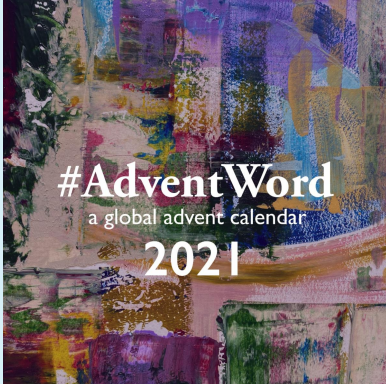


December 22, 2021



CHRISTMAS DAY

The majestic prologue of the Gospel of John presents a very different account of the incarnation of Jesus Christ than the story from Luke that we usually hear on Christmas Eve. Last night, we heard about angels and shepherds. We heard about the very earthy birth of Jesus in humble circumstances. Mary and Joseph are there. It is the Christmas we picture.

Today's assigned gospel reading gives us the long view. The prologue certainly praises the enfleshment of Jesus: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). But the emphasis here is on meaning, breadth, and

grandeur.

About the same time as the New Testament was written, Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, taught, "there is one God, who has manifested himself by Jesus Christ his Son, who is his eternal Word, not proceeding forth from silence." It's a beautiful way to speak of our Lord Jesus: he is the word, the very voice of the triune God.

Throughout this Advent, you have savored a different word each day. It's a good discipline, and perhaps you will savor God's word in the scriptures this way in the days, months, and years to come. Advent, after all, is not just a time to prepare for Christmas but a season to reorient our whole lives.

I love a cute pageant as much as the next person, but this day is about much more than that. Christmas reminds us that our God is not distant and remote. God in Jesus Christ was born into our world to be in solidarity with us, to show us perfect love. On Christmas Day, we praise God for the birth of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word. ~ The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, 2020

Christmas Schedule

Friday, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with Pageant
- 6:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

[Nursery provided for both services.]

Saturday, December 25

- 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 26

- 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast Preparation
- 8:00 a.m. - Community Breakfast
- 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist [Nursery provided. NO Coffee Hour.]
- 5:00 p.m. - Evening Prayer online

OFFICE CLOSURE: Thursday, December 23, 2021 - Sunday, January 2, 2022.
[No announcements will be sent that week.]

Diocesan Delegate Opportunity

Interested in being a Diocesan Delegate?! Find out what really goes on behind the scenes by representing St. James at the Diocesan Convention being held on March 4 - 5, 2022. You must be 15 years or older, confirmed, and a member of St. James in good standing. The diocesan schedule follows:

In-person convention

- Friday night opening Eucharist at St. Timothy's, Alexandria [catered reception follows]
- Saturday business meeting at Pineville Convention Center at Country Inn and Suites

On-site childcare available Friday and Saturday

- For children through 12 years of age
- Clergy/Vendors/Guests indicate need for childcare during online registration





END of the YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS and PLEDGES

If you wish to mail your pledge or any other contributions by the end of the year, they must be postmarked **December 31st**. **Any online pledges/contributions must be made before midnight, Friday, December 31st.**

Save the Date! St. James Concert Series Resumes!

Rolston String Quartet
Friday, January 21st @ 7:00 PM



Worship



December 26th
First Sunday after Christmas
In-person Worship @ 10:30 AM
Childcare is available!

[Click here for the readings.](#) (December 26)

[Click here for the readings.](#) (January 2)

December 26th
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Belong

Sometimes it feels like we're in a wilderness! Amidst a pandemic, systematic oppression, school stress and friend dynamics, it can be hard to remember that God is our comfort and foundation.

Youth, friends, guardians, and youth leaders from across Louisiana are invited to join the Diocesan Youth Commission for a day of connecting with creation, community, and **GOD IN THE WILDERNESS!**

EVENT DETAILS

- This event is sponsored by the Diocese of Western Louisiana and will be free of charge for all participants, including entry fees into Indian Creek.
- **January 8th, 2022 from 9:45 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.** at Indian Creek Recreation Area south of Alexandria, LA.
- Youth in grades 6th-12th are invited AND their accompanying guardians, youth leaders, drivers, etc.



The days events include a 3 mile hike, small groups, games, and worship. Attendees should bring their own reusable water bottle, sack lunch, and snack.

Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

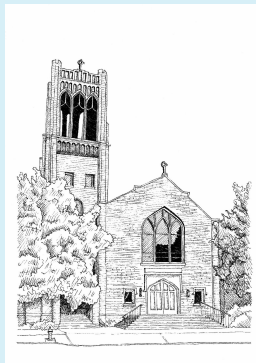
Matthew Fontanille, Jaxsom McElwee, Bonnie McCartney, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Dixie Leigh Platt, Ty Cedars, Stacy, Mattie Dean McNaughton, Kristie Fresh, Sawyer, John, Bernard Parker, James Sinclair, Johnnie Hart, Emily, Taylor Thompson, Todd Fuller, Jane Y. Harris, Chase Barnfield, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Edna Schoolcraft, Jimmy Hurt, Charlotte Thrift, Mesta Bain, Margaret Broussard, Allie Bunyog, Dean M. Tyree, Linda & John Bazer, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Rita Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jackie Jeanne, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Betty Anne Close, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Wayne and Barbara Moorehead, Pat Carter, Richard Norem, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, Cindy Smith, Jane Tyson, Gerard, Mehre Hajighassem, and Wanda ad Starlic King.

For those in the military:

Samuel Hayes, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Steven P. Lemoine, Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in December (day):

Sue Ellen Jackson (1), Graham Matthews (1), Heather Walker (1), Elizabeth Deshotel (5), Karen Smith (5), Barbara Whitfield (6), Holly Dixon (7), Jems White (7), Tommy Thompson(8), Becky Elliott (9), Lindsey Lemoine (9), Ava Walker (9), Kai Brown (12), George Matthews (20), Sylvia Middleton (21), Caroline Searcy (21), Jim Hair (22), Tonya Shepherd (22), Tom Denley (26), Thomas Downs (26), Bertie Smith (26), Georgina Adams (27), Carla Beth Carlisle (27), John Bufkin (28), Marie Durham (28), Luke McLemore (28), Fred Adams (29).



[Visit our Website](#)

St. James Episcopal Church | 1620 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301 | 318.445.9845

