIP



Our Christmas *Mingle and Jingle* will be held at **Tony's Bistro** on Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. Join us (**Children are welcome, too!**) to celebrate the season with a little festive fun! **Each person should bring one wrapped gift priced under \$10.00 so we can do a Gift Exchange!** (Gift can be nice, or funny, or creative!)

There is a menu from **Tony's** on the easel in the lobby for your reference. (**Note:** Each person will be responsible for their own dinner.)

If you will need a ride to Tony's, carpooling can be available by meeting at St. James at 5:15 pm.

Please RSVP to Carol Hall by *Sunday, December 10th* if you plan to attend, need a ride, or have any questions. Carol's email is teegunner@aol.com OR you may sign up on the easel in the lobby.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)



CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – The children will have their Annual Christmas Pageant during the 10:00 am worship service on **Sunday, December 17th**. Reception will follow in the Parish Hall after the service. You won’t want to miss this!!

FUNDRAISER EVENT



WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION: Check out the *Bender Twins’ Team fundraising page!* Click on the link below for more information and to donate to this wonderful Association on behalf of Samantha and Autumn! (If you are unable to open the link below, copy and paste into your URL.)

<https://events.williams-syndrome.org/team/500609>

<u>DECEMBER</u>	3	– Samantha Holmberg
<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>	8	– Christian Padovani
	9	– Chase Carew
	12	– Jason Grahe
	13	– Dottie Huber
	24	– Sandy Grim
	24	– Mark Hutchinson
	27	– Eliza Nelson
	29	– Nicholas Harvey
	31	– Constance Ruggieri

CALENDAR – DECEMBER 3 - 13

Sunday, December 3

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Healing Service in Chapel – 11:30 a.m.

Deadline Today to bring in Cookies for Pearl Harbor Day. Please mark if they are made with nuts. (Cookies will be boxed and sold to the Vets.)

Wednesday, December 6

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Thursday, December 7

Pearl Harbor Day

Sunday, December 10

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Deadline Today for ordering and paying for the Red Poinsettias

Deadline Today to RSVP to Carol Hall if are planning to attend the *Mingle & Jingle at Tony's Bistro* on Thursday, December 14th. See more details on page 5.

Wednesday, December 13

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge – this is the last meeting of the year. (The next meeting is scheduled for January 10th.)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth, and your Heart for Love.

ST. JAMES VESTRY

Sr. Warden: George McDowell

Jr. Warden: Tina Geist

Christian Education Chair: Tina Geist

Finance: George McDowell/Tina Geist

Outreach Chairs: Dawn Martinez and Janice Fischbach

Pastoral Care Chairs: Dawn Martinez and Marti LaRue

Property Chairs: Tom Reilly and Andi Bender

Hospitality/Fellowship Chairs: Marti LaRue and Carol Hall

Worship Chairs: John Grim and Dawn Martinez

Recording Secretary: Marti LaRue

Clerk of the Vestry: Janice Fischbach



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

*Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby
Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell*

Prayer in the Midst of Violence

Lord, in our shock and confusion, we come before you
in our grief and despair in the midst of hate,
in our sense of helplessness in the face of violence,
We lean on you.

For the families of those who have been killed, we pray.
For the shooters – *help* us to pray, Lord.
For the communities that have lost members, their anger, grief, fear,
We pray.

For the churches striving to be your light in darkness
beyond comprehension,
We pray.

Lord of all, gather us up – your creatures, your world –
and bring an end to the violence.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

*Taken from “Prayer for mass violence” by Grace Claus
written for faithward*

Prayer for Refugees

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness
and brought them to the promised land.
Guide us now so that, following your Son, we may

walk alongside vulnerable refugee families as
they build a new life in the county of your love and mercy. Amen.

ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST – Please use this Prayer List and include the following people in your daily prayers. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you want to keep someone on the list, add, or remove anyone, please email (stjamesnew@verizon.net) or call the church office (302-994-2029).

Abigail	Cullen Kate Deal	Joshua John	Mike Pierce
Alan	Frank Dean	Sister Julian	John Pumphrey & Family
Alethia	Diana and Pevan	Carolyn Karney & Family	The Pat Purdy Family
Alex	Rose DelliGatti	Juanita Kavanaugh	Reese
Allysa	Henry Diaz	Kathy	Neil Reilly
Amy	John DiOrio	Melvin Kessler	The Rev. Reuben
Andrienne	Ross Donovan	Kiara	Rodriguez
Anna	Deborah Earley	Ritchie Kinlaw	Aaron Richers
Anne	Vern Earley	Kira	The Roche Family
Christina Azwol	Patti Edwards & Family	Sara Kirk	The Family of
Tony Andres	Penny Edwards	Susan Kriznuski	Fr. Ruben Rodriguez
Sage Andrews	Carol Edwards & Family	Marti & Ron LaRue	Roy
Barbara	Ellie Rose	Laura	Emily Ruggieri
Scott Battaglia	Eli	John Lewis	Henry Saffer
Seth Bayless	Eric	Liam	Sally
Jim Bender	Janice Fischbach	Lilly	Daniel Sanchez
Trish Bender Bayless	George Fischbach	Lois	Gabriela Santiago
Jeff Biscoe	Mary Ellen	Allen Luckey	Mike Scarpetti
Bobbie Blevins	Kira Fix	Cindy & Dave Mahoney	Scott
Eileen Borders	John & Harriet Flynn	Mallory	Carmen Scott
Barry Boulden	John	Marie Marcinkowski	Richard Scott
Paula Boulden	Joan Frati	The Martinez Family	The Francis Scott Family
Myrle Bowe	Ginny	Mary Helen	Maria Perdikis
Ronald Boyce	Diane Geist	Jude Matejkovic	Mike PierceSeth
Doris Brown	Fred Geist	Melvin	Linda Sheesley
Charles Brown	Gerike Family: Adam,	Missy	The Slocomb Family
Eleanot Buchanan	Lindsey, & Oliver	Carmen Moore	Earlene Smith
Crystal Bush	Glenn	Shirley Moore	Dan Sommers
Douglas Bush	The Gracie Family	Ann Moses	Kenny Stafford
David Butters	Brittney Griffin	Jay Muckle	Dorothy Stephens
Fran Pearlman-Butters	Scott Gunn	Randy Murray	Steve
Cameryn	Carolyn Halfen	Sara Musselman	Gavin Stiteler
Caroleen	Ike Hammond	Natalie	Paula Szczuka
Carolyn	Lindsey Hammond	Maren Nelson	The Szotkiewicz Family:
KayMaire Castro	Amy & Rick Harra	The Rev. Sarah Nelson	Joanna, Michael,
Cathv	Maior Scott M. Harra	Sue Nelson	Hannah, Charles

For those serving our country: National Guard: Terron Barnes, Brad Pastore, Christina Pastore;
U.S. Army: Maj. Scott M. Harra. *Give grace, O Lord, to our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer physically and emotionally, that they may be healed. Grant them trust and love that their prayers may be answered and that they may be relieved from their suffering. Amen.*

Rev. 10/20/23