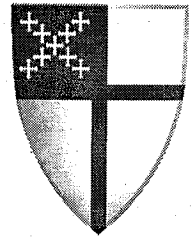


St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

Our Mission is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel
and to seek and serve Christ in all people



2022 – December Newsletter

Greetings in this time of expectation!

Hope is an important part of the experience of Advent, it is one of the three great gifts described by Paul alongside Faith and Love. It is under appreciated and we don't talk about it nearly enough, especially when we think about how often we talk about the other two.

Why is that? Well, it can be difficult to talk about Hope when we don't feel hopeful; and I think it is in understatement to say that we live in a time where many do not feel hopeful about the future. The direction of history seems to be down, especially over the last few years. Advent comes as a timely reminder that we are not the first in our faith to have this experience. Things may seem to be getting worse; but the end of creation, and by "end" I mean its purpose and its direction, is love.

Remaining hopeful does not mean we turn a blind eye to the darkness which works against us. We are all intimately familiar with violence and its effect on the world around us. Remaining hopeful means we no longer assume that violence will get the last word. There is a lot of precedence for this in scripture. Biblical History goes through cycles of violence and peace. The work of the faithful during times of violence is to rekindle their Hope to be a light to the world., like the people of Israel carrying their faith into exile, or the Church in Revelation choosing to turn toward God in praise

May we have the grace and hope in our own day to shine our light into the darkness. Blessings from...

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Becoming Beloved Community

Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

I listened to an interesting webinar recently put on by the national Episcopal Church. It was titled, Becoming Beloved Community from an Indigenous Perspective. I was intrigued by what our church meant by the phrase, Becoming Beloved Community. It seemed like it should be straight forward. We believe we are the beloved of God the Father. We believe in treating each other in a loving and caring way. And we believe in caring for God's creation, which includes each other as well as the Earth.

I was also very interested in what an indigenous perspective on that topic might be. I felt there was much to learn that I could put to good use.

Our national church maintains a website on which we can learn a great deal. Here is what is posted under the topic, Understanding Becoming Beloved Community:

“The Episcopal Church’s work toward racial reconciliation, healing and justice is guided by the long-term commitment to Becoming Beloved Community. We organize our ministries around the four quadrants...Each quadrant represents a commitment that is vital to lasting change within us, our churches, our communities, and society at large. Telling the Truth about Our Churches and Race; Proclaiming the Dream of Beloved Community; Practicing Jesus’ Way of Healing Love; Repairing the Breach in Society and Institutions.”

One of those quadrants, proclaiming the dream of beloved community, sparked my curiosity. Our church says, “We gather to publicly reckon and share about the history and reality of race, and to proclaim our dream of Beloved Community through prayer, preaching, conversation and public witness.”

Later after looking at the Episcopal Church website, I listened to the webinar. I picked up on some key points. A Beloved Community from an indigenous perspective means that all persons can share in the wealth of the Earth. The indigenous world view, according to the lead speaker, means that everything is sacred, that we each have a responsibility to everyone and everything including animals, insects, mountains, sky and our relatives, including those who came before us. This world view does not teach dominance but teaches harmony.

One point in particular stood out to me. It was a point made during the discussion of the trauma that humans sometimes experience. The speaker commented that a means of healing from our trauma may happen by our return to the care of creation. We may be helped by asking ourselves, how is this action I am about to take going to affect the earth. The condition of the Earth today is manifesting our diseases.

This topic seems huge with great potential. Perhaps a new way of living is at hand. Important things to consider and live by. I will pray that some ideas for personal action will become clear to me that I can share with you.

Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
4-Dec	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
11-Dec	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:4-9	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
18-Dec	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
25-Dec	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14

Rota

Date	Sunday	Reader - 8:00	Reader - 10:15	Acolyte	Altar Guild
4-Dec	Advent 2	John	Yvonne	Sharon	Henchar
11-Dec	Advent 3	Randy	Nancy	Sharon	Van Vliet
18-Dec	Advent 4	Joyce	Sharon	Nancy	Elliott
25-Dec	Christmas Day	John	Hannah	Nancy	TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Services

We will have two services on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas:

Christmas Eve

6 pm – A Service of Lessons and Carols

11 pm – Eucharist – Modern language – Christmas Carols to be sung before the service beginning at 1030.

Christmas Day

11 am – Eucharist – Traditional language

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Sarah (12/6), Tom (12/10), Faye (12/15), Bill (12/15), Kevin (12/18), Grant (12/23) and John (12/23)

Happy birthday to all!

Anniversary

Sarah and Steve (12/12)

Happy Anniversary!

Blessing Bag Ministry

Blessing Bags contain **travel** size items (i.e. hand sanitizer, small note books, toothbrush, toothpaste, pens, pencils, shampoo, deodorant, granola bars, soap, tuna/cracker packs, underwear, socks etc). We place several of the items in a gallon storage bag and distribute them to those in need. Currently, we are working closely with COPE and local partners in addition to Rio Grande Borderland Ministries.

If you are interested in helping in this ministry, please contact Sharon Kelman at 757 718 9451 or email ke4zia@gmail.com. You may bring any items you purchase to the church and deposit them in the bag that is located in the Narthex any Sunday.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Seminar

The Brotherhood is a group of men who engage in the study of scripture and service. We currently meet each Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. for a Bible seminar in the Parish Hall. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend. This will be restarting the Saturday following labor day.

Caring card ministry

I would like to thank everyone who has donated cards, stamps and stickers to this ministry. We would like to help you celebrate **ALL** occasions. So, if you haven't signed up on our birthday (we just need month and day-**NO YEARS**) and anniversary lists, please do so. If you know of someone who may enjoy receiving one of our cards, please let me know. The sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. If you prefer, you may contact me directly: Sharon Kelman email: ke4zia@gmail.com or 757-718 9451 call or text.

Pet Prayer Chain

Many people in our congregation have pets. We all love our pets. They are part of our family. When they are sick, elderly or lost, it is a comfort to know that our church family is praying for them as well as us. If you have or know of a pet that could benefit from our ministry, please let David-Luke or Nancy know.

Daily Office

Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. Evening Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Links to these services can be found on the website.

Formation Hour

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study. Been to a lot of bible studies? None? All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Are you interested in doing it as part of an ongoing spiritual practice that gives back to the community? If you are and would like more information, like patterns or prayers, please contact Joyce at joycesummers@mac.com

St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

Sunday Services: 8:00am Rite I; 10:15am Rite II

Office Phone: 575.437.3891

Email: stjohnsalamo@tularosa.net Website: <http://www.stjohnsalamo.com>