

All Saints'
Memorial Church
674 Westminster St., Providence RI

E-Messenger, December 22, 2022

*Come and worship
Rejoice in fellowship
Love and serve the Lord!*



Dear All Saints' Family,

Our Advent preparations continue. A warm thanks to all who contributed Angel Tree gifts. The gifts were picked up on Tuesday afternoon and will be so appreciated on Christmas Day. Thank you Linda and Pattie, for the gifts of your leadership and service to the community.

I mentioned last week in this e-messenger that each week one or two participants in our Advent Book group offer a reflection. This week Wilmar and Deirdre shared a reflection with us. Wilmar wove together a thoughtful meditation on vision and Light, Christmas lights and the Winter Solstice. I share Deirdre's lovely reflection with you below. Thank you, Wilmar and Deirdre.

Contemplating Advent

Advent meant Time-To-Buy-A-Christmas-Tree 50 years ago. And go into the woods for evergreen boughs and pine cones and holly to make an Advent wreath with our little girl. It was a ritual handed down from our parents. Forty years ago it meant Christmas Without Our Parents and with An Adopted Daughter. Though she was six, she was brand new to us, the very definition of New Beginnings.

Thirty years ago Advent was the beginning of my husband Steve walking without crutches, thanks to a new experimental titanium hip and ball joint, and a new career. Our children heard us voice our excitement about our future, and it matched the Israelites awaiting the Messiah.

Advent twenty years ago we enjoyed new grandchildren and Steve scored two wins in battles with cancer. The cancer ravaged his body and he lamented his condition. He could have skipped the treatment and been in

Heaven by now. Ours was the Advent of Mary when she heard Simeon foretell how she would experience Salvation. We looked for God in the dark places and had faith we would find Him.

Advent ten years ago saw childhood excitement return to our home. My daughter and three granddaughters moved in to settle the family in our town while my son-in-law completed twenty years in the Air Force in Alaska. We'd gone bankrupt in the Great Recession and Steve was healing from his third cancer and loving his new job. While people still made plans for the future, my days were lived one at a time, in the Holy Instants that make up God's experience of our lives. I learned to remember the past without regret for its passing, and leave the future to its own currents. Everyday was a miracle because Steve was still with me, with a new hip to replace the one that he'd worn out.

There are no more decades to count. This is my fifth Advent without Steve, second Advent with my companion Cleo and my new church, All Saints Memorial. Advent now isn't four weeks before Christmas, but every morning, waking up. I appreciate what my five senses can still do, at 74, and I grieve for what they can't do any longer. God help me if I lose my glasses or forget my hearing aids at an Outreach meeting.

The anticipation, expectation, wonder of Mary's Annunciation, "be it done to my according to your will," is Advent for me now. The Gift that is God-indwelling is made real by the beats of my heart and the breaths I take.

“Holy of Holies, what shall we do today?” Advent!

~Deirdre

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas this past Sunday - adults and youth! Always a festive and beautiful transformation.



Ms. Jill's Sunday school group graced us with a new ornament for the Christmas wreath as part of their Advent preparation. Now we have a creche on both altars. Thanks, Jill!



I remind those who plan to join us on ZOOM for Christmas Eve we have created **a unique zoom link** for this Christmas Service of Holy Eucharist. This link is for Christmas Eve only. You will find this zoom link below with the schedule of Christmas Services. The Zoom link for Christmas Day is the same link we use each Sunday (also below).



Thursday of the fourth week of Advent: Flock

"In fellowship, every single person matters. When we are in a congregation, we see God in each other. How can we extend our flock to include all God's beloved?" ~ Miriam

McKenney

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen. (BCP p. 838)

Advent Peace,

Julie



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, December 24

Christmas Preludes, 6:30pm

Christmas Festival Celebration of Holy Eucharist, 7:00pm

Unique Zoom link for **Christmas Eve**, December 24 Service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515397469?pwd=ekpRenlsWHVQanU4TGg2RVNjNDg4QT09>

Christmas Eve Service Program:

http://www.allsaintsmemorial.org/uploads/1/1/7/4/117437355/service_bulletin_christmas_eve_december_24_2022.pdf

Christmas Day, December 25

Christmas Festival Celebration of Holy Eucharist, 9:30am

Christmas Day Service

Program:**http://www.allsaintsmemorial.org/uploads/1/1/7/4/117437355/service_bulletin_christmas_day_december_25_2022.pdf**

Christmas Day Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484006164?pwd=ZzAvZVFUM2pKekorMGVzMFFeclFiUTo9>

First Sunday after Christmas, January 1st

Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist, 9:30am

Services are live-streamed on Face Book and Zoom.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DECORATING THE CHURCH DURING
CHRISTMASTIDE ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND**



In loving memory of:

-Ernest & Carolyn Hirsch by Eric Hirsch

-Donald & Beverly Hoskin, Kenneth W. Hoskin, Elmer & Audrey

Eastwood, Charlotte & David Shaw by Marsha Mott

-John D. Fox, Jr., and Naomi F. Gardner by Agnes Fox

-Hugh and Elizabeth Silliman, Nancy E. McGrew, Sarah J. Silliman, by

Rebecca A. Silliman

-James Burgess, Jr., James Burgess, Sr., Mae Burgess, William Dunning, Valecia Harriman, Duane Carr, Roberta Harriman, Eleanor Miller and all the deceased members of All Saints' by Charlotte Burgess

-Family and all parish members who died in 2022, by Wilmar Jennings

-Larry Lee Buote-Pease by Sondra Buote-Pease

-Harrington Evans and mothers Irene Randolph and Martha Freeman by Rosetta Evans

-Ma Putu, Samuel Korvili, and our beloved mother, Ma Matilda by Cecelia J. Sirleaf.

-Marjorie and Earl Thayer, Meredith Thayer, Gene and Dorothy Wells by Bob and Lyndsey Wells

In thanksgiving for:

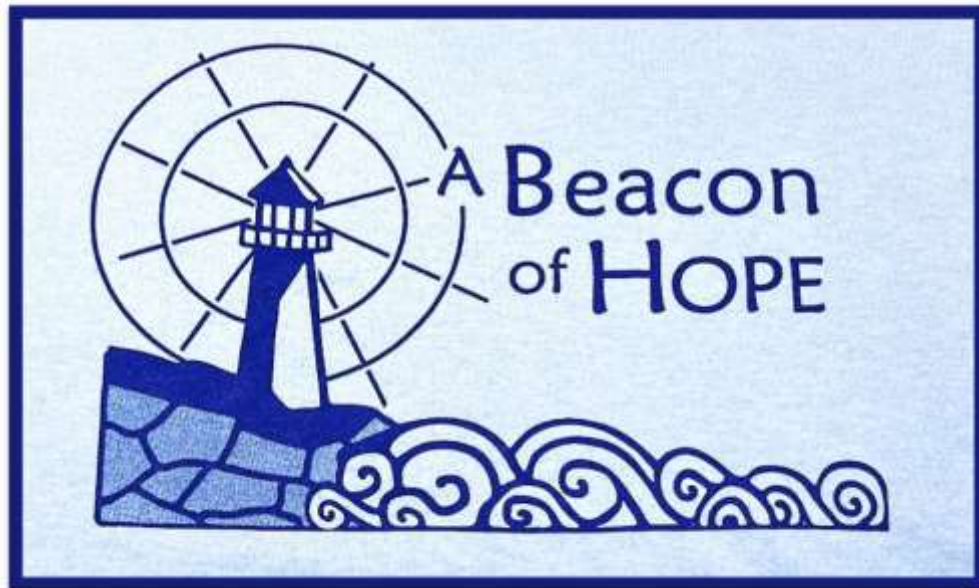
-Grandparents, wherever they may be and for friends at All Saints' by Charlotte Burgess

-Daniel, Lindsay, Nell, and Malcolm O'Brien; Lisbeth, Susanna, Isabel O'Brien; and Marie, Dan, & Lewis Fithian by Julie Hanavan

-Thanks to God for gratitude and strength, also, for everything he has done for my family by Cecelia J. Sirleaf.

-Our children Kathryn and Michael Hilton and Alan Wells by Bob and Lyndsey Wells

Outreach News



Outreach Food Collection: Each week All Saints' collects food to be distributed monthly to food pantries in our area. We welcome donations of any pre-packaged, non-expired food. Thank you for your generosity!

- December: Canned Vegetables
 - January: Canned Pasta
-

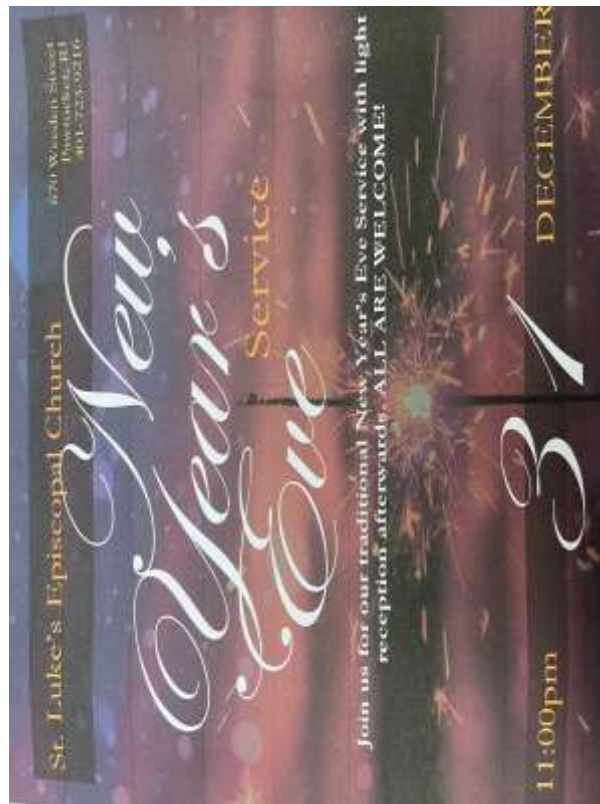


First Wednesday of the Month Healing Service

We will resume our Wednesday prayer and discussion with our monthly Healing Service on Wednesday, January 4, 2023!

We meet in Rose Hall. You may also join us via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84955593827?pwd=akNZeTlmSCtTb1BoUU9hcWQrZk5xZz09>



All are welcome!

Upcoming Events

December 24: Christmas Eve Service

- 6:30 Christmas Preludes

- 7:00 Christmas Festival of Holy Eucharist

December 25: Christmas Festival of Holy Eucharist, 9:30

am

December 28: No Choir Practice

December 31: New Year's Eve Service, St. Luke's,
Pawtucket, 11:00pm

January 1: Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist,
9:30am

Prayers

We pray for our fellow parishioners Derek, Gus, Marie, Trish, Victor, Rose, Susan, Gloria, and Theo.

We also pray for Dorothea Evans Gordon, Margaret Barney, Michael Blake, Clarence Scott, Germaine, Naida Thomas, Merynn Flynn, Karen L., Stephen, Barbara K., Rena, Lusaynie Sirleaf, Victor, Phil, John Flinton, Fontella, James, John Dunning, Peter Thoits, Lee, and Ed.

We pray for those who celebrate birthdays this week especially Neb Amaechina.

We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, especially Hannah Makuch.

Share All Saints' With Friends



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SCRIPTURE READINGS, LECTORS, CHALICE, ALTAR GUILD

December 24, 2022 (Christmas Eve)

First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12 Chip Smith

Response: Psalm 97 Ann Marie Nagle

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7 Anne Tait

Prayers of the people: Ed Boyer

Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Chalice: Barbara Badio, Musa Goll

Altar Guild: Dan & Kathy Mechnig



Websites:

**All Saints' Memorial Church
Diocese of RI · The Episcopal Church**

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The Vestry:

Senior Warden

Musa Goll

Junior Warden

Chip Smith

Treasurer

Becky Silliman

Clerk

Anne Tait

Finance Chair

Dan Mechnig

Members

Rosetta Evans

Charlotte Burgess

Pattie Marshall

Theo Muhlenburg

Gloria Perry

Elizabeth Toby

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