

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

MESSAGE FROM ROBIN

It's been almost two years since the start of the pandemic and we are all weary and grumpy. We've come to the end of the liturgical year, held our Annual Parish Meeting and celebrated Christ the King Sunday. We've seen some familiar faces returning to worship and have welcomed some new members, however some of us are feeling as if church is just too hard. We may be tempted to give it up, but Advent is coming. The beginning of a new church year is always filled with hope.

This year we will be Practicing Patience during Advent and there is an Advent devotional book available for each family.

We are also offering Advent Prayers for the Evening each Wednesday in Advent. Perhaps this quiet service of scripture, prayer, candlelight, and music will strengthen you and bring you peace in the always busy month of December.

In the meantime, check out the included article, "Church Was Already Hard" by Alban Institute Congregational Consultant Sarai Rice. May it give you some hope that we are all in this together, that there is hope, and that God is with us.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Pledge packets were distributed to 114 Christ and Grace Parishioners over the past couple of weeks. If yours did not reach you or has been misplaced, please pick one up at the church office or call 804-733-7202 to be mailed another. Your pledge enables us to plan for 2022. Please return your pledge card as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

Pledges received: **26 Pledges totaling \$67,130.00**

ECW CASSEROLE SALE

In lieu of a bake sale, Christ and Grace ECW is selling casseroles this Advent/Christmas.

- Casseroles are \$12 each and will serve 4-6 people- perfect for freezing or eating right away. Take home a tried-and-true favorite entrée from past Lenten lunch menus!
- Deadline for ordering is Tuesday, November 30th
- Order pick up dates are Saturday, Dec. 4th or Sunday, Dec. 5th, 11am-1pm.
- Sign up on the form outside Lackey Hall or call the church office 733-7202.

PRACTING PATIENCE

This Advent we will practice patience as we wait for the coming of the Christ Child.

An Advent devotional book for each family will be available at church. Each Wednesday of Advent you are invited to come practice patience at Advent Prayers for the Evening at 5:30 pm. We will gather to reflect on scripture, for prayers with candles, and quiet music.

CHRISTMAS JOY

We know it's Advent, but Christmas is coming. Beginning this Sunday, Nov. 21, the Christmas Joy tree will be filled with gift tags for children at Walnut Hill Elementary School and for Seniors at Battlefield Park Healthcare Center. We hope you will take home tags and return gifts by December 12. Together we will bring Christmas Joy to many!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

A special arrangement will adorn the altar and red poinsettias will beautify the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and on Sunday, December 26 for our Lessons and Carols service. Please help the sanctuary come to life for Christmas! Dedication forms are available in the church office as well as enclosed with these announcements. Completed forms should be returned by Sunday, Dec. 19 for inclusion in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

2022 SIGNUPS ARE NOW OPEN!

New for 2022:

- We will be using an online form rather than our hall flower calendar to sign up for altar flower dedications. If you are unable to access the online form, contact Lee to sign up for your dedication - shakubuku42@gmail.com or the church office for assistance.
- We are no longer able to honor requests for specific flowers or colors.
- The cost is \$55. Please make your check to 'Christ and Grace' with 'altar flowers and date' on the memo line.

Please be aware that either greens or a special arrangement will be used during Lent and Advent. Dedications are still welcomed on these Sundays.

Thank you for your support for beautifying the altar to the glory of God.

PRAYER LIST

We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for Melba Felty, Carol Ferrell, Michael Fowler, Pegram Johnson, Heydon Lewis, Clyde Mosley, Mark Pagano, Shelley Richardson, Mark Sheffield, Ted Simpson, Robbi Spencer, and Mary Villeponteaux.

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.

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."

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."