

The Piper

December 2022



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A Message from Father Martin

Dear Friends,

We are beginning the season of Advent – a season marked as the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The ecosystem of the Church's calendar provides this season for us to prepare for the Coming of Christ in our lives in new and deeper ways and to get ready for the great joy of Christmas. Our Advent Sunday lessons call us to wake up and prepare the way of the Lord.

Now is the time for some spiritual house-cleaning, for re-centering our spiritual lives if we have gotten distracted or feel we are off track or stuck in ruts and routines. I have four guides to help each of us to observe a holy Advent:

- ◇ Set aside time daily (or as often as possible) for prayer and reflection. However you choose – sitting in silence, using a devotional guide or reading Psalms, meditative walking, however you pray, be regular in it.
- ◇ Attend Sunday worship weekly. Let the sacraments and Scripture be levers to open our hearts and lenses to focus our minds.
- ◇ Read one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) and see what the Spirit stirs up in you. If you are new to the Bible, this is your opportunity to begin. Read one of the 4 between now and Christmas, in a modern translation. (See me if you need a Bible.) Read for the general sense and flow – what did Jesus care about? Let me know which one you read.
- ◇ Look for opportunities to serve others, in simple and generous ways. This can include calling friends and family you have not seen for awhile and reaching out to neighbors and acquaintances with a word of encouragement and caring.

Here in the parish, we had a wonderful Kirkin' of the Tartans, with dancing, bagpipes and a generous check for Valley Churches United Missions. Pledges of financial support for St. Andrew's in 2023 are still being received. Responses thus far have been very encouraging. If you are being led to offer a pledge for this coming year, please return your pledge card as soon as possible.

I will be starting a regular weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays from 11 am to 12 Noon in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome – no background required. We will begin January 3, 2023 with Luke's Gospel.

I will also convene a Bible Review of the Christmas stories in the Bible on Tuesday, December 20 from 11 am to Noon.

We will have two Christmas services this year: Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm, and Christmas Day (Sunday, Dec. 25) at 10 am. We are hoping to have a Christmas Choir for the evening service – please let Sharon Fishel or me know if you want to participate.

Looking ahead, St. Andrew's Annual Parish Meeting – to elect Vestry and diocesan Delegates, discuss our budget, review the past year and share hopes and plans for the future – will be on Sunday, January 22, 2023, beginning with worship and Pastor's Address at 10 am.

Finally, here are two poems by Madeleine L'Engle about what God is about this Advent season. May they help us prepare our hearts to receive the love and joy that God prepares for us in Christmas.

Yours in Christ,
Martin+

The Risk of Birth

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honor & truth were trampled to scorn—
Yet here did the Savior make His home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

First Coming

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Garden of



Eatin'

For those who enjoyed Sue's soda bread at the Kirkin' of the Tartans dinner — she received this from an Irish friend — passed down through generations.

IRISH SODA BREAD

Ingredients:

- 2 cups white flour
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teas. Salt
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ stick softened unsalted butter
- 2 slightly beaten eggs
- 3 cups buttermilk

Directions:

Mix all dry ingredients in mixer bowl. Cut in butter. Add eggs and butter milk. Mix thoroughly. Pour in a greased and floured Bundt cake pan (or 2 medium loaf pans). Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes (or until it passes the toothpick test). Cool about 25 minutes, then remove from pan to finish cooling on a rack.

HeeHeeHee!!!

The temporary Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet. She had been told the combination, but couldn't quite remember it. She went to the pastor's study and asked for help. The pastor came into the room and began to turn the dial. After the first two numbers he paused and stared blankly for a moment. Finally he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently. Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly turned to the final number, and opened the lock. The teacher was amazed. "I'm in awe at your faith, pastor," she said. "It's really nothing," he answered. "The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling."

ON THE SCHEDULE

Join us at 10 am on Sundays

Watch the sermon on the St. Andrew's Facebook page.

SAVE THE DATE

Please join in on the Upcoming Church Activities!!

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays from 11 am to 12 Noon in the Parish Hall, beginning on January 3, 2023. Everyone is welcome – no background required. We will begin with Luke's Gospel.

Review of the Christmas stories in the Bible on Tuesday, December 20 from 11 am to Noon.

Christmas services:

Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day (Sunday, Dec. 25) at 10 am.

Annual Parish Meeting will be on January 22, 2023 immediately following the church service. We will elect Vestry members and delegates to the Diocese Convention along with conducting other parish business.

Kirkin' of the Tartans

Thank you to everyone who participated—it takes us all to make it work!!! And we raised funds for Valley Churches United—much needed for their activities at this time of the year.

St. Andrew's Vestry Members

Steve Lefever, Senior Warden
Rochelle Kelly, Junior Warden
Cindy Garay

Susan Greer
Sheryl Mello
Sue Roe

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, please forward them to any of the Vestry members. Vestry meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1 pm in the Parish Hall.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



The Way of Love Advent Calendar

ADVENT CALENDAR 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 Worship</p> <p>Advent 1</p> <p>Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?</p>	<p>28 Go</p> <p>Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.</p>	<p>29 Learn</p> <p>Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.</p>	<p>30 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.</p>	<p>1 Bless</p> <p>We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.</p>	<p>2 Turn</p> <p>Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or rejoice this holy season?</p>	<p>3 Rest</p> <p>Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.</p>
<p>4 Worship</p> <p>Advent 2</p> <p>Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?</p>	<p>5 Go</p> <p>Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.</p>	<p>6 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.</p>	<p>7 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.</p>	<p>8 Bless</p> <p>Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.</p>	<p>9 Turn</p> <p>Where did you struggle this week? Do you have apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.</p>	<p>10 Rest</p> <p>Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.</p>
<p>11 Worship</p> <p>Advent 3</p> <p>Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.</p>	<p>12 Go</p> <p>Take a new or different route to work, or school, or out to run errands. See how using a different route requires you to see the world differently — to pay a different kind of attention. What do you notice along the way that makes you stop and take a second look? Does anything on this new route inspire your faith journey or remind you of lessons learned?</p>	<p>13 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.</p>	<p>14 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.</p>	<p>15 Bless</p> <p>Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.</p>	<p>16 Turn</p> <p>Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, renewal, and refreshment. Turn your attention toward how you will be resting tomorrow, and put things in place so you can make the most of your sabbath time.</p>	<p>17 Rest</p> <p>Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.</p>
<p>18 Worship</p> <p>Advent 4</p> <p>Linger before leaving your worship time today. How is God calling you to hear and sing along with Mary's Song? Read Luke 1:39-55.</p>	<p>19 Go</p> <p>Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.</p>	<p>20 Learn</p> <p>Read Habakkuk 2:1-4. Does this reading remind you of Thomas the disciple? Why do you think the folks who organized the lectionary picked this reading from the Old Testament for this friend of Jesus?</p>	<p>21 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 4, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. Pick three or four of your beloveds to focus your prayers on today. Make sure to leave some silent space for God to offer you some wisdom about what they may need right now.</p>	<p>22 Bless</p> <p>Make sure to pick up an extra present or two — a nice candy sampler or a warm pair of slippers or pajama pants, just in case you have extra friends or guests drop by. Ask God to bless those who travel and those who may be alone in the coming days. Take some bottled water and sports drinks over to your local community cold weather shelter. They will be extra glad to have that during the winter months.</p>	<p>23 Turn</p> <p>If you are gathering with friends and family today, consider taking time during the meal to turn to the folks on your right, and then on your left, to thank them for their love in your life. See how this might spread some joy and comfort around the table — or maybe even ease some potentially prickly guests.</p>	<p>24 Rest</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.</p>

Thoughts from our Senior Warden

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven . . .”



I want to say something to all of you who have become a part of the fabric of my life. The color and texture which you have brought into my being have become a song, and I want to sing it forever. There is an energy in us which makes things happen when the paths of other persons touch ours and we have to be there and let it happen.

When the time of our particular sunset comes, our thing, our accomplishment, won't really matter a great deal. But the clarity and care with which we have loved others will speak with vitality of the great gift of life we have been for each other.

I remember one Sunday several years ago, Jerry stood up during the announcements and said he wanted to sing a song for us . . . and he did. How proud he was that he was able to share that song and that moment with us. That was a product of his love for this church. I remember receiving a call from Ray to come and hold the ladder while he put up the advent wreath. The green waste cans appeared on the street each Monday, and the mail suddenly appeared on Sharon's desk. Another person who shared his talents as a symbol of his love for this parish.

Today, I took a check to Valley Churches. It was the donation from our Kirking fundraiser. Lynn was so pleased and she commented how our little church cared so much to give a donation to help them help others. Our mission is alive and at work in the community!

Last year I preached about "lukewarm" Christians. How people are good but accomplish no positive good in this world by their actions. I called them good for nothing. If I have learned only one thing about St. Andrew's, is that the church here in this little red building, is full of people who do so much positive good for each other, this church and this community! We are good for something! We are answering the call of God's love for all people!

When I wake up in the morning (on my own and not by some spam phone call) I smile and think, "today is a new beginning, a new opportunity to find a way to help another person," and then I set out and see what unfolds. I don't know why I am still around. One day my heart will stop. But until it does, there is a reason we are put in each other's path, and I mean to use that time as an instrument of God's peace. At the end . . . our gift together will be the gift of our love! Love is born this season ... Come let us adore him!

Merry Christmas and God bless us everyone. 2022 - Steve Lafever, Senior Warden, St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's Birthdays

December Birthdays



- 1 Jeannie Henry
- 7 Bob Wolfe
- 12 Madison LeRoux

January Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Nicki Kearns | 15 Larry Laufenberg |
| 6 Christopher Mello | 17 Sari Mitchell |
| 6 Sara Hector | 19 Beth Leslie |
| 10 Kim Rooks | 28 Malachi Erdman |
| 12 Sandra Cadell | 30 Vira Erdman |

Special Holidays

December 1 - **World AIDS Day** is a global holiday dedicated to raising awareness about AIDS and the impact it has on people all around the world.

December 6 - **St. Nicholas Day** celebrates the life of St. Nicholas (A.K.A. Santa Claus), a Christian saint who was known for his generosity and kindness.

December 8 - **Bodhi Day** is a holiday that celebrates the moment when the Buddha reached enlightenment.

December 8 - **The Immaculate Conception** is a Catholic feast day that celebrates the conception of Jesus Christ by Mary, the mother of Jesus.

December 10 - **Human Rights Day** is a special day that celebrates the fundamental human rights that every person is entitled to.

December 13 - **Saint Lucia's Day** is in honor of Saint Lucia, the patron saint of light.

December 16-24 - **Las Posadas** commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

December 18-26 -**Hanukkah** is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem. It is celebrated for eight days and nights, usually beginning on the 25th of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar.

December 21 -**Winter Solstice** celebrates the shortest day of the year.

December 21 -**Yule** celebrates the rebirth of the sun.

December 23 -**Festivus** is a parody holiday that was created in the 1960s by Seinfeld writer Dan O'Keefe, and celebrates the non-religious aspects of Christmas.

December 24 -**Christmas Eve** is an important December global holiday and a special day for Christians often celebrated with family gatherings and special church services.

December 25 -**Christmas** celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.

December 26 -**Boxing Day** is a public holiday originally celebrated in the middle-ages in the United Kingdom.

December 26 -**St. Stephen's Day** is celebrated in honor of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

December 26 - January 1, 2023 - **Kwanzaa** celebrates African-American culture and heritage, created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga.

December 31 -On **New Year's Eve**, people around the globe celebrate the coming of the New Year on this last day in the Gregorian calendar.

December 31 -**Omisoka** is celebrated by the Japanese on the last day of the year.

If you have not received a pledge card, please return this one to the church on November 20th.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 2022 Pledge of Financial Support

As a steward of all that God has given me, and in thanksgiving, I pledge the following amount to the Lord's work through St. Andrew's in the year 2022

\$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly

\$ _____ Annually \$ _____ One time donation

Check here if you wish to have your pledge charged to your credit card. Other payment options: PayPal or electronic bank transfer (no fees apply), check by mail or offering plate.

Card # _____ Expiration date _____

Security code _____

Name (s): _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mailing address: _____

City/Zip: _____

All information provided is strictly confidential.



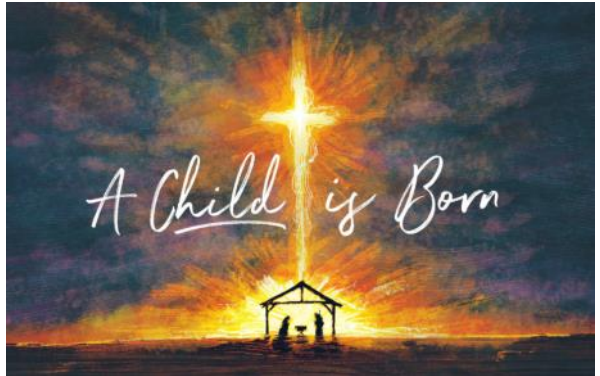
To hear Bishop Lucinda's Advent message, you may visit the Diocesan website or click on this link. [Advent Message 2022 - YouTube](#)



The word Advent comes from the **Latin word adventus**, which means "**coming**." Advent in the 4th and 5th century was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians.

The Advent wreath is a **Christian tradition** that symbolizes the passage of the **four weeks of Advent**. It is a **circular candle holder** that typically holds five candles.

It is not known when the first Advent wreath was created. Pagan rituals often included **lighting candles** in a wreath to signify hope for the return of the sun in the midst of winter.



For reflection and study, Pastor Martin recommends the below resources:

Sign up for an "Advent Word", a brief meditation for Advent from the Society of St. John the Evangelist, an Episcopal monastic community in Massachusetts. Here is the link: <https://www.ssje.org/word/>

Another resource for daily reflection time is the Episcopal devotional booklet Forward Day by Day. You can sign up online to have a daily reflection sent to you, or you can order a paper booklet to be sent quarterly. Here is the link to receive a daily reflection: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/tL0oK4F/email>

Here is the link to subscribe to the booklet, in either regular or large print: <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/About/Subscription.aspx>

Did you know that every Sunday the sermon in church is recorded and then posted on our St. Andrew's Facebook page?

Storied Pilgrimage with Race in 2023

Storied Pilgrimage with Race is our diocesan anti-racism curriculum, which you can find on the diocesan website. The completion of this program is required for all those in diocesan leadership, all clergy, and all Lay Eucharistic Visitors; it is strongly encouraged for those in parish leadership, such as staff and vestry. All are welcome.

We will gather once each month in 2023 over Zoom and journey through the curriculum together. There are two sessions, a morning session (9:30am to 11am) and an evening session (7pm to 8:30pm); you can indicate which session you're signing up for when you register.

We will be meeting on: Jan. 25, Feb. 23, March 29, April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6.

Questions? Please email the Rev. Canon Martha Korienek - canonmartha@realepiscopal.org



St. Andrew's Worship Service

Join us every Sunday at 10:00 am
Services are now conducted with Eucharist.