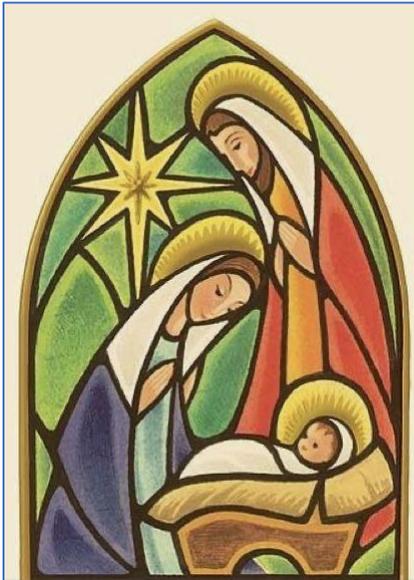




CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 27

December 2023



Tired Just Thinking About Advent? Slow Down and Savor Christ

Adam Ramsey

The Christmas season brings a heightened feeling that something wonderful is coming. Can you sense it?

For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

Advent. It means something wonderful is coming.

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a season in the liturgical calendar that starts every year on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. It's a time for priming our hearts to treasure Christ. Yet amid all the frenetic end-of-year chaos, it's so easy to squander these precious moments of waiting. Many of us know all too well what it's like for December to blur by—what it's like to arrive on the doorstep of Christmas as another exhausted casualty of our consumeristic age.

Reacting. Organizing. Shopping. Planning. Wrapping. Budgeting. Stressing. Eating. Stress-eating.

So, I am writing to those who, like me, need to slow down and embrace the oft-missed words of the famous carol, "Let every heart prepare him room."

As we remember God's promises fulfilled at Christmas, we are reminded of just how intensely the incarnation of Christ shook the world. The meaning of Christmas goes miles deeper than family traditions, pretty lights, and a chance to refresh your depleted stockpile of socks.

Christmas means revolution. Christmas means miracle. Christmas means that God has come for us.

Worship Services

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m., in-person and via Zoom

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 4:00 p.m. (if you need a ride but don't drive at night, contact the office or any Vestry member.)

Bishop Laura Aherns visit, Sunday, January 28, 9:00 a.m., with reception of Melanie Miller and Paul Miller

(Zoom connection information at the end of newsletter.)

Events

Christmas Fair, Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting, February 4, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service

The King of heaven exchanged his throne for a cradle.

The Almighty swaddled himself with vulnerability.

The Creator entered into his own creation.

The Author put himself on the page.

The Infinite became an infant.

The Giver became the gift.

Jesus arrived as Immanuel—God with us. As Augustine said long ago, “He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he had formed.” Pondering how God has drawn near will deepen an appetite to pursue him.

There’s something in observing Advent that awakens not only joyful remembrance over Christ’s first coming, but also deep eagerness for his second coming (Rev. 22:20). In many ways, the church in this age is in similar position to God’s people toward the end of the Old Testament—marginalized in exile, hoping in darkness, waiting in stillness for the Day when Christ returns to, in Tolkien’s words, make “every sad thing come untrue.”

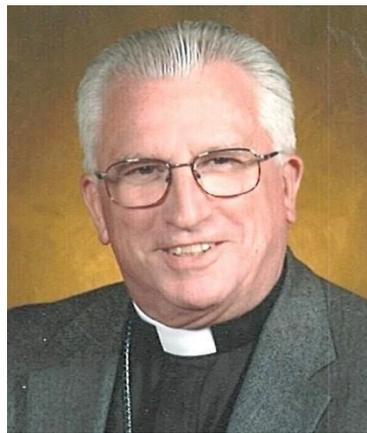
Like a child on Christmas Eve caught between joyful memories of the Christmas that was, while waiting with breathless anticipation for the Christmas about to be, so it is with God’s people. We are living between the *Hallelujah* of Christ’s resurrection and the *Maranatha* of Christ’s return. And here—in the waiting of Advent—God’s people discover a unique species of joy that can only be glimpsed through the lens of worshipful anticipation. Timothy Paul Jones puts it well:

In Advent, Christians embrace the groaning, recognizing it not as hopeless whimpering over the paucity of the present moment but as expectant yearning for the divine banquet Jesus is preparing for us. . . . Just as the ancient Israelites awaited the coming of the Messiah in flesh, we

await the coming of the Messiah in glory. In Advent, believers confess that the infant who drew his first ragged breath between a virgin’s knees has yet to speak his final word.

Advent is a way of reminding us that we are pilgrims passing through; that the brokenness of this world isn’t how it’s always going to be; that the true King is indeed coming soon.

Farewell our brother, Reverend Richard Beattie



Rev. Dick Beattie served as Priest-In-Charge at C&E from 2008-2009. The New Haven Register Obituary

The Rev’d Richard E. Beattie, BCC, an 80-year-old resident of West Haven, and husband to Marilyn Schenk Beattie, died peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family, on November 11, 2023, following a valiant battle with cancer. “Father Dick” as he was affectionately known, was born in New Haven June 20, 1943, son of the late Edward J. and Ethel G. Beattie. He is survived by Marilyn, his wife of

more than 58 years, three daughters: Andrea (Frank) Foley of Clinton, Heather (Fredrik) Zetterberg of Branford, and Meredith Libby of Branford; a sister, Valerie Johnson of Newport MI; and a brother, Edward C. Beattie of Summerville, SC. Fr. Dick is also survived by nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, seven nieces and nephews and several great-nieces and nephews. Fr. Dick graduated from the University of New Haven in June 1966 and continued a career in accounting. He then moved on to a corporate career at CHR Industries in New Haven, retiring in 1990 as its Vice President, Administration and Controller.

While at CHR, Fr. Dick participated in a program sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of CT, which led to his eventual ordination to the Diaconate in December 1985. He began Graduate studies at Sacred Heart University earning a Master of Art in Religious Studies in 1996, then a Master of Divinity Degree equivalency, which allowed Fr. Dick to become a Board-Certified-Chaplain. His 15 years of chaplaincy at Yale New Haven Hospital allowed him to touch the lives of many patients, family members and staff. He was ordained a Priest in the Episcopal Church in January 2002. After retirement from YNHH, he served several area Episcopal Churches as a Priest-in-Charge or Supply Priest.

Fr. Dick retired as Priest-in-Charge from Christ Episcopal Church in May of this year. He also served several years as

the Chaplain for Eagle Hose & Hook & Ladder, Co #6, Ansonia Fire Department and was honored as a Life Active Member of Co #6. Fr. Dick was also a 50-year member of the Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 of Milford, CT.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Fr. Dick's memory may be made to Christ Episcopal Church, Ansonia, the Samela Memorial Food Pantry (an Outreach Program of Christ Episcopal Church), or a charity of one's choice.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - November 21

Thanks to all who gathered at C&E to celebrate the annual East Haven United Thanksgiving Service.



The service was well attended with 91 people in the congregation and more than \$500 was raised to benefit the East Haven Food Pantry.



A Community Effort Barbara Parsons, Junior Warden

Many thanks to the volunteers who cleared the grounds around the building and repaired the access ramp. Checks were presented to Carmine Riccitelli and Eileen Parlato to benefit their choice of charities at coffee hour on October 29th. Marty Lendroth and Tom Murdock were not able to be there but asked that their \$300 checks be given to the Food Pantry. We are so blessed to have such outstanding people to work with.

November Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, December 17th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Worship - There will be supply clergy for the first four weeks of December. As mentioned previously, on Dec 31 we will have a Lessons and Carols service. We will have two services Sunday Dec 24 - a normal Sunday Eucharist in the morning and our usual Christmas Eve service at 4pm - both with Fr. Andrew.

Geroge needs to step down as Worship chair for 2024. We are looking for someone (does not have to be a Vestry person) to chair the Worship committee.

Building & Grounds -

Ken Dougherty's retirement has been our windfall. He has spent countless hours cleaning and organizing the sexton's room; cleaning the upper hall floor; as well as numerous other maintenance tasks. Storm windows are going in shortly. Brad & Evelyn Conant donated a new pole to mount our "Episcopal Church Welcomes You" sign. We are in the process of getting town approval to put it on the front island where it used to be. East Haven United will be disbanding in January.

47 Park Place - The \$20,000 from the state for the 47 Park Place Architectural Survey has been deposited in our account. It will cost \$15,000 to shore up the foundation and this should be done as soon as possible. The Vestry approved moving forward with that work. Melanie Johnson has given notice that she will be moving out of the house before the end of the year. This means the Historical Society may also move out. We may have someone interested in moving in.

Treasurer - Stewardship letter has been created and sent. EOY pledge reminder emails will be sent the first week of December. A draft 2024 budget will be emailed out shortly to be approved at the December Vestry meeting. We should end the year with a small surplus.

Barbara Parsons is pursuing a tax rebate available for organizations that kept paying their employees during the pandemic.

Communications - Advent Daily Devotional booklets from Living Compass in English and Spanish have been ordered and will be placed in the church and the thrift store.



The Advent Candles St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, High Springs, Florida

The candles symbolize that Jesus is the Light of the World. There are four candles, one for each Sunday leading to Christmas and a fifth candle for Christmas day. The four Sunday candles are usually tapers. There are variations in the coloring of the candles, often there are three purple and one pink candle. Occasionally, all of the candles are purple. The central candle is usually a large white pillar candle.

The purple represents repentance. The pink symbolizes joy. The central candle is called the Christ candle and is not lit until Christmas day. When you light the candle, it is customary to read a few verses of scripture

that relate to meaning of the candle.

The First Candle (The Candle of Prophecy/Hope)

The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophecy because it symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered as messages from God; promises that foretold Christ's birth. Others consider the candle to be a symbol of the hope we have in Christ and so it is called the Hope candle.

The Second Candle (The Candle of the Way)

The second candle shows that Christ is the Way. Christians are lost in sin and Christ is the Light sent into the world to show them the way out of darkness.

The Third Candle (The Candle of Joy)

The third candle indicates that the only lasting Joy to be found in life on earth is through Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last. This is the candle which can be pink.

The Fourth Candle (The Candle of Peace)

The fourth candle reminds that Jesus comes to bring Peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no peace in this world.

The Fifth Candle (The Christ Candle or Christmas Candle)

The fifth candle represents Christ himself who is born to save people from their sins. It is a celebration of the fulfillment of prophecy as

represented in Christ's birth and hope in the final fulfillment when Christ comes again and Christians join him.



A History of Lessons and Carols

Barbara Coulombe

On the Sunday after Christmas, December 31st, the Worship Committee has planned a service of "Lessons and Carols" for our 9:00 a.m. worship. This is a special service with a history that dates back to the Victorian era. Up to the late 19th century, the singing of Christmas carols was normally performed by singers visiting people's houses, and carols - which were generally considered to be secular in content - had been excluded from Christian worship. It was the rising popularity of hymnody in the Victorian era that encouraged church musicians to introduce carols into worship. In 1875 a composer and organist, John Stainer, introduced carols into the service of Choral Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The event was reported in the "Royal Cornwall Gazette" with the following statement:

"The Choir of the Cathedral will sing a number of carols in

the Cathedral on Christmas Eve, the service commencing at 10pm. We understand that this is at the wish of many of the leading parishioners and others. A like service has been instituted in other cathedrals and large towns, and has been much appreciated. It is the intention of the choir to no longer continue the custom of singing carols at the residences of members of the congregation."

The original service was adapted from an Order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later the Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in a wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro in 1810. His son recalled the following:

"My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve- carols and tiny lessons- which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop."

The first Festival of Lessons and Carols was held on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College in Cambridge. During World War I the dean, Eric Milner-White, had served as army chaplain and he was concerned that the distress of the "Great War" had hardened attitudes against religion. Taking advantage of the established choral tradition of King's College, he introduced the carol service as a means of attracting people back to Christian worship. The service was immensely successful!

The popularity of the service was established when the service began to be broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1928, and except for 1930, has been broadcast every year since. During the 1930s the service reached a worldwide audience when the BBC began broadcasting on its Overseas Service. Since the Second World War, it has been estimated that each year there are millions of listeners worldwide who listen to the service live. In the US, by the Library of Congress in 2008. a 1954 service was put into the National Recording Registry. One correspondent wrote that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparation for Christmas.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service derive from the lessons. The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God seen through the windows and words of the Bible.



Christmas Carol Quiz Audrey Sundwall

How well do you know your Christmas Carols? Match the line from the Christmas Carol to the name of the hymn at the bottom of the page.

- ___ 1. "Whom angels greet with anthems sweet"
- ___ 2. "Let earth receive her King"
- ___ 3. "Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth"
- ___ 4. "Come and behold him, born the King of angels"
- ___ 5. "Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light"
- ___ 6. "Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies"
- ___ 7. "and the mountains in reply, echoing their brave delight"
- ___ 8. "The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay"
- ___ 9. "Where on the Savior of the World was born"
- ___ 10. "behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light"
- ___ 11. "It came a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter"
- ___ 12. "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious"

A. Angels, From The Realms Of Glory, B. Angels We Have Heard On High, C. Away In The Manger, D. Christians, Awake, E. Go, Tell It On The Mountain, F. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, G. It Came Upon The Midnight Clear H. Joy To The World!, I. Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming, J. O, Come, All Ye Faithful, K. O Little Town Of Bethlehem, L. What Child Is This

Christmas Fair All Hands on Deck!

Volunteers are needed to set up on Friday, December 1, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and to staff tables on the day of the fair, December 2.

Any questions please contact a committee member. Fair Committee: Carol Link -Ude, Barbara Parsons. Audrey Sundwall, Melanie Miller, and Paul Miller.



**Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)**

Annual Convention Report

Diane Villano with Astrid Swanson

Astrid and I (in place of Barbara Coulombe who was ill) attended the 239th annual convention, titled "Be of Good Courage", on Friday afternoon and Saturday, October 27th and 28th in Hartford at Christ Church Cathedral and the Connecticut Convention Center.

Three aspects of the business sessions really impressed me:

1. My vote counted as much as any clergy person's.
2. The convention is run by Robert's Rules of Order. While not necessary to learn, it's helpful to be familiar with the language and actions.
3. The only distributed printed material were our nametags, everything else was on-line, including the agenda, resolutions, reports, and elections. Clearly, the ECCT is taking environmental concerns seriously.

Live-action cameras streamed the action to two enormous screens which also included QR codes where relevant so that you could scan them with your phone to view details on the convention website. Internet cruising ability was necessary and access was free, although at times a bit slow.

The convention adopted a total of eight resolutions including:

Acknowledging the 175th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in the State of Connecticut and Creating an Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) Reparations Fund

If you have not yet heard Bishop Mello's address from the worship service on Saturday, I urge you to access either the YouTube video or read the text, both available on ECCT's website.

His address ended with this prayer:

Be of Good Courage
Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Convention details are available at www.episcopalct.org



December 1 - Conor Reynolds
December 15 - Gail Beck
December 16 - Astrid Swanson
December 20 - Susan Shultz
December 25 - Joan Shaffner
December 29 - Rene Nacca-Visser



December 26 - Ron & Janice Blevins
December 31 - Revs. Mary Anne Osborn & Joanne Neel-Richard

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alexis, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bohdan and Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, Charlie & Kris Langlan, David & Irene, David Oliver, Diana, Diane Link, Doreen St. Germaine, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan

McDonald, James Chapman, Jay Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, Joyce Aurelius, Kris, Laura S., Lauren, Leah S., Linda P., Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Mike, Michael M., Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Pete F., Phyllis Marston, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Rebecca & unborn baby, Jeff, Sam W., Stanley Rogalski, Susan Diaz, Thomas Brown, Tim, Tish, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family, Wayne

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day add an item to a box. On Christmas Eve donate the contents to the East Haven Food Pantry. Found on PassionatePennyPincher.com

December 1 - box of cereal	December 13 - canned beans
December 2 - peanut butter	December 14 - box of crackers
December 3 - stuffing mix	December 15 - package of rice
December 4 - boxed potatoes	December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 5 - macaroni and cheese	December 17 - package of pasta
December 6 - canned fruit	December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 7 - canned tomatoes	December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 8 - canned tuna	December 20 - tomato soup
December 9 - dessert mix	December 21 - canned corn
December 10 - jar of applesauce	December 22 - canned mixed vegetables
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes	December 23 - canned carrots
December 12 - cranberry sauce	December 24 - canned green beans

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	OCT	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$11,260.60	\$1,239.10	\$91,496.91	\$12,719.61
EXPENSES	\$9,827.39	(\$1,975.52)	\$80,584.79	(\$15,671.81)
NET	\$1,433.21	\$3,214.62	\$10,912.12	\$28,391.42

Notes: We made a return of about \$2,700 on our CD! We have re-invested it and are very grateful to George for thinking of this option and with the Vestry's approval implementing it. It is always good when your money is working to make money too.

Answers for Christmas Carol match on page 5: 1. L, 2. H, 3. A, 4. J, 5. K, 6. F, 7. B, 8. C, 9. D, 10. E, 11. I, 12. G

Next Issue The deadline for the January issue is December 19. Submission can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists,, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

	Advent 1 December 3, 2023	Advent 2 December 10, 2023	Advent 3 December 17, 2023
Service	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
Presider / Officiant	Rev. John Donnally	Rev. Maureen Lederman	Rev. Maureen Lederman
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall
Lay Reader	Wendy Bellmore	Pat Walters	Judy Herzman
Ushers	Barbara Parsons	Diane Villano	Wendy Bellmore
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters
Assistant Counter	Judy Herzman	Fred Bowden	Melanie Miller

	Advent 4 December 24, 2023	Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 2023, 4:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve December 31, 2023
Service	Morning Prayer with Eucharist	Eucharist	Lessons and Carols
Presider / Officiant	George Coulombe Rev. Andrew Osmun	Rev. Andrew Osmun	
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	
Acolyte	George Coulombe	Diane Villano	
Lay Reader	Terry Osmun	Barbara Parsons	Gail Beck Wendy Bellmore Judy Herzman Barbara Parsons Audrey Sundwall Pat Walters
Ushers	Pat Walters	Kathy Dougherty Ken Dougherty	Astrid Swanson
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	George Coulombe	Susan Shultz
Assistant Counter	Audrey Sundwall	Barbara Coulombe	Judy Herzman

Volunteer Opportunities

We need more people to help as Acolytes and on the Altar Guild. Where can you show God's love in the parish?

A Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Open
Senior Warden	George Coulombe
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Gail Beck
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (& Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Audrey Sundwall (& Communications)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Diane Villano (& Newsletter)
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

ECCT continues to experience a shortage of supply clergy for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving at C & E, please contact George Coulombe at bgcoulombe@gmail.com.

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org

To join by phone call: 929-436-2866, Meeting ID = 763 909 4733, Password = **39**

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking