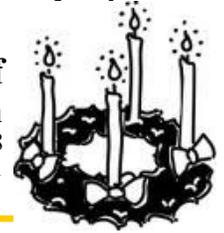


Trinity Tidings

Advent / Christmas 2020

A Publication of
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Maybe this Will Be the Year

Taking a New Approach to a Holy Season of Hope...

Sunday, November 29th begins the Advent season and a new church year. This brief, four-week season is a time of hope. Hope in the “Word made flesh”, Jesus and his love, grace, and mercy. It is a time, I pray, when he comes ever more closer.

Each year, Forward Movement issues an Advent calendar to mark the days to Christmas with scripture passages and good works. This calendar always includes humorous illustrations. The heading of the calendar is. *“Slow Down, Be Quiet, It’s Advent”*. I always laugh when I see that heading and think, “Yeah, right. At this time of year, slow down? Be quiet?” Admittedly, that’s hard to do. There is shopping and decorating. Cards to be written and music blaring everywhere you go. This season is often filled with a lot of stress that often elbows out the Advent message.

Perhaps this year will be different. The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected our daily life. So many businesses are closed and we are advised to stay home. Things are difficult this year. I think this provides us the opportunity to observe a

holy Advent. We certainly have slowed down. Maybe we can find some quiet time as well.

Maybe this is the year we get the Advent wreath out and light it at dinnertime. Maybe this is the year we put up an Advent calendar and open a new door each day. Maybe this is the year we spend some time thinking about the figures we encounter during Advent – Isaiah, John the Baptist, the Archangel Gabriel, Mary, and Joseph – and be inspired by their words and examples. Maybe this is the year we get into a routine of daily prayer and scripture reading. I could go on and on. There are many Advent resources available, some on the church website, some in the Book of Common Prayer.

I invite you to a holy Advent season. It will change your life and deepen the meaning of Christmas.

Slow down. Be quiet. It’s Advent!

The Rev. Mark H. Chattin
Rector

Tree Lighting and Caroling -

Come and Join us on the Plaza...

On Sunday, December 6 come on out at 5:30 p.m. and join us on the plaza for some safe, socially distanced fun as we bless our outdoor Nativity scene, light our Christmas Tree and sing some carols.

December 6th also happens to be the Feast of St. Nicholas, so we hope to have an extra special guest join us for the festivities.

The event is open to the public. Masks and distancing will be required and attendance will be taken for contact tracing purposes. Invite a friend and help us kick off the season with joyful carols and in-person fellowship!

(We’ll also be live-streaming if you’d rather enjoy the event from home.)



Christmas Season Outreach -

Some ways you can still help families in this season of unprecedented need...

Our Christmas Season Outreach looks a little different than usual, but there are still some great ways you can help people in need right here in our community.

- **Angel Tree** - Although the tree won’t be displayed in the church this year, we’re still collecting gift cards for high school students in need. Just purchase a \$25 gift card at Target, Walmart, or another local store and bring or send it to church by Sunday, December 13. They’ll be given to Collingswood Special Services for older kids who might not be receiving any gifts this Christmas.
- **Scarves and Mittens**—And, although we won’t be displaying the Mitten Tree this year, knitted goods like hats, scarves, and mittens can still be donated. They will be given to the Cathedral Kitchen for distribution to homeless folks in our area. This will be an ongoing program as you may continue to donate items all winter. If you’re doing your own knitting, the Seamen’s Church Institute scarf patterns, would work very well - if you need patterns please let Sharon Wolfgang know. You can drop off finished scarves in the tub in the tower. **Thank you!**

Manger Mania Goes Virtual

Send us your Photos...

Due to COVID 19 we will not be able to have an indoor Manger Mania event this year, **but you will still be able to enjoy various manger scenes with beautiful Christmas music on our website – www.holytrinity.us.**

We would like to include your manger scene in this virtual display. Simply take a picture of it,

add a few sentences about the history of the manger, its importance in your household and e-mail it to the Church – holytrinity1@verizon.net. Virtual Manger Mania will run throughout December, concluding on January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany.



Current Weekend Worship Schedule

Continuing as Planned—but Always Subject to Change

We know it's been a bit of a moving target, but at the moment, we are not anticipating any immediate changes to our weekend service schedule.

On Saturday evenings, our 5:30 Evening Prayer and chat session will continue using the Conference Line. (856-861-3864 PIN 924821)

On Sunday mornings, our 9:30 a.m. service is still open for in-person worship. All CDC and Diocesan Guidelines are being followed. Attendance is limited to 45 and the church has been marked out for social distancing. Masks must be worn (except for Com-

munion) and there is no congregational singing. **We will continue to livestream this service each week, and the Conference Line will still be available for anyone who wants to dial in by phone.**

Our outdoor service is now on Sunday afternoons at 12:30 (taking advantage of the slightly warmer time). This is a simple Communion service, which also follows all guidelines and protocols recommended / required by the diocese.

All service times are subject to change. Check the website periodically for any updates or changes.

Virtual Blue Christmas Service

Acknowledging Loss and Looking Forward in Hope

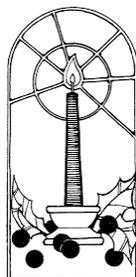
We know that for many people the holidays are not “*The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*.” The unprecedented challenges that this year has brought to so many people, and the prospect of not being able to celebrate the kind of Christmas that we might want, has many people feeling sad and lonely. But you are not alone!

Our Virtual Blue Christmas Service, which will be livestreamed on Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. (also on the conference line) will allow for

a time of prayer and reflection, a moment to acknowledge the different kinds of losses that affect our lives.

This service invites us to bring our losses before God in the hope and assurance of the comfort and the new life to come.

May Christ be born anew in you this Christmas!



Upcoming Events

Dec. 6 Tree Lighting and Caroling —5:30 p.m. On the Plaza (see article page 1)

Dec 20 Live Streamed Blue Christmas Service—5:00 p.m. (see article below)

Dec. 24 **IMPORTANT**
These services are subject to change and reservations may be needed. Look for more information in Fr. Chatten's Christmas letter.

Christmas Eve

- 5:30 p.m. Mass of the Nativity
- 11:00 p.m. Festival Midnight Mass of the Nativity

Dec 25 Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Festal Mass

Dec 31 2020 Calendar Burning on the Plaza
Had enough of 2020? Well, so have we. If you'd like to just leave it behind, stop by the Holy Trinity Plaza between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. to toss your 2020 calendar into our fire pit. (Thanks. Lois for the great idea!) New year's prayers for a much improved 2021 will also be offered.

Virtual Coffee Hour and Book Discussion

Join us on the conference line Sundays at 11:00 a.m. for a quick chat and check-in. AND, for the four Sundays in Advent, our coffee hour chat will be followed by our Advent book discussion on *The Way of Love – A Practical Guide to Following Jesus* by The Rev. Scott Gunn.

We'll start the book discussion at about 11:20. Folks on the virtual coffee hour are welcome to hang around for the book discussion. If you'd like a copy of the book, please let Fr. Mark know.

Stewardship Reminder

Just a reminder that we are hoping to receive everyone's Estimate of Giving Cards for 2021 as soon as possible. If you have not yet returned your estimate of giving card for 2021, please do so today. “All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.”