

THE MESSENGER

THE MISSION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SACRED WORSHIP, SERIOUS DISCIPLESHIP, AND SELFLESS SERVICE

December 2019

Advent: Lament and Longing

By Fr Joshua Drake

As we enter into the season of Advent we look back to Christ's first coming, and we look forward to His second coming. It is a season of preparation and expectation and longing before Christmas; it is a season of embracing silence while we wait for God's promises to be fulfilled; it is a season of aching for the world to be made right, and preparing for the coming of King Jesus, who puts all things to rights.



Advent can be a very uncomfortable time. We should lean into this uncomfortable space. In Advent we realize the weight of the liminal space in which we live, the space between Christ's first and second coming, between a Kingdom that is already, but not yet. It is time of longing and often pain. Pain because we have tasted of what the Kingdom is like in Christ's first coming, yet we have not seen the culmination of our deepest longing, which is the Kingdom of God fully realized here on earth.

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My exhortation to you this Advent season is to allow this season to be a time when you join your personal voice of lament and longing to the collective voice of the people of God who cry out "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Meditate on the fact that amidst the impatient brokenness of the world, the incarnate Christ was content to lie in darkness and silence in Mary's womb for more than nine months in order to bring healing and light to the world. The Incarnation is celebrated during the festival of Christmas, but it all starts with the silence and reflection of Advent. Make peace with times of silence and darkness, knowing that the Word of God and Light of the world is coming. ♦

Peace be with you,

+ Fr. Joshua

Liturgy Note: The color of Advent is purple—the color of royalty. Jesus is the King of kings. Purple is also the color of penitence. We use this season to fast and prepare.

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Deacon's Corner



Merry Christmas!

Wow, here we are in December already. Where did the time go? I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Please be careful as the holiday

season can be hectic and take people's minds off what they are doing.

In my homily on November 17 I talked about how we are to hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Word of God, as stated in one of our collects in the Book of Common Prayer for the purpose of making disciples. Otherwise, what good is to get all that training—and we are to get that training if we are true followers of Jesus—and not use it? So I thought I would expound on each of these five principles in turn.

Hear: When it comes to our reception of Scripture we first *hear* the Word of God. Many of us weren't literate at the time. Today we either hear it when we are children or hear someone talk about Jesus, perhaps giving their own testimony on how they became a follower of Jesus. This is our first exposure to who Jesus is.

Read: Upon hearing the Word of God, we next take the logical step of wanting to *read* it for ourselves. Upon reading the Scriptures, the Word of God becomes more tangible to us; it becomes real, it begins to have substance for us.

Mark: We cannot rest on just hearing and reading, we learn to start to *mark*. It means to mark not only in the outward sense such as

underlining a particular verse but to inwardly mark, to let the Scriptures themselves underline in us those passages that seem to speak directly to us. It also allows the Scriptures to then bring us to the point of Baptism, in which we are marked as Christ's own.

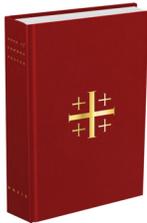
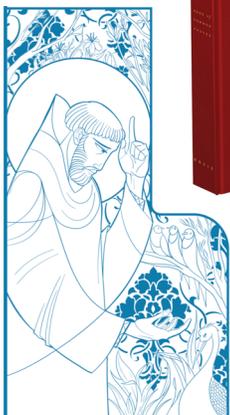
Learn: Marking Scriptures and being marked as Christ's own is of course the beginning of *learning*. We are learning to become disciples of Christ. We learn what it truly means to be followers of Jesus by picking up our cross daily and following Him.

Inwardly Digest: This last part is the deepest and is rooted in Jesus's words to Satan: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"

(Matthew 4:4 RSV). We are to live on and be sustained by the Scriptures just as we live on and are sustained by bread. Taking it in daily until it becomes transforming, allowing it to become the very substance of who we are. I think the old adage of "you are what you eat" tells it all. If you eat garbage you get fat and unhealthy; likewise, if you eat right you are stronger, leaner. If we eat the things of the world we become more like the world; but if we eat of the Scriptures we become more Christlike.

May the peace of the Lord be always with you!

—Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer ♦



2019 Book of Common Prayer

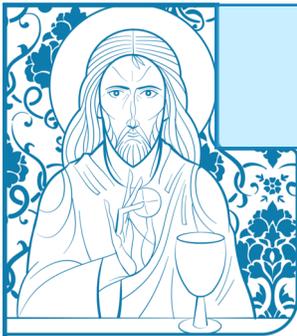
Now available for purchase from Anglican Liturgy Press.

[http://
bcp2019.anglicanchurch.n
et/index.php/purchase/](http://bcp2019.anglicanchurch.net/index.php/purchase/)

November Altar Flower Donations

- 3 Mike & Fresca Finney
in memory of
Godofredo & Isabel
Pallones
- 24 Carol Sherwood
in memory of her
sister, Claudina





Sacred Worship

Sundays	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist @ St Francis of Assisi Church
First Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist @ Victory Park, Stockton
December 22	4:00 p.m.	Come, Emmanuel Advent Music Service
Christmas Eve	6:30 p.m.	Caroling, 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist @ SFAC
Christmas Day	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist @ St Francis of Assisi Church
Healing Service	Varies	Announced via email & Sunday bulletins

Come, Emmanuel

Songs, Readings, and Reflections for Advent

Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Come along on an Advent journey to contemplate through songs and readings the Beginning and End of all things, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is not a Lessons and Carols service nor a concert; rather, it is a new participatory event where *together* we will sing old favorites and beautiful new songs (Psalm 96:1).

In our peaceful candlelit sanctuary we will make melody to praise God for His indescribable gift. The journey begins in the Garden of Eden and ends in joyful anticipation of Christ's coming. The lyrics and readings will illumine the biblical texts and help us reflect on the greatest story ever told: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Come, Emmanuel! ♦

Song List for the Curious: Creator of the Stars of Night, Adam Lay Ybounden, Comfort Comfort Ye My People, By the Waters of Babylon, O Come O Come Emmanuel, Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming, Magnificat, Wait for the Lord, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Rise Up Shepherd and Follow, Peace Peace, Personent Hodie, Behold the Lamb of God, Advent Gathering Song. ♦

The service will last about an hour and 15 minutes. Childcare will not be provided but your little ones are welcome to make a joyful noise with us — the whole family is invited on this musical journey. **Afterward please join us for a cookie reception in the Fellowship Hall.** If you'd like, please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to share! ♦

Healing Service

If someone needs healing and cannot physically make it to the church, we will take the Sacrament to them. **All are welcome** to come and share in the healing service as the body of Christ. A time & place will be announced in the Sunday bulletin or via e-mail. ♦



First Saturday Mass

Holy Communion on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. is open for all, but it is especially an opportunity to gather and praise God before we "Go and make disciples" in the different ministries St Francis Church offers in our community (see p. 5).

December 7 at 10:00 a.m.

**At Victory Park near the tennis courts
1001 N Pershing Ave, Stockton**

(At St Francis Church if inclement weather)

Serious Discipleship



The Psalms, They Are A-Changing

Chanting the Psalms is a long and beautiful tradition in our Anglican heritage. The word *Psalm* actually means *song*.

Beginning in December, congregations across the ACNA will begin chanting the Psalms from *The New Coverdale Psalter*. The goal is to get worshippers in the pews singing the Psalms in traditional and time-proven Anglican forms.

The First Sunday in Advent
Psalm 122 (Hail, Jerusalem)
Robert Knos Kennedy (b. 1945)

© 1979, Robert Knos Kennedy

- 1 I was glad when they said unto | me, |
"We will go into the house of the | Lord." ||
- 2 Now our feet are | standing |
within your gates, O | Jer[usalem] ||
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a | city |
that is as unity in | itself. ||
- 4 For there the tribes go up, even the tribes of the | Lord, |
as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the | Lord. ||
- 5 For there is the throne of | judgment, |
even the throne of the house of | David. ||
- 6 O pray for the peace of Je[rusalem], |
that they shall prosper that | love you. ||
- 7 Peace be within your | walls |
and plentyuousness within your | palaces. ||
- 8 For my brethren and companions' | sakes, |
I will wish you great | peace. ||
- 9 Indeed, because of the house of the Lord our | God, |
I will seek to do you | good. ||

Glory be to the Father, and to the | Son, |
and to the Holy Spi | rit. ||
As it was in the beginning, is | now, |
and will be for ever. A | men. ||

beautiful tradition. This might seem intimidating because it sounds like a new thing, but **we already sing in this style every week for the *Gloria* and the**

Sanctus. It won't take us long to get used to singing the weekly Psalm, discovering new depths in these ancient words.

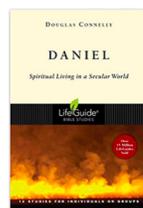
The new Psalter is designed with singability in mind. The tunes that were chosen are easily sung and have beautiful melodies, using the best of Gregorian chant, traditional Anglican chant, and simplified Anglican chant with fewer notes in the tune, often based on familiar hymns. ♦

St Francis Church is joining in the effort to unite all North American Anglicans in the way we chant the Psalms. Together, we will learn and rediscover this



To learn more, talk to Fr. Joshua or visit:

<https://acnamusicresources.com/psalter/>



Lodi Bible Study on Holiday Break

The Bible study led by Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer will resume meeting in January to begin our study of "Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World" by Douglas Connelly (\$7.99 on Amazon). Check next month's Messenger and the Sunday bulletins for the start date, or see Deacon Jeff for more information. ♦

Would you like to host a Bible Fellowship in your neighborhood?

No special training is necessary! It's very low key but so rewarding. You simply provide a place, invite your friends and neighbors, have a potluck, spend time talking about the Sunday sermon or do a book study (it's up to you and your group), maybe sing a couple of songs, and close with reading and praying Compline together (free Daily Office booklets are provided to you). Talk to Fr. Joshua to find out more! ♦

Tracy Home Fellowship

Mike Finney holds a monthly Bible study at his home in Tracy. The next get-together is **Sunday, December 15 at 5:00 p.m.** Join anytime! You can contact him at mikeandfresca@yahoo.com for more info and his address. ♦

Scripture of the Month



Date	Old Testament	New Testament
Dec 1	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122	Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 24:29-44
Dec 8	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-15(16-19)	Romans 15:1-13 Matthew 3:1-12
Dec 15	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146	James 5:7-12 Matthew 11:2-19
Dec 22	Isaiah 7:10-17 Psalm 24	Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 29	Isaiah 61:10-62:5 Psalm 147:13-21	Galatians 3:23-4:7 John 1:1-18

From 2019 Book of Common Prayer: Sunday, Holy Day, and Commemoration Lectionary, Year A

Selfless Service



Homeless Women's Ministry Every First Saturday of Each Month After the 10:00 a.m. Service

The Homeless Women's Outreach Ministry distributes toiletries and other necessities to women in need. Donations of travel-sized toiletries are especially needed. We distribute 24 bags of personal hygiene items every month! Please see Cat Vaughn for more information. ♦

Feeding the Homeless with Deacon Jeff - First Saturday, near DMV Office at 11:00 a.m.

See Deacon Jeff for more info. Come be Christ's hands and feet to the needy of our community! ♦



Hospitality Needs

Cookie Donations: Immediately following our musical Advent service on December 22 (see page 3) we will host a cookie reception in the fellowship hall. We would appreciate it if you brought a plate of cookies to share! We will provide hot water for tea and coffee. The service starts at 4:00 p.m.; reception follows at around 5:15 p.m. For more information, please see Cat Vaughn. ♦

Potluck Sunday December 29: Every fifth Sunday we have a fantastic potluck after the morning Mass, made possible by your generosity and culinary (or shopping) talents. Please bring your favorite dish to share, table ready with serving utensils. These sumptuous feasts are legendary, so be sure to invite a friend! Questions? See Cat Vaughn. Thank you so much! ♦

Shut-in Outreach

Saint Francis Church extends the body of Christ to our homebound by sending cards each month. They are available for you to sign on the table under the Welcome sign. Please take a moment



and sign them each week. Our shut-ins are so grateful and feel part of our parish with this simple gesture. ♦

We're Praying For...

Our Homebound: Isabel, Erlinda, Luciana, Sandra, Colleen, Gloria, Beatriz, Jane, David, Marvin, Kathy, Jane, Claude, and Barbara.

We Mourn with You:



Cliff Kenst - *Melva*
Gloria Eich - *Bill*
Jim Hitchcock - *William*
Lee Atwater - *Patsy*
Michael Alcon - *Lynn*

Get Involved

Shepherd's Love

By Agnes Olmsted



I was blessed to sit with April Dobbs at the 60th Annual Convention of the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin on November 8, 2019. We gave information about Shepherd's Love and sold handcrafted items from Kabale, Uganda. During the "Ministry Minutes" with the assembly, April touched on two things I would like to share with you.

First, she said people often ask her why she went all the way to Africa to minister to the orphans when there are orphans here in America. She answered that Africa is where God called her and her husband, Rick, to do this ministry.

Second, she mentioned that we were taking donations for the baskets, jewelry, and other crafts and would send the money to the orphanage for the children for Christmas presents.

We collected \$782 for the Twinomujuni Orphanage at the Shepherd's Love table, thanks be to God. ♦

Ministry Contacts

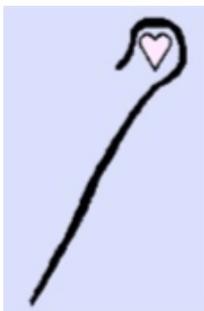
- Altar Flowers.....Church Office
- Altar Guild.....Fr. Joshua
- Acolytes.....Deacon Jeff
- Collection Counter.....Church Office
- Daughters of the Holy Cross Lay prayer
..... Agnes Olmsted
- Feeding the Homeless..... Deacon Jeff
- Homebound Ministry..... Church Office
- Homeless Women Ministry.....Cat Vaughn
- Hospitality (Coffee Hour).....Cat Vaughn
- Lectors.....Terry Beth
- Office Help (fold bulletins).....Kim Combs
- Prayer Team.....Mike Griffin
- Senior Ministry.....Church Office
- Taizé Prayer.....Gigi Kemalyan
- Ushers..... Church Office



Are you interested in getting plugged into a ministry at Saint Francis?

Talk to one of the ministry leaders listed above on Sunday, or contact the church office at:

209-565-0648
Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Shepherd's Love

is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of orphans and widows in Kabala, Uganda, in the Kigezi Diocese. If you would like to learn more, see Stephen and Agnes Olmsted.

DECEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Advent I (Year A) 9am Catechesis 10am Mass	<i>The Church Office will be closed December 2-5 while Fr. Joshua attends the Diocesan Clergy Retreat and Kim is out of town. (Office is open December 6 from 9am-1pm.)</i>					7 10am Mass @ Victory Park (weather permitting)
8 Advent II 9am Choir Reh. (no Catechesis) 10am Mass					13 11am DHC	14
15 Advent III 9am Catechesis 10am Mass Newsletter Deadline				19 7pm "Come Emmanuel" Dress Rehearsal	20	21 10am Altar Guild Cleaning
22 Advent IV 9am Choir Reh. 10am Mass 12pm Vestry 4pm "Come, Emmanuel"		24 Christmas Eve 9am Altar Guild Decorating 6:30pm Caroling 7pm Mass	25 Christmas Day 10am Mass Church Office Closed			
29 Christmas I 9am Catechesis 10am Mass						



December Birthdays

Jose Rosal	1
Augustine Nwaogu	5
Rachel Allanigue	7
Helen Arcala	10
Imanuela Drake	10
Carol Sherwood	15
Leroy Goulart	24
Mary Sigwart	28
Agnes Olmsted	29



Wedding Anniversaries

Mr & Mrs Phillip Giambastiani	22
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Upcoming Events

- Dec 7 First Saturday Mass 10:00 a.m. at Victory Park (weather permitting)
Feeding the Homeless 11:00 a.m.
- Dec 13 Daughters of the Holy Cross 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- Dec 15 Newsletter Deadline
- Dec 22 Vestry Meeting 12:00 p.m.
- Dec 22 Come, Emmanuel 4:00 p.m.** 🎵
- Dec 24 Christmas Caroling 6:30 p.m. Mass at 7:00 p.m.**
- Dec 25 Mass at 10:00 a.m.**
- Dec 29 Potluck Sunday

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Please let the church office know and we'll get you "in" next time! Call: 209-565-0648 or e-mail: sfaachurch@gmail.com



Online Resources

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN

Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:

<https://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>

Diocesan Newsletter: [https://](https://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/newsletter.html)

www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/newsletter.html

Daily Opportunities to read/hear the Word:

<http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>

<https://crossroadsabbey.podbean.com/#>

<https://anglicanpastor.com/heres-the-acnas-final-daily-office-lectionary-in-a-single-spreadsheet/>

<https://first5.org/>

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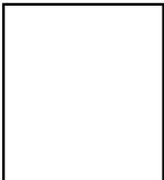
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VESTRY

2019 - Mike Combs, Mike Finney
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2021 - Rose Beth, Denis Ceballos



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