

Christ Church Parish News

Sunday, December 2, 2018

First Sunday in Advent



Holy Communion 7:30 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
Adult Forum 9:00 am
Holy Communion with Choir 10:00 am
Nursery is available at 9:45 for 10:00 service

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 1 - Women of Christ Church Christmas Fair 8 am to 2 pm

Sunday, December 2 - Boy Scouts 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Monday, December 3 - Girl Scouts 5:30 pm

Tuesday, December 4

- Debra Annese Funeral Service 11:00 am, followed by reception in the Great Hall
- Betty King Funeral 1:00 pm at Staples Funeral Home, visiting hours from 11:00am prior to service
- Boy Scouts 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, December 5

- Holy Communion 10:00 am
- Bible Study 10:45 am: Prepare the Way: Readings from Advent
- Bell Choir 5:00 pm
- Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 6

- Womens' Book Group 10:00 am

Announcements

Have You Made Your Pledge Yet?

“Love. Serve. Give.- our 2019 Annual Giving Campaign”

A big thank you to those who have already pledged to support Christ Church in 2019. We need everyone's support as we strengthen our witness to Christ in Gardiner and beyond. Please join us in this joyful commitment by turning in your pledge card as soon as possible. We will then be able to build a responsible budget for next year. God bless you for loving, serving, and giving in Christ's Name!

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.” - Maya Angelou

UTO—United Thank Offering Ingathering

Sunday, December 16 is when we will bring our Blue Boxes to church for Ingathering. UTO is an outreach ministry of The Episcopal Church that began in 1889. If you did not take a blue box home earlier in the year, you may still contribute by using the UTO envelopes located on the organ or in the back of the church. Even the smallest donations, when added together, can make a huge difference in the lives of others. God Bless You.

Thank You! to all who gave money and basic need items for the Thanksgiving Baskets. With your generous support, we were able to help 25 families in our community to share in the bounty we have received.

Giving Tree



We have joined with other churches in the area to provide gifts for children in need in the Greater Augusta area. The names on our Giving Tree have come from case-workers in the Department of Health and Human Services - these children are some of the most vulnerable in our community. Please consider helping them to have a merrier Christmas by grabbing a tag or two off of the tree. Tags are specific with age, gender, and the wish of the child. Gifts can be wrapped with the tag on them and left under the tree at Christ Church by Sunday, December 16. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Christ Church Weather Policy

Wednesday and Sunday Worship Services will generally not be canceled due to inclement weather as Kerry lives within walking distance of the Church. However, when Gardiner Schools are cancelled, our policy is to close the office and cancel meetings scheduled for the day. In the event that we do need to cancel worship or a church event, cancellations will be posted on WCSH Channel 6 StormCenter.

Will you Help us Prepare the Church?

During the Advent season, we prepare for Christmas. At this time, we dust, polish and clean the Altar area and our brass and silver pieces. Three cleaning sessions are scheduled from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, December 8 and Saturday, December 22. Please attend either or both of these times. Your presence and helping hands will be most appreciated

and
Plea



Christmas Flowers and Greens

We appreciate your help with decorating the church for the Twelve Days of Christmas as you remember or honor your loved ones. All donations will be gladly accepted. Thank you.

Fill out the information below (forms and envelopes are also available in the church) and return with your donation to Becky Colwell in the Parish Office or place in the plate by Monday, December 17th so that we may include the names in our Christmas worship programs.

Please find enclosed \$_____ for Christmas Flowers and Greens.

Please print names legibly

...In Loving Memory of:

...In Thanksgiving for:

Please add your name and phone number in case of questions

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

Christ Church - A Community of Prayer

Parish Prayer List: Please pray for Charles Hicks, Bob Evers, Stephen White, Steve Cross, Liz Hall, Jane Dunn, Emma Jane and her family, Beverly and Leonard Kaply, Dan Stevens

Church Family and Friends on the Long-Term Parish Prayer List: Freda Pearson, Carrie Stevens, Rose Andrews, Jody Clark, Marge Alexander, Nick and Joannie Decker, Joan Lane, Dorna Tracy, Jen Lagasse, Peggy Albert, Wesley Brown, Erv Nason, Mary Fowler, Robert Beaulieu, Marie Atkins, Royce Thompson, Jessica, Truman, Kim Dunn, Marlon Morgan, Wanda Palmerie, Mike Andres, Patricia Bulley, Garfield Bulley, John, Carol & Brian Linnedorn, Joseph Rinnaldi, Jonathan Rosario.

Those Expecting a Child: Natalie and Luke

Those Who Have Died: Debbie Annese, Betty King, Don Biesswinger. *Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord. Let light perpetual shine on them.*

After one month on the Parish Prayer list the names of those for whom we have prayed are moved to the Long-Term list for 2 more months. Please let us know if anyone should remain on the list after this time or needs to be removed. To add yourself, family, or friends to the prayer list, please add the name to the Prayer book located next to St. Ann's Altar or contact the office at 582-3354 or parish@christchurchgardiner.org.

Prayer for the Episcopal Transition in Maine: *God of Grace, we give you thanks for all of the blessings of our common life and ministries as the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, and for our leaders who are guiding us through this season of change. Grant to the Discernment and Transition Committees open hearts, minds, and spirits as they receive the Holy Spirit's gifts of faith, hope, and love to aid their work.*

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: The congregations of St. Peter's, Bridgton and St. Ann's, Windham. For the children of the world .

Pray for our country, for the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, the immigrant, the refugee, and the forgotten. Pray for the addicted and those who care for them. Pray for victims of abuse. Pray for those who live alone. Pray for an end to gun violence and for sensible gun safety laws. Pray for those who have lost their way.

Service Ministers for Sunday, December 2, 2018

	7:30	10:00
Greeters:	Rick Mack	Melissa Mercier & Henri Baker
Reader/Prayers:	Rick Mack	Candy Avery/Joannie Decker
Acolyte/Chalice:	Mary Jayne Monroe	Rich Guzman & Dan Stevens
Coffee Hour:	Billie Ellis	Bev & Jess Robbins
Counters:		Henri Baker/Volunteer

Scripture Readings for Advent 1

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Response

Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Christ Episcopal Church

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Website: www.christchurchgardiner.org

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Priest-in-Charge: Stephen D. Muncie: (207) 406-0333

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Assisting Priest: Kerry R. Mansir: (207) 624-1841

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Senior Warden: Elizabeth (Liz) Hall: (207) 333-0381

Junior Warden: Billie Ellis: (207) 588-6000

Parish Secretary: Becky Colwell (207) 582-3354 *Office hours are from 9am - 2pm T-W-Th*