

Agape

The Newsletter of
Calvary Episcopal Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 12, 2021

Sermon Preached by
The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, Rector
at Calvary Episcopal Church,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,
on The First Sunday of Advent, Year C
November 28, 2021

Luke 21:25-36

“Be on guard that your hearts are not weighed down with the worries of this life.”

Every once in a while as a priest you witness something that stays with you forever. About fifteen years ago, I went to visit a family new to the church. It was a mother, father, and a little boy. The mother was pregnant and the little boy was trying to comprehend the miracle of life. He was coming to terms, in his own way, *how* a baby could be *in* his mother’s belly. How did he get in *there*?

To help him along in the process of discovery, his mother offered to let him press his hand against her stomach so he could meet his soon-to-be baby brother. He reached out his hand and touched it ever so gently but felt nothing. “Press harder if you want to feel him move,” his mother said. So he did and felt a kick that made him jump. He then asked his mother to lean down. Speaking directly into her mouth he said, “Sorry if I hurt you baby brother!”

How exciting and wonderful this must have been. Later on, he began to reflect what the birth of the child might mean... and didn't like it very much. He realized that soon he would *not* be the center of attention. He knew with the birth of the child – *things would be different*. His whole world was about to change... and he could only imagine how. Pondering these things in his heart he proclaimed boldly, “I think it’s about time we start looking for a *new* mommy and daddy for *that* baby.”

In the season of Advent, we are reminded that a new child is coming that will change our world forever. We like to think that we are sophisticated about these things. But it is likely that we understand the birth of this Christ child as well as the little boy understood the coming birth of his brother. We know things are supposed to be different – and can only imagine how.

Advent is the church’s new year. This four-week season is one of expectation and preparation. It helps us come



The Adoration of the Shepherds.
Giorgione, National Gallery of Art, Washington

to terms with the Christ who is coming. Normally, we think of it as a season of preparation for the nativity of Christ – the feast of the Incarnation at Christmas. It is that. We change to the color purple. The hymns and readings point us towards the future. We bring out the Advent wreath to count down the weeks until Christmas. They are visual and aural cues to make us pay attention and consider what all this means.

If Advent is about the first coming of Christ – Why do *none* of the readings talk about it? Where are the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist? The readings focus on judgment and the end of the world. Be alert. There will be signs. “Be on guard that your hearts are not weighed down with the worries of this life.” Where is the expectant hope in that? Where is the child to come? Advent *is* about the first coming but it is also about preparation for the second coming of Christ. It is a season of hopeful, expectant, and active waiting for the Advent of Jesus.

The Bible uses otherworldly or apocalyptic imagery to move us beyond our everyday experience. When we think about the first and second coming of Christ, we have little concept of the fullness of the life that the arrival opens to us. We reach out to touch the divine –

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Advent, from page 1

we feel a slight kick or a tug – rather than a direct, full experience. We can only *imagine* what the future might bring. These prophecies of the coming of Christ present us with a paradox – the same king of Creation who comes in glory is first known to us as a helpless child. The prophecies are not a sign of death – but an affirmation of life. Beyond time, beyond the worries of this world, beyond even death – there is Christ. Each day is filled with his incarnation – literally, in the flesh.

In Advent, we are not preparing to celebrate Jesus' birthday. We prepare for the first **and** second coming of Christ... the Incarnation and the coming in Glory. We do not sing happy birthday Jesus but "O come, O come." Emmanuel, a name for Jesus, means "God is with us." In the Incarnation, Christ came to be **one** of us – with us and for us.

Many churches emphasize the work of Jesus on the cross and the resurrection. Those are vitally important for our salvation and self-understanding but do not tell the whole story. In the Episcopal Church, we have a long history of lifting up the Incarnation as a complementary foundation to our faith. The fact that God becomes one of us has implications.

1. The whole world matters to God. Christ is working to redeem the whole Creation. This is not a world to use up because God will burn it all away. All of the creation, fallen or imperfect though it may be, was created good and has value as do all its people. Christ came into the world not just to save souls but to put the whole Creation right again.

2. Becoming a human being also means that Christ knows what it means to have to worry, to suffer loss and pain, to be sick, and to know joy and hope. We can identify with him as he does with us. In all the worries of this life, Christ is still present.

Christ changes the world by changing hearts. Jesus is born into the world but also born in us. If you want to prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent – start with yourself. That is always the best place to begin. There is an old story about this. It wasn't Garrison Keillor but it sounds like something he would say. A man complained every day to his buddies at work about his lunch. It was always the same thing and he was sick of it. Baloney sandwiches *every* day. Nothing ever changed. After a while his buddies got tired of his complaining. They suggested that his wife make a different lunch. "She can't help me any," he said. "Why not," they asked. "Because I pack my own lunch." We all pack our own lunch in a sense.

We can continue to go through life and the pandemic as if the Incarnation of Christ makes no difference. We can expect more of the same and get exactly that. There will always be the worries of this life to weigh us down and more things to complain about. Advent is a gift that enables us to envision a future pregnant with hope. A new feast is

prepared for us. Advent is a time of dreaming and expectant waiting – a time to imagine the way the world or your life can be when Jesus is born. Lift up your hearts. Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. ■

More information on the front page illustration may be found in the online version of this issue of Agape.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE REV. DR. HAROLD T. LEWIS,
RECTOR EMERITUS OF
CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS ORDINATION
DECEMBER 21, 2021**



Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, *with Musical Prelude at 3:30 p.m.*
This service will be Livestreamed
11 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, *with Musical Prelude at 10:30 p.m.*

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
This service will be Livestreamed

**Sunday, December 26 –
First Sunday after Christmas Day**

11 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
This service will be Livestreamed
(Please note that there will be no
8 a.m. or 9 a.m. services this day) ■

What Does a New Normal Look Like for Calvary?

At Calvary Church, we are always thinking about how we are called to love and serve God and our neighbors. The community, the building, and our heritage demand that we consider our mission beyond the present while remaining firmly rooted in it, looking to the future while honoring our past.

As part of that, we are mindful of the many ministries that suddenly went on hold during the pandemic. Worship in person was the most obvious. We missed over a year of wonderful parish events like the Calvary Bazaar, Chilifest, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and numerous regular aspects of parish life like coffee hour and formation and outreach opportunities such as CLASP.

Some events or groups have returned such as EFM or AA or the young adults group. Any group is welcome to return. We can help. Many ministries are still on hiatus. We are trying to imagine what a “new normal” for us might look like and how we take proactive steps to arrive at that. Trying to discern how and when to move to our new state is complicated.

Early in the pandemic, in one day, I had two people tell me opposite things and demand attention. “You are irresponsible if you continue worship in person. Don’t you care about people’s physical health?” Later that day I was told, “You are irresponsible if you do not continue worship in person. Don’t you care about people’s spiritual health?” Exactly.

We do care about both the physical and spiritual health of everyone who is a part of Calvary’s broad reach. That is why we are asking these questions and seek your input to help determine that.

When and how and under what conditions should we resume aspects of parish life in person that went on hold?

Here is a small sampling of some aspects of parish life we are considering:

- Coffee hour after the 11 a.m. service
- Adult forum and/or the Rector’s Bible study or other adult classes
- Chilifest, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Super Senior lunches
- Weekday services
- Listening sessions in the homes of parishioners
- ESL classes
- Lenten quiet day and reading groups
- Movie night with supper
- Easter Egg hunt

Specifically for worship:

- When do we resume a collection and presentation of the offertory gifts?

—continued in the next column

- When do we resume receiving wine during Communion?
- When do we resume Communion at the High Altar at 11 a.m.?
- When does a cantor(s) return at the 9 a.m. service
- When do we have more than one reader for services?

Worshippers will always be welcome to wear a mask but under what conditions do we move from requiring one to encouraging one to leaving it completely optional?

We expect to stream and record our major services in the church in perpetuity but also recognize there is an inherent value in a community gathered together in person. Streaming services will be a part of our new normal. How do we determine which classes or groups or gatherings are online only, in person only, or hybrid? We have left that determination to each group and will likely continue that practice as best as we are able.

Feel free to email me or speak to me in person with your opinion on all these and related matters.

—Jonathon (jjensen@calvarypgh.org) ■

Ribbon Cutting at the Armory

The new Hunt Armory skating rink was officially opened on Monday, November 22, 2021 with a ribbon cutting and press conference.

The rink was built by the Pittsburgh Penguins to be a community resource for public skating and local hockey and be the centerpiece of their outreach efforts to local children of color. Calvary Church was thanked several times during the event. The Rector and Father Joe Mele of Sacred Heart were asked to speak and were credited with being instrumental in bringing the idea of the rink into fruition. ■



Photo: Emily Matthews, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

From left to right in the photo are: Senator Jay Costa, Dan Gilman (Mayor’s Chief of Staff), City Council Member Erika Strassburger, Mayor Bill Peduto, Richard Payne of Pittsburgh ICE (Inclusion Creates Equality), Kevin Acklin (COO of Penguins), Greg Flisram (Executive Director of Urban Redevelopment Authority), the Rector of Calvary, Col. Elliott Levenson (Last Commander at the Armory and member of Tree of Life)

Faith Night at the Hunt Armory

On Tuesday, November 23, 2021 we had a night of ice skating at the new Hunt Armory rink. We had to suspend registration at 300 people as that is the current limit for the Armory. Members from Calvary, Beginnings Pre-School, Sacred Heart, the Ethiopian Orthodox church, the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh, and Tree of Life participated. How often does one see Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox, Muslims, and Jews gathered to have fun together and celebrate the diversity of our community? ■



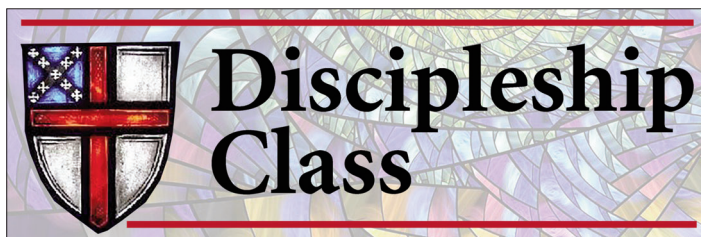
Amen to Action

The day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 26, 2021, 200 people gathered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church to be a part of Amen to Action. The idea was conceived in 2017 by Catholic Bishop David Zubik and Reid Carpenter (Founder of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation) and is led by a diverse group of clergy and laity from the city. The Rector of Calvary was asked to give a homily to start the day of service.

Amen to Action is a call for Christian unity and to put our prayer into action by serving our neighbors. The centerpiece of this is to prepare 1,000,000 (yes, 1 million) meals to neighbors in our city. 100,000 meals are prepared at ten different churches in the city. We completed the one millionth meal at Sacred Heart that day. The meals are given to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank that has expertise in logistics to make sure the food reach our neighbors most in need in our community. Next year, we hope to be able to send more volunteers from Calvary. ■



Photo: WTAE-TV



This winter, Calvary will be offering a Discipleship Class. The class is an opportunity to take a deeper dive into who we are as Episcopalians and even more fundamentally who we are as Christians. The class is also an opportunity for those who are newer to Calvary to connect with others and learn more about Calvary.

This class serves as preparation for those who are interested in confirmation or reception in the Episcopal Church and the reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

The class will take place on Sunday mornings during the formation hour, 10-10:55 a.m. in the Refectory. The first session will take place on Sunday, January 9, 2022, and the last session on Sunday, April 3.

Each session will include a short talk by a member of the clergy or a member of the parish, small group discussion, and an opportunity to ask questions. Over the course of the class, you can expect to hear about prayer, the sacraments, Calvary's buildings, Calvary's history and identity as a congregation, and get to know others who are new to Calvary.

If you are interested in attending or have any questions about the class or about Confirmation, Reception, or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal vows contact the Rev. Neil Raman (nraman@calvarypgh.org). ■

CALVARY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

If you are in your 20s or 30s and new to Pittsburgh, Calvary, or CYAM, welcome! For more information, or to be added to our email list, please contact The Rev. Neil Raman at nraman@calvarypgh.org / 412.661.0120 ext. 112.

CYAM January Schedule

Sunday, January 9, 12:45 p.m.

CYAM Brunch at Patron Mexican Grill
135 S Highland Ave., 15206

Thursday, January 20, 5:45 p.m.

Holy Happy Hour at Lorelei
124 S. Highland Ave., 15206

Sunday, January 30, 12:45 p.m.

CYAM Brunch at Galley Bakery Square
145 Bakery Square Blvd., 15206 ■

One Week at Calvary

Rabbi Myers and Rector Give Joint Blessing at PA State Senate

On November 10, 2021, Rabbi Jeffrey Myers from the Tree of Life Synagogue and the Rector traveled together to Harrisburg to spend time with local senators and jointly give the opening blessing at the state Senate. This was the first time in the history of the Senate of Pennsylvania the blessing was given jointly. To learn more about the event, please see the Rector's sermon from November 14, posted to the Calvary website and YouTube.



Calvary Quartet Share in Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Welcome



On November 11, Dr. Alan Lewis and Calvary Quartet of Allison Laessig, Sarah Nadler, Stan Nevola, and Guy Russo joined the Rector at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for a neighborhood service to welcome their new President, Dr. Asa Lee. Choirs and clergy from Rodman Street Baptist Church and Eastminster Presbyterian Church and several PTS students and staff also participated.

Dr. Lee is ordained in the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the denomination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He began his Doctor of Ministry degree at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) at the same time as our new Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Ketlen Solak.

Rector Gives Presentation to College Students on Anti-Semitism

On November 12, the Rector gave a tour of Calvary and presentation to ten college students who were in Pittsburgh to learn about Anti-Semitism and how Calvary puts our faith in action. The students are all Christians, from various denominations and from around the country, who are part of an organization called Passages that helps young Christians learn about their Jewish roots and become advocates for understanding. They were recommended to visit Calvary as part of their tour of Pittsburgh from the local Jewish community.



Ordination of Ketlen Solak as IX Bishop of Pittsburgh

On November 13, Calvary hosted a glorious ordination to welcome The Right Reverend Ketlen Solak as our new Bishop. I could not have been more proud of the people of Calvary. Thank you to the many people who worked for months and on that day to make the event so well done.



Calvary members served at the Altar, as acolytes, greeters, ushers, vergers, and in the bookstore. They are listed below. I apologize if any names were omitted. Your service is greatly appreciated.

Florence Atwood, Russell Ayres, Michael Braxton, Guy Russo, The Rev. Neil Raman, The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre, The Rev. Leslie Reimer, Jim Cassaro, Jamie McMahon, G. Frederic Roth, Sarah Wilson, Sarah Atwood, Ben Maye, William A. Stevens, Alan Lewis, Jon Tyillian, Elizabeth Gassler, Kathy Farrington, Mary Ann Slater, Louise Wells, Matt Lancaster, Adam Hallowell, Catherine Davidson, Laura Marchl, Karen Kapsanis, Barbara Hicks, Stephen Shandor, Michael Colligan, Lea Carone, Lyn Orr, Wendy Lomicka, Judy Wooten, Sherry Bloom, Ken Smith, Kim Pieratt, Jim Gubash, James Knight, Adam Augustine, Ron Johnston, and Mary Ann Packer.

Several members deserve special recognition:

Florence Atwood, Kathy Farrington, and Mary Ann Slater are members of the Diocesan Transition Committee that worked for months for the ordination and all aspects of welcoming Ketlen and Scott Solak to Pittsburgh.

The Rev. Neil Raman was our point person on staff and Master of Ceremony for the ordination.

Thank you to William Stevens and the Altar Guild who prepared everything beautifully.

The sextons did phenomenal work for weeks repairing, cleaning, and preparing. Thanks to Jim Gubash, James Knight, Adam Augustine, Mary Ann Packer, and Ron Johnston. The building was spotless.

Ken Smith prepared multiple drafts of bulletins, printed, cut, and folded all 750 of them. He was also responsible for the excellent signage and taking care of a thousand small problems on the day.

Thank you to Dr. Alan Lewis, Jon Tyillian, and the Calvary Choir for providing superb music.

I particularly offer the thanks of Calvary to Florence Atwood and Neil Raman for their tireless work. You did Calvary proud. With their leadership, the success of the event was assured. This was Calvary's hospitality at its finest. ■



Happy Holidays!

During our Thanksgiving break, 16 of our Beginnings families attended “Faith Night of Skating” at the Hunt Armory. For most of our little ones and some of their parents, this was their very first ice skating experience. What an exciting opportunity for us to build a sense of community with our neighbors! Thanks, Calvary, for the invitation and for making this event so inclusive and special!



After we returned from our Thanksgiving break, our teams began their “Love, Lights, and Celebrations” Unit. As you know, this is the time of year when Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are all celebrated, and these holidays are a perfect time for our children to explore and investigate lights. Our classrooms and hallways are filled with twinkling lights, Christmas trees, Menorahs, and Kinaras. We are taking advantage of the holiday season to discover how light is used in our school, homes, and community for work and play, how light comes from natural and artificial sources, and even what sorts of things block light and what allows it to shine through.

Because of the high number of COVID cases in Allegheny County and with the new and unknown Omicron variant, we will not gather for a school-wide holiday program this December. Instead, our teams will celebrate the holidays in their classrooms.

We will be closed for Winter Break from December 17 – January 2 and will begin our “Winter” Unit when we return on January 3.

–Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■

CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday, December 12

Our Nursery will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Sunday school will be held from 10 – 10:50 a.m. (Zoom and in-person). If you need the Zoom link, please email tlewis@calvarypgh.org.

Saturday, December 18 – Christmas Pageant Practice

10 a.m. Arrival / 12:30 p.m. Pizza Lunch / 1 p.m. Christmas Movie

–continued in the next column

Sunday, December 19 – Christmas Pageant

- All pageant participants will meet in the Refectory at 10:30 a.m. already dressed in costume. We will have extra angel, shepherd, cow, and sheep costumes available for last minute sign-ups. We welcome all children who want to participate.
- Our nursery will be closed and Sunday school classes will not meet because of the pageant.
- For those not participating or attending the service in person, the pageant will be live-streamed during the 11 o’clock service.

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

The Nursery will be open from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

The Nursery will be closed.

Sunday, December 26 – First Sunday after Christmas Day

The Nursery will be closed and Sunday school classes will not meet.

–Tammy Lewis, *Director of Children’s Christian Formation*, tlewis@calvarypgh.org, 412.661.0120 ext. 116 ■



Please join us for this year’s in-person Christmas Pageant to be held on Sunday, December 19 during the 11 o’clock service.

Participants will include children and youth from Calvary, Tree of Life, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and Beginnings. Our live nativity animals will bring joy to everyone!

Christmas Pageant practice will be held in person in the Nave on Saturday, December 18 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided in the Refectory for all volunteers and participants after practice. Costumes will be ready for pick up in the Parish Hall before and after practice. For all those who want to stay, we will show a children’s Christmas movie on the big screen in the Parish Hall starting at 1 p.m. ■

An expanded version of this issue of *Agape*, with additional content may be viewed on the Calvary website at

www.calvarypgh.org



News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



A Letter from the Bishop about our Canon Treasurer

December 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

Some of you already know that many, many months ago our diocesan treasurer, Canon Kathi Workman, decided that the time was coming for her to retire. She had informed Bishop McConnell of her intentions even before the search for his successor began. Eventually, she chose the end of 2021, so that she and her husband, Jim, could retire together.



So, with that time now upon us, Kathi will soon step down from her full-time position. Thankfully, she will remain with us a short while longer while a new treasurer is hired and brought onboard. I will be sad to see her go. Even in our short time together, I have come to appreciate her as a warm and caring person. She is a gifted financial administrator who approaches her work and makes decisions by putting pastoral considerations in the forefront. Those of you who have known Kathi for a much longer time already know the depth of her dedicated service.

I have asked a small group of diocesan lay leaders to help identify Kathi's replacement. The group is composed of David Bischoff, a member of the Board of Trustees and who will chair the team, along with Jerry Stephenson, outgoing Board of Trustees President, and Kathy Baird, who is both a member of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council President. The Rev. Canon Kim Karashin will assist them as my staff liaison.

The committee will accept applications through the end of December with the hope of having a new treasurer in place early next year. Again, I am grateful that Kathi has agreed to extend her service to the diocese to ensure a smooth transition.

Canon Kathi has gone above and beyond the call of duty by substantially delaying her retirement. Please join me in

extending to her our heartfelt gratitude and good wishes as she prepares to enter this exciting new phase of life.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A. Solak, D.Min.
IX Bishop of Pittsburgh ■

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

December 12: Church of the Advent, Brookline, the Reverend Elizabeth Locher and the Reverend Dr. Cynthia Byers Walter

December 19: Church of the Nativity, Crafton, and the Reverend Shawn Malarkey.

December 26: Diocesan staff including Rich Creehan, the Reverend Canon Kim Karashin, Andy Muhl, Marlene Rihn, Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, and Canon Kathi Workman. ■

Bishop's Visitation Schedule

December 12: Advent, Brookline

December 19: Nativity, Crafton

December 24: Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh (Christmas Eve) ■

Vestry Note: Changing Parish By-laws

If you are considering updating your parish's by-laws, please be aware that the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh establish the following two requirements:

A parish vote. Canon XV, Section 5, states, "No alterations in the Articles of Association, Charter, or By-laws, of any Parish shall be made unless approved by a majority of votes of the members of the Parish qualified to vote for members of the Vestry and who are present at a meeting called on due notice." Typically, such votes occur at an annual parish meeting, but a special meeting may also be called for the purpose of approving by-law changes.

Standing Committee approval. Canon XV, Section 2, states, "Neither the Articles of Association nor the Charter and By-laws of any Parish shall be changed without the consent of the Convention or of the Standing Committee."

Additionally, it is customary for our diocesan chancellor to review proposed by-law changes in advance of the request for Standing Committee approval.

If you have questions about the process for updating parish by-laws, email the Rev. Canon Kimberly Karashin at kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org. ■

Diocese Seeks Treasurer and Director of Administration

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is seeking an individual with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance to serve as Treasurer and Director of Administration. This position reports to the Bishop and works closely with the Diocese's parishes and governing bodies. The person serving in this role will be responsible for the administration of all accounting activities; preparing various monthly/annual financial statements, budgets, and reports; coordinating the annual diocesan audit; overseeing the administration of benefits; managing two employees; and other compliance, consulting, and administrative functions.

Candidates must have experience in accounting and advanced knowledge of accounting principles and reporting practices. A CPA is preferred, as well as experience with not-for-profit accounting. The ideal candidate will be familiar with the Episcopal Church and its structures and be able to work well with diocesan and parish leadership and other members of diocesan staff. Additionally, this individual must be proficient with QuickBooks and have excellent verbal and written communication skills.

This is a full-time position of 40+ hours a week. The salary range is \$65,000-\$75,000 and is commensurate with education and background. For more information, view the full job description on the Diocesan website: www.episcopalpgh.org.

Interested applicants should submit cover letter and resume to TreasurerSearch@episcopalpgh.org. Application deadline is December 31, 2021. ■

Benefits Update for Parishes: Disability Insurance Coverage for Lay Employees

Did you know that Lay employees who work 20 or more hours per week qualify for disability insurance through Church Pension Group (CPG)?

Parishes may enroll in either Employer-Paid or Employee-Paid coverage for short and/or long-term disability insurance coverage for their lay employees only. Parishes are encouraged to investigate the options for providing disability coverage to lay employees to provide parity with clergy who are covered for both short and long-term disability as part of the benefits provided for clergy by CPG.

Please review helpful links for information about disability coverage provided on the CPG website: www.cpg.org. Please contact Administrative Specialist Jo Ann McLaughlin-Klemencic at jamklemencic@episcopalpgh.org with questions or requests. ■



Massachusetts congregation to house Afghan families in temporary quarters inside church

Presiding Bishop joins interfaith support letter for Global Fund

Trinity Church Wall Street Announces More Than \$9 Million in Grants for Faith Communities in the U.S., Africa, and Central America (Trinity Church Wall Street)

General Theological Seminary to Begin Hybrid Programs Beginning Fall 2022 (General Theological Seminary)

Holy Land Advent calendar starts each day of Advent with a splash of joy (American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem)

Gathering of Leaders Receives \$200,000 Leadership Grant (Gathering of Leaders)

Read the stories at
episcopalnewsservice.org



www.facebook.com/EpiscopalPittsburgh



Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Visit the diocesan website at
www.episcopalpgh.org

Submissions for publication on the diocesan web site, calendar, and the *Grace Happens* weekly e-newsletter should be sent electronically to
info@episcopalpgh.org.

Please be sure to include your complete contact information with any submission. ■

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh mailing address:

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412.721.0853 | info@episcopalpgh.org

Andy Muhl, Executive Assistant

412.721.0853 ext. 251 | amuhl@episcopalpgh.org ■

The Bookstore at Calvary

Get your holiday cards at the Bookstore with Christmas cards displaying the beauty of Calvary Episcopal Church. There are two sets, Volume 1 and Volume 2, with each package consisting of seven different cards with matching envelopes for \$10. Each card is imprinted with a Christmas verse and greeting. A project of The Architectural History Committee, the pictures on the cards were taken by Phillip Maye and Ken Smith.

The Bookstore has many items to celebrate Advent including a variety of nativities from around the world, Advent wreaths and candle sets, calendars and daily planners for 2022, decorations for the wall and shelf, music CDs, ornaments, and pins. There are an assortment of Advent calendars for children of all ages including pictures and Bible text, pictures and the Nativity Story, stickers, and many others. In addition, there is a wide selection of books to celebrate the Christmas season for readers of all ages including:

Light Upon Light: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany compiled by Sarah Arthur contains daily and weekly inspirational reading to help the reader prayerfully experience God through the liturgical seasons of winter.

Celebrated author and Benedictine monk Anselm Grün offers a daily reader of very simple and often direct Advent reflections in ***Your Light Gives Us Hope: 24 Daily Practices for Advent***.

Mary Had a Baby: An Advent Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals by Cheryl Kirk-Duggan and Marilyn E. Thornton has four sessions, one for each week of Advent, that includes Scripture, song lyrics, devotional and contextual information, and discussion questions to stimulate deepening faith and a sense of community. Ideal for small groups, Sunday school, and choir workshops.

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent by author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

Sybil MacBeth writes that Advent and Epiphany are the often-neglected parentheses around Christmas. And they deserve more attention and better publicity. ***This Season of the Nativity*** sets the stage for the liturgical year, our yearlong journey through Scripture and salvation history.

Episcopal priest Kate Moorehead invites us to enter the story of salvation with our hearts and minds wide open,



experiencing the miracle of Jesus through the eyes of witnesses in ***I Witness: Living Inside the Stories of Advent & Christmas***.

Grown-up literary tastes can find the spirit of the season and originality in format with Robert Sabuda's stylized paper engineering as the author recalls ***The Christmas Story***. This celebration of the Nativity story is a pop-up book constructed almost entirely from plain white paper with gold accents.

Christmas card trauma. Over-the-top decorations. Post-Christmas blues. With laugh-out-loud humor anchored by spiritual truths, author Tim Schenck helps one maintain their spiritual sanity through the often frenetic chaos of Advent and Christmas in ***Dog in the Manger: Finding God in Christmas Chaos***.

For generations, readers have found in the writings of Evelyn Underhill the guidance to help them deepen their own interior lives in the Christian mystical tradition. In ***Advent with Evelyn Underhill***, Anglican author and editor Christopher Webber has carefully selected inspirational passages from Underhill's most significant works, providing readings for every day of Advent and Christmas.

For young readers, Joseph Slate's ***Who is Coming to Our House?*** is a modern Christmas classic about how the animals prepare a cozy welcome for the baby Jesus, perfect for under the tree or in stockings.

Additional colorfully illustrated children's Christmas titles include ***This First Christmas Night, Jesus is Born, The Three Kings: Journey of the Magi, Mary Has a Baby, Manger, The Nativity, and On That Christmas Night***. In addition, there is an assortment of reasonably priced gentle used books including ***The Story of Christmas*** and ***Santa's Birthday Gift***.



The Bookstore is open on Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the week, contact the Bookstore at 412.661.0120 ext. 133 (please leave a message), or by email at bookstore@calvarypgh.org and we will contact you. In addition, we can arrange for contactless pick-up of your items. Cash, check, Discover®, MasterCard®, and Visa® along with touch-free payments are accepted. ■

Advent Party

Thursday, December 16
from 5:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.
In the Refectory

Baked potato bar
and
Advent/Christmas Carol
Singing

Contact The Rev. Neil Raman
for more information

On-Going at Calvary

Altar Flowers

Help us keep the church in full bloom by donating flowers in memory of, or in honor of, someone special. If you would like to place a memorial listing, please contact Kim Pieratt in the church office at 412.661.0120, ext. 111. ■

EECM Food Pantry

East End Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry is still operating during the pandemic, with appropriate plans to protect those receiving food. Donations can be dropped off at Calvary during office hours: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday mornings. Below is a list of items particularly requested at this time. **Thank you to all who have continued to donate to the EECM food cart.** Your support is greatly appreciated.

- Bottled Water • Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned tomato sauce, vegetables, beans
- Spaghetti and macaroni pasta
- Canned soups • Mac & Cheese boxes
- Oatmeal and whole grain cereals
- White and brown rice
- Disposable utensils (fork, spoon, knife)
- Disposable plates • Disposable bowls
- Ziploc bags, any size • Napkins
- Paper Towels • Sugar • Salt ■

Christmas Memorials

If you would like to have your loved ones remembered in the Christmas Eve Order of Service, please fill out this form and return it, with your donation, by **Monday, December 20, 2021.**

Name (as you would like it to appear): *please print*

Donor's name: _____

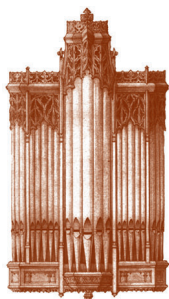
Donor's telephone: _____

Please return this form to the Church office

or mail to: Lynda Kennedy
Calvary Episcopal Church
315 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206



MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



With Advent Lessons & Carols just concluded, Advent has begun in earnest, and the drive forward toward Bethlehem is at full speed. I hope that we can each find time in the midst of the hubub to connect with the stillness and quiet of the first Christmas, the silence of that holy night broken only by barnyard noises and the miraculous sounds of a newborn babe, the helplessly Incarnate Word.

On December 19, we will offer a Christmas-oriented version of Lessons & Carols in the 5 p.m. Eventide service. Sung by the Calvary Choir, the service offers a variety of musical lenses through which to view the successive stories that impart the good news of the nativity. Later that week, each of our two Christmas Eve services is preceded by a half-hour of music, a mixture of choral and congregational carols, beginning at 3:30 and 10:30, respectively. My thanks, as ever, to Jon Tyillian and the Choir for their labor of love and service at this time of year.

As I always do this time of year, I'll remind everyone that the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge, is broadcast live on Christmas Eve, airing at 10 a.m. EST on WQED, 89.3 FM, or via the Minnesota Public Radio website (www.mpr.org). It is also typically rebroadcast on Christmas Day. Whenever you hear it, it is a wonderful way to connect with both the story of Christmas and some wonderful music that relates it. (You may have heard that last year's broadcast turned out to be of a recorded rehearsal, as a Covid-threat forced portions of the choir into seclusion by Christmas Eve. We'll hope for less drama this year!)

Christmastide will briefly interrupt our 5 p.m. Eventide services. There will be no service on the afternoons of December 26 and January 2, but Eventide will resume on January 9, with the Quarantet singing for a Rite I celebration of the Eucharist; the Calvary choir will sing Evensong on the 16th.

With wishes for a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year. ■

Plastic Recycling

Thank you to the many people who are recycling plastic film and bags to the box located in the Parish House lobby across from the reception desk. We will continue our practice of recycling here at Calvary. You are helping to keep thousands of pounds of waste out of landfills. (And, Yes, bubble wrap is recyclable!) ■

Please remember Calvary Church
in your will.

The Bookstore at Calvary alibris

Alibris is an online store that sells new books, used books, out-of-print books, rare books, and other media through an online network of independent booksellers since 1997. The Bookstore at Calvary has over 230 mostly out of print, donated books available online. The collection of offerings includes art, bibles, children's fiction, comics, and graphic novels, fiction, history, literary collections, literary criticism, nature, poetry, and travel to name just a few. Each title listing includes the edition, binding, publisher, date published, description, and condition. Checkout the unique offerings that are reasonably priced at hymnal82.alibrisstore.com. ■



*Lessons
&
Carols*
FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 19, at 5 p.m.

The Service will be Livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook

Have you returned your
2022 Pledge Card?

CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Avenue ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206
email: calvary@calvarypgh.org ■ www.calvarypgh.org
telephone: 412.661.0120

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*
The Reverend Leslie G. Reimer, *Senior Associate Rector*
The Reverend Neil K. Raman, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*
The Reverend Carol Henley, *Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Dr. Moni McIntyre, *Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Geoffrey Royce, *Deacon*
The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis, *Rector Emeritus*
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*
Jon Tyillian, *Assistant Organist*
David Jeong, *Senior Warden*
G. Frederic Roth, *Junior Warden*
Robert Eley, *Treasurer*
Lynda Kennedy, *Director of Finance*
Tammy Lewis, *Director, Beginnings;*
Director of Children's Formation
Kim Pieratt, *Parish Administrator*
Louise Wells, *Special Assistant to the Rector*
Kenneth Smith, *Director of Communications*
Jim Gubash, *Head Sexton*
Adam Augustine, Ron Johnston,
James Knight, Mary Ann Packer, *Sextons*
Sherry Bloom, *Manager, The Bookstore at Calvary*
Robert Dilts, Mary Ann Slater, *Archivists*

Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, January 7, 2022**. Please e-mail your text to calvary@calvarypgh.org or deliver it directly to the church office.

Agape, the newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is published monthly (except July), and is mailed to active members and friends of the Parish. You may opt out of receiving a printed copy and read each issue online at www.calvarypgh.org. Contact the Parish office at 412.661.0120 for details. ■



**Please Wear a Mask
While You Are at Calvary Church**



Movin' on Down the Road

Pittsburgh Diocese Proceeds According to Precedent: High participation and elegant pageantry mark ordination of Ketlen Solak as next – now present – Bishop of this

Diocese. Despite organizational angst, pandemic worries, and technical challenges, day is ranked a resounding success, auguring a bright future.

Ave Atque Vale: We knew it would happen someday. Now it has. Beloved Leslie Reimer announces retirement, though disappearance unlikely. And as for Calvary Camp..... well.....

Liturgical Year "C": It began with Advent 1, bringing with it the color purple: altar hangings in purple; vestments in purple; wreaths ribboned in purple; wreaths with purple candles. But, above all, anticipation - color not relevant.

First the Choir in Procession: Then one bold acolyte, now multiple Lectors, soon Vergers. Liturgical participation lifts, moving in right direction.

Road Trip 1: A Rector and a Rabbi Walk into a Chamber: Six hours of driving and bonding take Calvary's Jensen and Tree of Life's Myers east to Harrisburg to offer joint blessings for the opening of State Senate business. Read about it elsewhere in this issue.

Road Trip 2: An Associate Rector and a Bishop Brave the Interstate: Four hours of driving and bonding take Calvary's Reimer and Diocese's Solak and company north and west to another State to visit Calvary Camp. Ideal opportunity for Bishop to view facility and experience the vagaries of weather north of I-80, and into the wilds of Ohio.

All Skate: Firm ice for Faith Night introduction of Penguins' seasonal rink at the Hunt Armory. Heavy Calvary participation.

That Which Has Grown Dim Will Again Shine: High bay lamps in Church, nearing end of life expectancy, being restored to full brilliance. Access through roof requires careful coordination with weather prognosticators. Completion promised in time for Christmas. Long life LEDs in the future?

Appealing Annual Appeal Videos: Viewable on Church website under "Give/Annual appeal". All laud and honor to those willing to present to the unflinching eye of the camera. Do help bolster the budget as we emerge into fuller fellowship.

O: As we wend our way through the Greek alphabet of variants, please continue to have faith in science, healthful safe practice, and common sense. Be a booster booster.

Safe journey.



The Adoration of the Shepherds

Giorgione, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

The mysterious Giorgione left very few works at his premature death, but this one is a masterpiece of contemplation. The elderly Joseph is deep in prayer, Mary holds a pose of silent worship before the Christ child, whose hazy face appears so inward-looking. The shepherds, in their ragged clothes, are speechless and spellbound, but full of love for the baby. They are the first to arrive, the first to understand what they are seeing, before the rest of the crowd arrives. The scene is very close and intimate, against the distant Venetian landscape. Not a sheep in sight. By their humility shall you know the shepherds.

Medium: oil on panel

Dimensions: overall – 35 3/4 x 43 1/2 in.

Credit Line: Samuel H. Kress Collection

Giorgione (artist) Venetian, 1477/1478 – 1510

This image is in the public domain.

<https://www.nga.gov>

The Women of Calvary

Calvary Episcopal Church
315 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh 15206

www.calvarypgh.org



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Online Ordering

OUR GROUP ID#

10-3596

SCAN ME



Share our Group ID# and go online to order at

SarrisCandiesFundraising.com

Items will be shipped directly to your family & friends.

For every purchase made online, the Women of Calvary earn profit for the Bazaar!

Women of Calvary Grant Recipients

Our holiday bazaar is over, and the proceeds are being tallied. But, last year's bazaar proceeds have been awarded to many deserving organizations. As is our tradition, we try to prioritize those organizations which help women and children in the East End, and Pittsburgh in general. Here is the listing of the grant recipients for 2021. A more complete listing, with short descriptions of the organizations can be found in the next issue of *Agape*. Thank you to everyone who contributed time and talent and treasure to the bazaar, to help these organizations.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – \$1,000

Casa San Jose – \$1,500

Homeless Children's Education Fund – \$2,000

Jubilee Association – \$2,000

Off The Floor Pittsburgh – \$2,500

Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (PPI) – 2,000

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship – \$1,500

Shepherd Wellness Community – \$1,500

Sojourner House – \$1,000

Western PA Diaper Bank – \$2,000

YMCA (Homewood) – \$2,000

Calvary Clergy Discretionary Fund – \$3,000



**Please Wear a Mask
While You Are at Calvary Church**

EVENTIDE

at Calvary Episcopal Church

Sunday Evenings at 5 p.m.
thru May, 2022



The Holy Eucharist and the office of Evensong are both classical expressions of our Anglican liturgical heritage. This service, cast in the traditional language of Rite I, will alternate between these liturgies, with Evensong sung by the Choir on the first and third Sundays of the month, and a Communion service, with vocal music provided by a small ensemble, on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays. Please join us.



First Sundays:
Choral Evensong



Second Sundays:
Eventide Eucharist



Third Sundays:
Choral Evensong



Fourth/Fifth Sundays:
Eventide Eucharist

Sunday, December 19 –
Lessons & Carols for Christmas

No Eventide Services on December 26 or January 2

Deadline (Friday):	Publication Date (Sunday):
January 7	January 16
February 4	February 13 [Lenten Issue]
March 4	March 13 [Easter Issue]
April 1	April 10
May 6	May 15
June 3	June 12 [Summer Issue]
August 12	August 21
September 9	September 18
October 7	October 16
November 4	November 13 [Advent Issue]
December 2	December 11

2022 CALENDAR

January	February	March	April
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
30 31			
May	June	July	August
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	/	1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	/	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	/	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	/	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	/	28 29 30 31
September	October	November	December
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1 2 3	1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31
	30 31		