

December 6, 2018

“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”

On Sunday, December 9

— 8 am Said Eucharist

—10 am Sung Eucharist

—11:15 Coffee Hour,

Fr Mark Brown will be our celebrant.

Inside this issue:

— “Waiting”: Advent article from Fr Bill Baker

—Meetings, Events and Church Service schedules for the next few weeks

—Sarum Blue: What does it mean and why are we wearing it for Advent?

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Ascension This Week



Waiting Fr. Bill Baker

For most children, waiting for Christmas seems hard. I can remember my own parents catching my brother, sisters and me in their walk-in closet, searching for Christmas presents. We just could not wait until Christmas to unwrap those much desired toys and other presents. I even caught Meagan and Justin under the Christmas tree one year with Meagan instructing her younger brother to unwrap a present that my sister had sent them. I walked into the living room to find two sets of legs sticking out from under the tree and Meagan, then 8 years-old, telling her 3 year-old brother to carefully open the package.

Adults wait only slightly more patiently than children, in my experience. I despise long lines and waiting rooms. If I am asked to sit in a waiting room, I want to stand and if I need to wait on a line, I want to sit. When it comes to waiting for Christmas gifts, that doesn't bother me. But waiting, in general, tends to make most of us anxious.

Even though Advent is a season of waiting, as Christians we are always waiting for God in some way. I mentioned in my sermon on Sunday that most of us do not seem anxious waiting for the Second Coming or even really for the birth of our Savior on Christmas. In fact, whether we think about when Jesus will come, we need to make our lives ready now to receive our Savior today.

Another way we wait centers around prayer. We pray and wait for an answer for what God would have us do. Actually, some Christians believe that our prayers can have three answers—yes, no and wait. In talking to a parishioner this week, she made the connection to the sermon from the week before and that some Christians are waiting for the Kingdom of God.

So what are you waiting for this Advent season and how does it feel to wait? Are you waiting in prayer? Are you watching the world around you for signs of Christ's coming or for ways that you can help Christ's mercy and love be revealed in the world? Are you anxious about buying gifts or even though you're an adult does it feel hard to wait for a desired Christmas gift? *(continued next page)*

However this Advent finds you, as Christians, we need to wait as patiently as we can. Waiting is part of our heritage. Just as the Israelites waited for God to deliver them from bondage and bring them into the Promised Land, we continue the cycle of Christian waiting.

Rely on your prayers to offer your questions, anxieties, fear and hopes to God. And then, following in the footsteps of many faithful people before us, wait. Wait for the Lord. Because as faithful people, we know and trust that He is coming.

Advent Blessings,
Fr Bill+



Advent Observances: Sarum Blue

“Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical new and is a time when we ponder the coming of Christ in time, as the Babe of Bethlehem, and at the end of time as our Judge and Redeemer. The word *advent* comes to us from the Latin meaning *to come*.”

As a way to mark this season of expectation and hope, we wear blue vestments. This is a recovery of an ancient English tradition stemming from Salisbury Cathedral, and so it is referred to as *sarum blue*. (Sarum being the ancient Latin name for Salisbury.) While the deep blue conveys a feeling of solemnity, because of its association with the Blessed Virgin Mary, it also conveys the Advent themes of hope and expectation. On the Third Sunday of Advent, we see hints of pink on the vestments, marking that Sunday as *Gaudete Sunday*, reflecting the opening words of the ancient introit appointed for the day: *Rejoice in the Lord, always!*”

(from the SSJE.org website, posted December 3, 2018)

“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.”

-The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:

Sunday, December 9: Holiday Open House at St John's from 3PM to 7PM in the rectory. It is also a celebration for Fr Roy Cole's ten years of commitment and service at St John's.

The Advent Book Study Group that was planned for **December 2, 9, and 16** has been **postponed**. It will be scheduled after the New Year. The book is "Following the Way of Jesus", written by The Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry and other authors and published by the Episcopal Church.

Saturday, December 15: Breakfast with Santa at St John's, Eccleston Hall, 10:30AM—12:30PM. See flyer next page for details.

Saturday, December 15: Ascension's Christmas party will be held in the Ascension rectory beginning at 5PM.

Sunday, December 16: Lessons and Carols at St Paul's Church, 3PM, featuring Voyces and Young Voyces. For ticket information and reservations, contact St. Paul's: stpaulssi@aol.com Or call: 718/273-9572. Admission also sold at door.

Saturday, December 22: At Ascension, we will be decorating the church for Christmas starting at 10AM. And after the work is done we will be treated to chili prepared by Fr Bill! If you can help we will be very happy to see you there. Please contact Nancy Murphy for more information.

Saturday, December 29: Lakeside Manor residents will be our guests at Ascension for a church service and a meal, 12 noon to 3PM. We need at least 10 volunteers to serve as greeters, ushers, cooks, servers — what you feel called to do, we can use your talent and energy. Please contact Fr Bill for more information.

Ascension's Chinese New Year Dinner is planned for February 9, 2019.



Christmas Church Services at Ascension on Monday, December 24:

- Family Christmas Mass at 5PM
- Christmas Carols singing at 10:45PM, followed by Christmas Eve Mass.

And on Tuesday, December 25, Ascension will have a Christmas Day Mass at 10AM.

2018 St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 15 AT 10:30 AM—12:30 PM
(doors open at 10:00 AM)

\$15.00 donation for Adults & Children age 7 & up
(Includes: A hot pancake breakfast, sausages, eggs, fresh fruit, pastries, juice, coffee, tea & hot chocolate)
A gift for all children 12 & under

St. John's Episcopal Church
Canterbury House—Eccleston Hall
1331 Bay Street, SI, NY 10305
(use the church parking or street parking only)

**Reservations and payment required before
December 7th.**

Please respond to Edwina McCrimmon
or mail in reservations with
payment to St. John's Church (1333 Bay Street, SI, NY 10305)

For additional information, please contact: Edwina McCrimmon
Email: edmccrimmon@yahoo.com
Cell: 347.409.9892
Parish Office: 718.447.1605

