

...what's happening at the friendly church on the hill

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This Week at Trinity

...what's happening at the friendly church on the hill

From the Rector

One of the great Advent readings is Isaiah 11: 1-10, and I invite you to re-read it:

"The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from the stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants. The spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom and the knowledge and skill to rule his people. He will know the Lord's will and honor him and find pleasure in obeying him. He will not judge by appearance or hearsay; he will judge the poor fairly and defend the rights of the helpless. At his command, the people will be punished, and evil persons will die. He will rule his people with justice and integrity. Wolves and sheep will live together in peace, and leopards will lie down with young goats. Calves and lion cubs will feed together, and little children will take care of them. Cows and bears will eat together, and their calves and cubs will lie down in peace. Lions will eat straw as cattle do. Even a baby will not be harmed if it plays near a poisonous snake. On Zion, God's sacred hill, there will be nothing harmful or evil. The land will be as full of knowledge of the Lord as the seas are full of water."

Isaiah gives us an Advent message of how the spirit of God is moving and a new shoot is coming forth. The spirit of God is a part of this shoot and it will bear fruit like the stump never

Lectionary December 3, 2017

1 Advent

[Isaiah 64:1-9](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

[Mark 13:24-37](#)



Prayer List

Immediate Needs: Jenny, Cecily, Allison, and Donna

Chronic Needs: Ann, Cal, Norlyn, and Marlene

Military: Pvt. Gabe Davis

The needs of the world: For the homeless and the hungry, for those affected by natural disasters, for those dealing with issues of aging, mental illness, or addiction

Thanksgivings: For all the colors of Fall, for the

shoot and it will bear fruit like the stump never did. The spirit of understanding, wisdom, power, counsel, knowledge, and fear of the Lord is sprouting anew for us people of faith. God cuts down the sick trees of our lives, even if we like them, so something new and healthy can grow. In our failures, in that which has failed us, in that which is unmanageable and/or unbearable, God makes a new start.

So how do we respond to the message of Advent? How do we get off the stump? We need to see that Advent is a gift. It is not a boost, a move towards God; it is God coming to us. Our part is to respond to God in faith. It means being willing to see the possibility that God is really here. It means having faith — the assurance of things for which we hope and the confidence of that which is unseen. Isaiah gives us the image of a child: leading, playing, reaching, loving. We are called to a Faith that is not limited by what seems impossible - enemies lying together and eating together. In God's Kingdom, there will be reconciliation of our age-old enemies - our love and wrath, our fears and dreams, our faith and doubt, our best and worst. Advent is God saying, Isaiah talks about that person whom we prepare ourselves for - Jesus Christ. We move forward in faith in our lives. Scripture talks to us about our journey - desert to the promised land, exile to the kingdom, wilderness to the manger, and, cross to the empty tomb. It is a journey from hopelessness to possibility - a journey to Advent.

Advent begins the new Church year. It is a time to wipe the slate clean, to begin and expect something new, to believe afresh, to meet God all over again as if it were for the first time. So, as we begin this new year, I'm ready, and I hope you are too.

Happy New Year!

search committee, for those who protect and serve, for the blessing of friends, family, and neighbors



Parish Activity Schedule

Sunday, December 3

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 am Trinity Choristers Rehearsal
9:30 am Church School
10:00 am Advent Lessons & Carols with
Eucharist
followed by coffee hour

Tuesday, December 5

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist with

Wednesday, December 6

6:30 pm 'Blue' Christmas

Thursday, December 7

6:30 pm Advent Bible Study



Faithfully,
Fr. Steve



Scripture, Immigration, and the Refugee

This year's four-week Advent Study will focus on refugees and is entitled **Scripture, Immigration, and the Refugee**. We will discuss

Foodbank

This week: Manwich

Next week: creamed corn



New Warm Winter Blanket Drive

The Miller-Ward Funeral Home will be sponsoring a New Warm Winter Blanket Drive. The drive will benefit The Salvation Army and The St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop. Please drop off New Blankets for Adults and Children from Monday, Dec. 4 thru Friday, Dec. 8, from 9:00-5:00 p.m. @ 260 Bank St. (Rt.67, across from Klarides Village) Seymour, CT.

Thank you ...

relevant scripture, theological impressions, and personal discovery of the aspects of migration, emigration, and immigration. Moses, the Joseph story, and the Nativity Holy Family, among others, will be used as examples along with discussion about our own immigration story.

Scripture, Immigration, and the Refugee will meet with Fr. Steve and Deacon Tom on Thursday evenings November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 from 6:30 to 7:45. Join us for this unique look at a contemporary problem and a scriptural response. You can sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the Parish Office at 203-888-6596.



WINTER HEATING COSTS - HELP IS AVAILABLE

Now is the time to think about applying to TEAM for assistance with winter heating costs.

Households qualify for assistance if they fall below these income levels:

\$34,366 household of one

\$44,940 household of two

\$55,514 household of three

\$66,089 household of four

Applicants are eligible based on a review of their total gross household income, such as wage earnings, unemployment compensation, social security, pension, etc.; household size; and liquid assets, as shown through bank statements. If an



Christmas Giving Tree

Please take a mitten from our Tree with a child's first name, age and gift request. Bring the unwrapped gift with the child's mitten attached and place it under the tree in the Parish Hall. All items must be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 17th. Please feel free to include a gift receipt.

Calling all women at Trinity Parish.

The Episcopal Church Women "White Envelope" ministry is a long time tradition at Trinity. Participants receive "White envelopes" and make a monthly contribution of their choice. The collected monies are mailed to ECW Diocesan Board to help accomplish the ministries to which they are committed. This year's projects are New York Haiti Project and Educational Resources for Children Inc. Please consider becoming a part of this very worthwhile mission.

applicant is approved for assistance, TEAM will make direct payments to their home heating provider.

Both homeowners and renters who are residents of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, and Woodbridge can apply for energy assistance from TEAM.

To schedule an appointment with Energy Assistance please call 203.736-5420 and follow the prompts.

Milford residents – 203.783-3253

Woodbridge residents - 203.389-3429

Orange residents – 203.891-4787

Bethany residents – 203.393-2100 X 124

TEAM, Inc. is a private 501(C)3 nonprofit corporation whose mission is to strengthen our community by educating, supporting and empowering individuals and families. TEAM programs impact the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Naugatuck, Orange, Oxford, Shelton, Seymour, Waterbury, and Woodbridge.



Sunshine Ministry

The Sunshine Ministry is looking for donations of Birthday, Anniversary and Sympathy cards.

At this time there are plenty of Christmas and Get Well cards on hand.

Thank you. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



What Can I bring to the Christ Child?

We have a wonderful opportunity to support

the Valley Diaper Bank in Seymour to provide Diapers and Baby Wipes for our young Valley families in need. As we celebrate this wonderful Feast of Christmas, let us remember that the Christ Child is still with us in those children in need. Let us offer a gift of Diapers and Baby Wipes as our special gift to the Christ Child. We will be collecting Diapers and Baby Wipes from December 24 through January 28. There will be a collection container in the Parish Hall.

We sincerely Thank You for any help that you can offer.

Deacon Tom, Kim, Leslie & Rev. Steve

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