



THE

DECEMBER 2021

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service (in church building)
9:15 am - Classes on the Episcopal Church
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service
(in church building & livestreamed on Facebook Live)
Coffee hour follows the 10:15 am service

TUESDAYS

10 am - Coffee with Fr. Jerry

WEDNESDAYS

4 pm - Bells Rehearsal
5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist
6 pm - Soup Supper
7 pm - Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer on Facebook Live
6 pm - Bible Study on Facebook Live & Zoom

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...and so much more!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

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Flo Gjerstad (2024) Dawn Rutherford (2022)

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SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Advent season is upon us....quickly, in my opinion! We have celebrated Thanksgiving and here comes Advent. Our Faith and Joy abound at this time of year as we prepare for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The magic of a small child's humble birth and the wonderful hope it brings is special to us. The lasting power of his love and teachings over the years has been miraculous. We are thankful at Thanksgiving and even more thankful as we enter Advent.

The envelopes for poinsettias honoring and in memory of someone, are in the gathering space. Let us fill our Nave with beauty at this Christmas season.

The Vestry thanks you All for your support and caring these most unusual past two years. We feel your love and devotion and most of all your Time, Talent and Treasure.

May Blessings continue for you,

Jane Brewer

Senior Warden

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us on Saturday,
April 23, 2022 for our "Spring Fling"

This evening of food, fellowship, desserts and music will be the kickoff benefit for our newest outreach ministry St. Christopher's Coat Closet, Live entertainment will be provided by our own Ken Duck and admission will be new or gently used winter gear or a donation earmarked "coat closet"

Read Luke 3:10-11 then mark your calendar!



"No more Christmas Carols for YOU!"

Did you know that our tradition of singing Christmas carols almost did not come to be? In fact, it was a bit of a "close call", you might say. A number of years ago, there was a movement who pushed very hard to END the singing of Christmas carols. I kid you not.

Carols and their texts, in the 16th century, were frowned upon by none other than Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans. No, for real----and they tried to ban the singing of carols. It almost worked.

Now for a little background (and this is the cool part): Christmas carols only survived because people continued to sing them in secret in their homes!

Carols, celebratory songs about all kinds of things, were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but they were NOT specifically Christmas carols. They kind of started out as pagan songs usually sung around stone circles during the Winter Solstice.

And just in case you were wondering why they are called 'carols', here is about as close as an explanation there is: it is not clear whether the word carol is derived from the Old French word, carole, meaning a circle dance accompanied by singers or from the Latin, carula, meaning a circular dance.



Either way, these songs (as we mentioned a few sentences back) used to be written and sung during all four seasons!

The only part of this tradition that has survived, is that of singing them at Christmas! Is this not fascinating? Before carol singing started happening in places like churches, there were sometimes Official Carol Singers, known as "Waits" who would walk around the streets of England, in groups and sing carols, hoping for a drink from some kind person or a bite of food (mince pie).

According to the Oxford dictionary, one of the oldest printed carols is the 'Boar's Head Carol', which dates from 1521. Apparently, it was traditionally heard annually at Queen's College, Oxford as Christmas lunch was carried in. The earliest carol was probably written in 1410. Only a very small fragment of it exists. This carol was about Mary and Jesus meeting different people in Bethlehem. By the time of the 19th century, carols were being collected and printed widely.

UPCOMING LESSONS

December 19 - Advent 4

Micah 5:2-5a
Canticle 15 (or 3)
or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7)8-20

December 26 - Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 147 or 147:13-21
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

January 2 - Holy Name

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7
or Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

January 9 - Epiphany 1

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Find the readings every
week on the church
website or at
lectionarypage.net**

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By 1880, it's believed that the Christmas Carol service was invented in Truro (Truro is a cathedral city and civil parish in Cornwall, England) by Edward White Benson who later became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Over time, many people in England wanted to have Christmas songs to sing, so carols once again started to become popular in churches and concert halls. New carol services were created and became well loved, as did the custom of singing carols in the streets. One of the most popular types of carol services are Carols by Candlelight services. The most famous type of the Carol Service might be a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, where carols and Bible readings tell the Christmas story.

All by way of saying, dear congregation of St. Christopher's, please sing out! Sing to the top of your lungs! Make a beautiful sound of joy and love during this Christmas time. We are so blessed, worshipping by means of this elegant and gorgeous tradition of music of the Episcopal Church. When you are here over the next few weeks, take a good breath, hold your mask in place and do sing, Sing, SING!!!

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

Nada Radakovich
Director of Music



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 2021

4 PM & 8 PM Services

The First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 26, 2021

9 AM Holy Eucharist

Service Only

Looking Ahead...

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 30, 2021

9 am Holy Eucharist Service Only followed by Meeting

Reports due by Tuesday, January 18th

9020 S. Saginaw Road, Grand Blanc

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FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

December is here and we are now in the season of Advent. Advent is the first season of the Church's liturgical year and begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Advent ends with the first eucharist of Christmas. It is one of two penitential seasons in the calendar, the other, of course, being Lent.

The word "Advent" literally means "coming." We are in a period of waiting and watching. It is a time when we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is also a time when we prepare our hearts and minds for the second coming of Jesus. When will that be? Of course, we have no idea. There are many who see signs of the "end times." Our world is certainly in need of the savior, but we must remind ourselves of the story of our faith. Our world, from the beginning of time has gone through some very disturbing periods. People have claimed throughout the course of history, that Jesus was coming immediately! Well, they were wrong!

Jesus will come again some day. We know not the hour. Therefore, the need to be prepared. As we move through the Advent season, let us be mindful of some of the best ways to be prepared.

First, pray each day as if it were your last. Prayer doesn't always change situations or events, but it always changes us. In our prayer, we are talking with God the creator of humankind. It is intimate. It is us bearing our souls to God in a way that we often do not do with other human beings. Prayer is safe. We can tell God anything and we know that God understands our hearts. Even when we don't have the right words to express ourselves.

Secondly, be a part of a worshipping community. We are called the Body of Christ for a reason. Gathering for corporate worship has been the practice of the church since Jesus walked the face of the earth. It is who we are. Worship is not about

us feeling good or getting our religious "fix" for the week. It is about worship. True worship is about reverence and adoration for our God. It is communal in nature. As we gather, we give thanks to God for all God has done for us.

Next, be a person of love. Bishop Curry always reminds us that "if it's not about love, it's not about God." We were made out of love, for love. We are called to be love to one another as we love ourselves. Love does not judge others. Love embraces every single person and celebrates the diversity in the Body of Christ.

Paul tells us in First Corinthians (12:12-14) that "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given one spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many." We need one another. It is in our diversity that we are complete, that we are made whole.

Finally, act like Jesus. It may sound too difficult. It's not. If we act like Jesus, we do our best to make the world a better place for everyone. Not just our family or friends. That's not what Jesus did or taught. Jesus went out of his way to make sure the outcasts were especially included. Jesus welcomed them, healed them when necessary, loved them and included them.

This is what we are called to do. As we navigate life through this season of Advent, let us not get caught up in all of the trappings of the world. This is a year to be thankful. Thankful for our families. Thankful for our friends. Thankful for our church. Thankful for the world we live in. While we might ask God "Why don't you fix the world?," God might be asking us the same question and waiting for us to fix it. God's Holy Spirit is within each human

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being. As the Body of Christ, we have the power, the ability to change the world. Even if only for one person.

Let us unite ourselves with one another and with God and make the world a better place for all.

Blessings,

Jerry+

KITCHEN PERSON STILL NEEDED!

We are currently without a “Kitchen Head”. We have an industrial kitchen and, in order for us to continue our certification, we MUST have someone certified in serve-safe training. If you think this might be an area where your talents are needed, please contact Fr. Jerry.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. Christopher’s will take place Sunday, January 30th following the 9 am Holy Eucharist service (please note that there is only one service that Sunday).

If you are in charge of an area of St. Christopher’s life, please plan to have a report regarding 2021 to Jerry or Elizabeth in the church office by Tuesday, January 18 for inclusion in the Annual Meeting booklet.

