

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CONNECTIONS

A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

One of my favorite hymns of the Advent and Christmas season is “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The song is based on Latin “antiphons” that are more than one thousand years old, each of which calls on Christ by a different title and invites him into our midst.



O come, thou Wisdom from on high.

The lyrics bring home for us the double focus of Advent on Christ’s first and second comings. In one sense, we can imagine ourselves in the role of the Old Testament figures, waiting in eager expectation for the coming of the Messiah. We call on him to “ransom captive Israel.” In a more immediate sense, even two millennia after Jesus’ birth, we still long for the day when he will come and set all things right. We pray that he will “bind in one the hearts of all mankind.”

O come, thou Branch of Jesse’s tree.

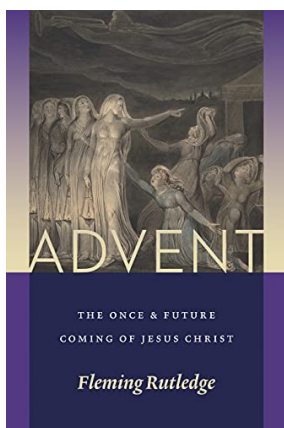
Advent helps us see ourselves exactly where we are—living in the time between Christ’s comings. When we speak about the Kingdom of God, we’re constantly in what some have called the “already” and the “not yet.” Because Jesus was born and lived among us, the Kingdom of God on earth has already begun, and we rejoice to live as children of that Kingdom. Yet the world is still plagued by sin and death, and we live in anticipation of the day when the Kingdom will come in its fullness.

O come, Desire of nations.

In the meantime, here we are, living with one foot in the present age and one in the hope of the age to come. This Advent, we will focus on this dual nature of the season in our Wednesday morning formation series, guided by the writings of Fleming Rutledge, an Episcopal priest and author. Throughout this season, we’ll be reminded that our job is to create signs of the Kingdom to come in our world right now. Every time we share a meal together, donate a gift for the Angel Tree, comfort someone who’s grieving, or make casseroles for the hungry, we are pointing to the reality of that Kingdom. We are sharing the light of Emmanuel, “God with us.”

And so we make our prayer this Advent season, and every season: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!





Advent Series

**Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14
7 a.m. in the Parish Hall**

We'll begin our Wednesdays in Advent with breakfast at the church and a chance to dive deeper into the meaning of the season. Helping us on this journey will be the writings of Fleming Rutledge, an Episcopal priest and author. Each week we will read a sermon from her book, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*, then discuss how it might enrich our understanding of Advent and the season's relevance to our lives. No advance preparation necessary. Just come enjoy some food and conversation!



St. Lucy Liturgy An Intergenerational Service

Sunday, December 11 at 10:15 a.m.

Celebrate St. Lucy, the patron saint of light, in an intergenerational service designed to engage both children and adults. During the 9:00 formation hour, elementary age children will create their own Christingles, oranges tied with a ribbon and holding a candle, as well as four sticks with fruit and candy. The children will process in at the beginning of the service with their Christingles, representing the light of Christ to the world. We hope you'll come enjoy the fun!



CHRISTMAS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S

Lessons and Carols

December 18 at 10:15 a.m.

Service of Remembrance and Hope

December 21 at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service with Pageant

December 24 at 5 p.m.

Traditional Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 9 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

December 25 at 10:15 a.m.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



Angel Tree GIVING AT CHRISTMAS

We will once again “adopt” six families for whom to purchase Christmas gifts. We will set up the Angel Tree on December 3. Individuals and families are encouraged to choose an ornament from the Angel Tree. Each ornament has the name of a person in one of our six adopted families with some suggestions for Christmas gifts that the person would like to receive. Our ingathering of wrapped gifts will be on December 18, when the gifts will surround our altar and will be blessed before they are given to the families. It's a fun time to spread Christmas cheer and, as always, one more opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

Second Offering Partners for Coming Months

DECEMBER 2022

WDM Human Services

Angel Tree & Faith and Food Fund

JANUARY 2023

Center for Social Ministry

FEBRUARY 2023

Simpson Youth Academy

MARCH 2023

Women at the Well

ADULT FORMATION Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall

November and December's Bible Study group is delving into the book of Exodus. In January, we're going to start on the Gospel according to Matthew. This is a good place to be, as we will be reading a lot from this Gospel during this year (Year A in the three-year Lectionary Cycle that governs the readings we do in church every week). Also much of Matthew's Gospel is written to point out how the prophecies in the Jewish Scriptures are fulfilled in the life of Jesus. So reading Matthew's Gospel closely following our work in Genesis and Exodus makes a lot of sense.

Books, Brew + Banter

Fridays at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall and by Zoom

St. Timothy's “book club” meets on Friday mornings both in person in the Parish Hall and by Zoom. We read both fiction and non-fiction and alternate between the two genres, occasionally with a “pause for poetry” between books. Upcoming books in December and the new year will be *Sky Bridge* by Laura Pritchett, *Prague Winter* by Madeleine Albright, *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, *Sea of Glory* by Nathaniel Philbrick, and *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. All are welcome to join at any time.

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9 a.m. in Room 131 on the lower level

In December, we will be watching two short video segments on the Gospel According to Matthew. As we enter into the season of Advent, we begin a new church year. During this year, many of our Gospel readings will come from Matthew's Gospel. Our presenter, Katy Valentine, will help us to understand the intent of the author of this Gospel and how to read it effectively. We welcome any and all!





Blessing of the Animals

JANUARY

Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 8

Start the year off right by celebrating the arrival of the magi at Epiphany. After our worship service, we will gather for a potluck meal in the Parish Hall. There will be Epiphany-related activities for children, including crafts, cookie decorating, and chalking the door.



**Bishop Betsey Monnot preaches at
Kyle's Celebration of New Ministry**

St. Timothy's Day and Annual Gathering

Sunday, January 22

St. Timothy's Day is our yearly chance to celebrate our patron saint and gather together as a parish to look back on the previous year and ahead to what's to come. Following our service, there will be a meal in the Parish Hall, reports from ministry leaders, and the election of our newest vestry members. We hope to see you there!

Parishioners at a Meet-the-Rector Home Gathering

