



December
2020
Volume
LXVII

THE EPISTLE

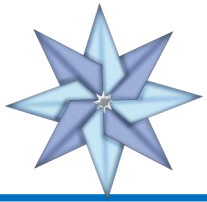


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Rector's Corner



For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. – Titus 2:11-14

Friends,

I bet you don't remember the day in the Lectionary each year we read this verse from St. Paul's letter to Titus. It's ok I didn't either! This passage is read each Christmas Eve/Day every year. Paul sums up the Good News of God in Christ that God brings salvation to ALL along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us live lives that manifest the presence of Christ in ourselves and to the world. God saves us and saves others from our sinfulness as well! God doesn't need us to get cleaned up and be presentable to have grace bestowed on us. God meets us here and now in whatever condition we're in and says "Give it all to me and I'll help you look more like my Son. Walk with me and I'll make your life beautiful. Receive my love and I'll help you love your neighbor every day."

This fractured world with all its ugliness, abuse and power-mad leaders will not stand forever. Only God's love will stand at the last and that love is ours to experience if we will but give up our delusion of control to God. As we recognize how frail life is God gives us new life in Jesus Christ born in our hearts anew each day. Earthly life is fleeting while new life in Christ is eternal. Are you tired of the sin you see around you? Are you tired of the sin in your own heart? Are you tired of the burden of this life? Lift up your heart, behold the Lord your God, receive His love and watch that love change your life. This Advent we have much to do each day and we are asked to take more time to focus on God's love and Jesus' birth and how they affect our lives. More importantly, how does our faith in Jesus affect our neighbors' lives?

I hope you'll join us in worship and study each week and my online conversations on Art in Advent. The schedule for these Zoom conversations is in this Epistle and the recordings will be posted on Facebook to view later if you can't make it in person. Our worship for Christmas Eve will be online and will be Holy as well. God is not outside our technology but works through Facebook and Zoom and all the other tools we invent. We'll record a service for Christmas Eve/Day that you can watch at your convenience on Facebook and I'll live broadcast a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve from our chancel for those who want to celebrate the first Eucharist of Christmas at midnight. A small and quiet service for those whose hearts need it. Melissa is coordinating a video version of our Epiphany Pageant to be broadcast on Sun. Jan. 3rd as the beginning of our worship.

Above all, my hope is that our hearts and minds will be so ready for Jesus to be born again in us that we will pant with longing for God's presence and willingly give ourselves to the new life promised to us by faith in Jesus Christ. To Him we give glory, honor and praise!

Faithfully,

Sarah+



Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions just as I handed them on to you. -1 Corinthians 11.1-2.

Advent in the age of a pandemic means a shift in focus to that which we rarely focus on in this time of year: new traditions. While we normally look toward our annual Christmas traditions of all kinds, this year brings with it many challenges to our time-honored church and family traditions. Most adults have already lived through changes that have taken place with families and holiday traditions over time, but for our youngest members, they will be having to change or forego Christmastime traditions they have experienced every year of their lives to date. With that said, we will be keeping many of our St. Paul's Advent traditions. In addition, with old traditions not possible, we can help fill the gap with some new activities that may or may not become family traditions going forward. Families have received Advent bags which will contain an activity for each family to do each week during Advent. One activity will be to act out a portion of the Epiphany pageant. These clips will be compiled to form a virtual pageant this year. This is a gift for the church community to see our families with younger members since we aren't able to gather in person. I can already see the youth looking back saying, "remember that year when we had to act out the Epiphany pageant at home because of the pandemic?!?" Certainly this Advent and Christmas season will be one to remember and it is my hope we can help to make those memories good ones.

I invite everyone to take part in one of the activities that our families will be doing as part of their Advent bags. This activity is about gratitude. Families will receive paper chain links with encouragement to write things they are thankful for on them. They can be strung together into a chain to be read on or after Christmas. Perhaps this Advent you are called to try this in your home. You could do it with any jar or other container and some small pieces of paper to write the gratitudes on. Place the jar in a prominent place where you will see it, or make a practice to add one item a day. On or after Christmas, go back and reread all the gratitudes you thought it important to remember. This can be done individually or as a group and is one way to focus on the positives despite the challenges of living through the pandemic.

When we think of our Episcopal traditions, we will be doing our best to keep those going, especially when it comes to worship. Those traditions are made to remember Jesus in all we do. No matter where we are, or what we do this Advent, the most important tradition is that we carry Jesus with us. This aspect of tradition will not be set aside. It is what will help us through the challenging season.

Advent is about preparing for Jesus to be born again. Perhaps this year we can understand this in a different, even deeper light than in the past. After all, one reason we come together as a church community is to learn. Learning isn't just for the children and youth. This Advent gives us all an opportunity to see things in new ways if we only open our eyes. May your Advent be a blessed one.

In hope, peace, joy & love,

Melissa



From our Sr. Warden...

**love,
peace,
and joy**

FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN



I am weary. But I am hopeful. We are now in the season of Advent and I eagerly anticipate the energy and excitement that accompanies the weeks leading up to the birth of Christ.

be kind to yourself



Please know that you are never alone. We are all one family in Christ and as we prepare for His coming, let His love, peace and joy be known. To all of my brothers and sisters in Christ, may you feel the love, peace and joy of this season.

This season will be different, no doubt...with the limitations of in-person worship, I encourage you to reach out in other ways. Write a letter, make a phone call, or have a driveway visit (weather permitting).

you are loved



From our Jr. Warden...

Last month I was able to write about how wonderful it was to be back in our beautiful and inspiring sanctuary. And I am very grateful we were able to spend several weeks enjoying our church and church family. It saddens me to know we need to restrict our numbers once again, but believe in my heart that it is the right thing to do. COVID 19 is running rampant again and we need to get it under control. St. Paul's will do their part to help prevent the spread of the disease and keep our church family safe.

Thankfully we have the technology in place to continue with live services through Facebook. We can still pray together each week and enjoy the wonderful words of wisdom from our Rector and Curate. Please continue to join us Sunday mornings as we worship together.

Please remember St. Paul's this Giving season and turn in your pledge cards. We are only able to do as much good for our congregation and the community as our parishioners are willing to support our efforts. Please look in your heart and pledge as you are able.

-Debbie Batchelder, Jr Warden



Building & Grounds

Advent is upon us. So is winter weather. We will be the best we can be. Be well, be safe. Stay in touch with ones you love...

Respectfully submitted,
 Kyle King
 Chairperson, Building & Grounds





December 24, 2020, Christmas Eve:

We will be posting a pre-recorded Christmas Eve service on our St. Paul's Facebook page that you can watch with your family at whatever time is convenient for you on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

11:30 pm approx. - Holy Eucharist on Facebook Live

December 27, 2020:

9:00 am: Eucharist in Holy Spirit Hall for "non-tech parishioners"

10:30 am: Christmas Lessons & Carols on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday, January 3, 2021

9:00 am: Eucharist in Holy Spirit Hall for "non-tech parishioners"

10:30 am: A special Epiphany Pageant service followed by Eucharist on our St. Paul's Facebook page



OFFICE CLOSED

December 24-27

December 31 &

January 1, 2021





Join us each Sunday at 10:30 am for the Facebook Livestream of our service from inside our sanctuary!

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at <https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view the service later on Facebook.



Diana Sinclair is faithfully collecting names for our prayer list, so please call

(517-250-9729) or

email her at finnikki96@aol.com to add anyone for whom you'd like the Church to pray. We are so grateful for the prayers of this Church family and join with you in asking God's blessing on those we love and all who are fighting to keep us safe and healthy.



Pastor Sarah's Weekly Zoom Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10am

Follow this link to Zoom in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005898502>
No Password required



Join Pastor Sarah each Wednesday at **8pm on Facebook live** <https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi> for the service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer with the commemoration of saints that day.

Adult Forum

Note the new time:
9:00 am-10:00 am on Sundays
via Zoom-

All adults are welcome to join!
For the Zoom meeting link and more info contact:

Eric R. Magnusson,
Email: emagnusson75@gmail.com

Cell: 248-842-1859

Meeting ID: 992 3997 8197

Passcode: Adult Forum



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church ECW

Blessed Advent season to you all. I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving this past Thursday. It was different this year for many of us as we had to forego so many of the traditions of past years because of COVID-19. Hopefully, like us, you managed to make the most of it. We all have so much to be thankful for.

Now we have entered the season of Advent as we await the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. How fitting that the light of the world is born at the darkest time of the year. Advent is a season of preparation for the arrival of the baby Jesus. The season represents peace, joy and hope. Last year we were able to start Advent with a Taize service which helped us focus our hearts and minds. We are unable to gather this year however, there are a lot of Taize services available on YouTube and I highly recommend watching one as we move into the Advent season.

Despite the virus ECW has been busy! The nut sale was a hit and we are very grateful for all who ordered this year. We will still have nuts available between now and Christmas and will be selling till our stock runs out. Please check your lists and see if there is anyone who might love a bag of nuts or purchase some to have in your "emergency gift" stash. There is always someone we forget and this is a great way to cover that contingency. A full accounting will be available when the season is over and all the nuts are sold. ECW was approached to help out the Community Action Agency (CAA) whose mission is to help needy families in multiple counties. The call went out to our membership and you responded!! We were (as of this writing) able to send a total of \$650 to help and our donation was designated for families in the Jackson community. The women of St. Paul's are awesome and very generous and both the ECW board and the CAA thank you for your outpouring of love and support for this mission.

St. Nicholas Day is December 6 and ECW usually sponsors and plans the annual St. Nicholas day party for the children of St. Paul's. Unfortunately this annual event is also a victim of the virus and the safeguards in place to contain it. But remember St. Nicholas was devoted to children and would never let them down even in a pandemic. We will wait and see what miracle he might perform this year to warm the hearts of the children as he always does.

On the subject of children we are collecting hats, scarves and gloves for Priceless Gifts again this year. You can drop off your donation at the church by putting them in the box supplied in the office hallway. Or, for those who are (understandably) reluctant to shop you can make a financial donation and items will be purchased on your behalf. Checks can be sent to the church office made out to "Women of St. Paul's ECW" with Priceless Gifts in the memo line.

ECW continued...

The women of ECW never cease to amaze me. Despite a pandemic we have managed to reach out to families in the community through CAA, children of the community through Priceless Gifts (because I'm sure you will knock our socks off with your generosity to them) and you have all stepped up with our nut sale. If we can do all of this without gathering in person, imagine what we can accomplish when we come back together!

On that note I wish you peace like the peace of mind you helped bring to Jackson families. Joy like the joy you bring to the children when they know they have winter wear to keep them warm. Finally I wish you hope. Hope for a brighter 2021. Hope for an effective vaccine. Hope for us gathering together again with no one missing. Merry Christmas!

Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW



Mission & Outreach

St. Paul's Mission & Outreach Holiday Giving Guide

Since we can't be together to do our annual Angel Tree or gift collection, we hope you'll send donations to these local organizations that St. Paul's has supported for many years.

Jackson Interfaith Shelter: <https://www.interfaithshelter.com/>
414 SOUTH BLACKSTONE STREET, JACKSON, MI, 49201

Jackson High School Community Closet: Finance Office Community Closet, Jackson High School
544 Wildwood Avenue Jackson, MI 49201

Family Services & Children's Aid: <https://strong-families.org/>
330 W. Michigan, Jackson, MI 49201

SOAR: <https://soarcafeandfarms.com/>

Get Real: <http://tppijackson.org/get-real-summer-program/> Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative /1715 Lansing Avenue Suite 221 Jackson, MI 49202

Youth Haven Ranch: <https://www.youthhaven.org/>
PO Box 97, Rives Jct., MI 49277

Community Action Agency: <https://www.caajlh.org/>
1214 Greenwood Avenue Jackson, MI 49203



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Community Action Agency is seeking volunteers for the 2021 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Would you like to help people in our community file their tax returns during the 2021 tax season?

As little as 4 hours a week - from January through April - could make a big difference!

OUR NEED:

- **Greeters** to welcome participants
- **Tax Preparers** to process tax returns

YOUR CONTRIBUTION:

- You **DON'T** have to have tax-preparation experience! **Training is provided** and experienced volunteers will assist you.
- You **DON'T** have to prepare tax returns! We also need Greeters to welcome participants and make sure documents are in order.
- You **DO** need to be committed, dependable, and provide excellent customer service!

This is a wonderful opportunity for retirees and college students - and anyone who wants to help!

OUR IMPACT:

VITA volunteers prepared nearly **3,000** returns for the 2019 tax year and helped secure more than **\$3.4M** in Federal & State tax refunds.

OUR PROMISE:

Safety is important to us! We will follow recommended COVID-19 precautions. **In-person and remote options will be available for volunteers.**

Orientation begins in December! Call us TODAY!



**Community
Action Agency**

Promoting Self-Sufficiency since 1965

www.caajlh.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call Laurie: (517) 435-4372

Email: llazarus@caajlh.org



Thirty-Four Years Ago In The Life of St. Paul's

St. Paul's Vestry 1986:

The Vestry met and voted to raise a minimum of \$150,000 for repair and rebuilding of the organ. They raised \$92,000 by April 1987, and in June an anonymous donor contributed \$100,000 to the fund. Sparry Sparks and A.P. Cook headed up this effort.



End of 1987 it was possible to add a majestic “*organ trompette en chamade*” to the renovation project by the Mueller Pipe Organ Company, of Toledo, Ohio. It was installed in the balcony on the west wall above the wooden front doors on the lower level.

Blessing and dedication of the organ was held October 6, 1989 as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration of St. Paul's. World renowned organist Gerre Hancock preformed the Dedicatory Recital. Gerre Edward Hancock (1934-2012) was an American organist, improviser, and composer. He was Professor of Organ and Sacred Music at the University of Texas at Austin.

En chamade (French: "to sound a parley") refers to powerfully voiced reed stops in a [pipe organ](#) that have been mounted horizontally, rather than vertically, in the front of the organ case, projecting out into the church or concert hall. They produce a commanding, loud trumpet-like tone, used for fanfares and solos. It is known as *trompette en chamade*. Any stop mounted *en chamade* will be much louder than a stop elsewhere in the organ, even though in church organs the stops may stand on the same wind-pressure.

I know we are all hoping to hear it used again very soon!

Another Interesting Fact:

While we are on the subject of the organ I would also like to share that in 1952 the wooden grill work in the chancel area was installed to cover the organ pipes at a cost of \$1,000. On February 9, 1956 a family provided one-half the cost, and later another family stepped forward to contribute the second-half. Regretfully, I don't have the families' names at present, just the time-line.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janet Wesch, St. Paul's Archive Ministry



Congratulations to Curate Melissa!
We will be sharing the service for her ordination on our
St. Paul's Facebook page on **Saturday, Dec 12th.**

You can also view it later on Facebook or YouTube
(see info below)

*God willing and the People consenting
The Right Reverend Dr. Bonnie Anne Perry
by Divine Providence, Eleventh Bishop of Michigan
will ordain*

Melissa Ann Congleton

*to the Sacred Order of Deacons
in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church*

*Saturday, the twelfth day of December
in the year of Our Lord two thousand twenty
Being the Feast of St. Stephen (tr.)*

Twelve o'clock in the afternoon

*The Cathedral Church of St. Paul
4800 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan*

*Service to be livestreamed
at <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsdetroit>
and at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPd-
X8xy9NcesFgk0tbhtCw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPd-X8xy9NcesFgk0tbhtCw)*

Your virtual prayers and presence are requested

Clergy: Red Stole

Art in Advent Series

The Rev. Sarah Hurlbert, Rector of St. Paul's in Jackson will host a weekly series of conversations about art and faith with four faithful people who are engaged in art in their own way.

Each hour long conversation begins at 7pm the first three Wednesdays and the last Tuesday of Advent on Zoom at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9046084672> or call 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 904 608 4672

Wed. Dec. 2nd – The Rev. Kimberly Jackson on Faith and the Art of Politics.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kim_Jackson_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kim_Jackson_(politician))



Wed. Dec. 9th – Janet McKenzie on Faith and Visual Art.

<https://www.janetmckenzie.com/>

Wed. Dec. 16th – Charles Holt on Faith and Performing Art. <http://www.charlesholtproductions.com/about/>



Tues. Dec. 22nd – Miriam G. Willard McKenney on Faith and Writing/Formation

<https://buildfaith.org/author/miriammckenney/>



| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Wayne Frey | December 2 |
| Dr. James Freer | December 7 |
| Elaine Themm | December 10 |
| Margaret O'Connor | December 12 |
| Dr. John Alipit | December 13 |
| Diane Billingsley | December 15 |
| Rev. Sarah Hurlbert | December 20 |
| Jan Osborn | December 25 |
| Jesus | December 25 |



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Mike & Diane Worthing | December 3 |
| Wayne & Romelle Frey | December 16 |

December

Discovering the true meaning of Christmas through Scripture.

BIBLE READING PLAN

1. Jeremiah 33:14
2. Micah 5:2
3. Isaiah 11:1-2
4. Malachi 3:1
5. Mark 1:1-3
6. John 1:1-5
7. Isaiah 7:14
8. Luke 1:26-28
9. Luke 1:29-33
10. Luke 1:34-38
11. Luke 1:46-55
12. Matthew 1:18-19
13. Matthew 1:20-21
14. Matthew 1:22-25
15. Luke 2:1-3
16. Luke 2:4-7
17. Luke 2:8-9
18. Luke 2:10-12
19. Luke 2:13-14
20. Luke 2:15-16
21. Luke 2:17-20
22. Matthew 2:1-2
23. Matthew 2:3-8
24. Matthew 2:9-12
25. Isaiah 9:6
26. Galatians 4:4-5
27. James 1:17
28. 2 Corinthians 9:15
29. Luke 2:30-32
30. Romans 15:4
31. 1 Peter 1:13



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

BlessingsOverflowing.com