



~ **St. John's Church** ~
Weekly News
November 29, 2023

Readings for Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023
The First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 8:1-7, 24-37
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:1-7, 16-18

Diane Nancekivell, Officiant

Loose Plate Offering
Rector's Discretionary Fund

Letter from Diane Nancekivell

Advent 2023

Advent Greetings Dear Ones,

As you all have no doubt observed Advent has become increasingly counter cultural - all except the many varieties of Advent calendars that lead up to the gift giving of Christmas.

But the Carols are pumped into every soundtrack of every shop we enter and some of it surely gets into the distracted shoppers minds and hearts. But the deepest message of Advent is missed.

We will hear throughout our Advent reading the themes of “awake” “get ready” “stay alert” “prepare”. And of course, we all shall be getting ready to bring together our families for food, gift giving and relaxation. And that is a good and wonderful thing. But the deepest readiness we are called to is a mystery. The all but inconceivable mystery that God comes to earth and lives amongst and within us is what we are being called to prepare for. What astonishment! What wonder!

Preparing our hearts and minds to receive this truth almost certainly takes a whole lifetime to absorb and live, but the stories help shape our thinking and the repetition year after year helps to widen the space within us to receive this miraculous truth.

So, we each are invited to draw near, find ways to live into the preparedness and make space for the coming miracle. I suggest we invite it to inform us and our lives in new ways. I suggest we dare to anticipate a new and fresh way of seeing this well-known story with its promise of hope, peace and joy.

Have a blessed Advent

Diane

Purple for Advent

This Sunday, December 3, is the first Sunday of Advent. Our worship service will include the lighting of the first candle of the advent wreath as well as the Eucharist. Purple has traditionally been the primary color of Advent, although some churches now use blue. It symbolizes prayer, penance and sacrifice as a way of showing devotion to God. It is also the color of royalty and the sovereignty of Christ, who is known as the "King of Kings" and symbolizes the anticipation and reception of Christ. The priest's robes are purple and three of the candles in the Advent wreath are purple.

The Advent Wreath

A variety of fresh greens are woven into a circular brass candle holder. The first candle of the Advent wreath, the prophecy candle, or candle of hope, is purple. The second is called the Bethlehem candle, or the candle of preparation, and it is also purple. The third is pink and is called the shepherd candle, or candle of joy, and it reveals a shift in the season of Advent away from repentance and toward celebration. The fourth candle is called the angel candle, or the candle of love, and it is purple. The center candle is the Advent candle, and it represents purity, regeneration and godliness.

Mark Your Calendars

St. John's Church and the Essex Community Church will have Lessons and Carols at 4 PM on Dec. 16th at St. John's.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 4 PM on Sunday, Dec. 24th. Christmas Eve is also the 4th Sunday in Advent. The officiant will be Rev. Lyn Burns.

Sunday, Dec. 31st St. John's will have a service of Lessons and Carols in the Anglican tradition along with the 10 AM Holy Eucharist.

Prayers

For Those in Need or Any Kind of Distress

Art, Joyce, Nancy, Abra, Mike, Beverly, Noa, Lillian, Chris, Rae, Olivia, Cheryl, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Chris, Lynne, Eve.

Search Prayer

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



Visit with Tilly Close

Recently Scottie and Diane traveled to Lincoln, MA to visit Tilly and then over Thanksgiving weekend Bob and Carole Harsh also went to see her. They all reported that she was in fine spirits and had lots of stories about Essex during her lifetime to share with them. She attends church with us each Sunday by Zoom and keeps up with everything at "her Church". And, indeed, it is her church. Without her many times great grandfather there would have been no St. John's as those of you who have been following the Historic Tidbits in the Weekly News are well aware. Also, thanks to Tilly, and in memory of Dick, all of the original church records are being transcribed.

Thank you Tilly, for all that you and your forebears have done to give us the gift of St. John's today!

Welcome Corps

Recently refugees from central Africa who have settled in the North Country and other parts of New York State were featured in the Nov. 24th *Wall Street Journal*. In his story reporter Jimmy Vielkind, made the comment that "we need them as much as they need us." The article also mentioned *Welcome Corps*, as a new program working with grassroots organizations to place

Corps, as a new program working with grassroots organizations to place refugees that could reshape small cities.” This is encouraging news and wonderful publicity for those of us working to do the same for our own communities in Essex County. If you want the link to the article contact Darcey at twoocelots@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. in Persell Hall and by Zoom.

Meditation

Meditators will meet as usual in person and by Zoom in Persell Hall but at the new time of 4 p.m. In the first and last Wednesdays of each month our reflection will focus on readings from the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr and his invited guests.

All are welcome to attend our hour gathering . No experience is needed for the 20 minutes of Meditation. Please call or email Bobbi Perez for any questions, 518- 837-1015 or perezgonehome@gmail.com

History Tidbit Part 4

Aug. 18, 1857

The Rev. I. A. Fairbanks was elected rector and the treasurer was instructed to send \$2 to the Episcopal Fund [for missionaries]. Then mysteriously the records for 1858 and 1859 were removed from the book. We will never know whether something nefarious occurred!

Apr. 10, 1860

The church had no rector and so the parishioners at the chapels in Boquet, Essex and Whallonsburgh were told that it was up to them to maintain the buildings during the search. Two things are of interest here. This is the first mention of a chapel in Whallonsburgh. Why was it not mentioned before? Where was it? Why would there be 3 “chapels” in a relatively small area? Was this because travel was so difficult much of the year? Also, the terms Church and Chapel are used interchangeably with regard to St. John's.

Sept. 8, 1860

A resolution was passed, requesting the delegate or delegates to the convention to call on the Rev. M. Margot & ask him for an explanation regarding the disappearance of two contributions that were collected at Bouquet & Essex while he was in charge of the parish in the absence of a rector. Skullduggery?

Sept 19 and Nov. 27, 1863

Rev. E.D. Cooper was elected rector and on Nov. 27th his salary was raised to \$100 for the year.

Jan. 13, 1865

At an adjourned meeting of the Vestry of St John's Church, Essex, and by request of Whallonsburgh Chapel, the services there were to be suspended for the present and held in St Johns Church Essex. The vote was unanimous – on motion the meeting adjourned Death of J.S. Whallon 9/24/64. One can assume that the chapel was in Mr. Whallon's home or one of his businesses and they had to cease upon his death.

Sept. 16, 1865

Rev. M. R. Cooper read to the Vestry a communication from the Ladies Sewing Society proposing to purchase a parsonage for the use of a rector of this Parish – the parsonage to be purchased by their own exertions and asking of the vestry their approval and hearty cooperation. The communication was accepted unanimously. So far, we have heard nothing more about this.

Mr. Cooper then presented to the Vestry his resignation of the Parish on account of ill health proceeding from a sore throat. S. D. Derby was called to the chair when Rev. Cooper withdrew. On motion a committee was appointed to call on Rev. Cooper and inform him of the action of the Vestry which was as follows: the vestry did not accept Rev. Cooper's resignation but offered to supply his place during his absence. That was certainly a strong expression of support. Hopefully it will get resolved soon.

St. John's Zoom Passcodes

St. John's Sunday Service

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>

Morning Prayer

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/morning-prayer>

Vestry Meetings

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/vestrymeet>

Finance Committee

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/financemeet>

Contemporary Bible Study

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/biblestudy>

Meditation

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/meditationmeet>

Sunday Service Zoom Recording

stjohnsessexnyzoom@gmail.com

stjohnsessexny.zoom@gmail.com

Passcode: +W2t+Fwu

AA 12-Step Meeting

Zoom Meeting ID: 817 7797 4233

Passcode: 123456

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday Contemporary Bible Study (Zoom) 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Tuesday Community Potluck Supper 6 PM

Wednesday Meditation (Zoom/In Person) 5 PM

Thursday Morning Prayer (Zoom) 10 AM

Sunday Holy Eucharist 10 AM (Zoom/in person)

Sunday AA Meeting (Zoom/In Person) 7 PM

Your Vestry

Scottie Emery-Ginn and Bill Tribou (Wardens)

Louise Baietto, Bruce Hale, Diana Lawrence, Jon McBride

Bruce Stephan, and Julie Wever (Members)

Darcey Hale (Clerk)

Antonia Bullard (Treasurer)

St. John's Episcopal Church | 4 Church Street, Essex, NY 12936



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