



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

December 2018

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church | Morgantown, WV

THOUGHTS FOR ADVENT

Week 1 of Advent: Hope

Waiting for anything is difficult, because we are forced to admit that we are not in control—God is. During this season of Advent, allow yourself to be patient and to celebrate the God's promise of hope.

"Hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance." —Romans 8:25

Week 2 of Advent: Peace

We are reminded to make room in our hearts, in our lives and the lives of others to allow the Holy Spirit to bring us His peace and awareness of our savior.

"But you, Bethlehem, only a small village in Judah, yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from a distant past. And He will stand to lead His flock with the Lord's strength. Then, His people will live undisturbed, for He will be highly honored all around the world. And He will be the source of our peace." —Micah 5:2, 4-5

Week 3 of Advent: Joy

We have cause to celebrate. The coming of a savior means that we will be reconciled with our creator. Although we live in a world that suffers, we are not alone. We have a savior, a protector, who frees our hearts to happiness.

"Lord God, give us eyes to see your reality. When we are devastated, teach us how to persevere in following you. Help us focus on Your sovereignty and Your Love."

Week 4 of Advent: Love

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS



There's a sign-up sheet on the Narthex table for ordering Christmas Poinsettias. They are \$20 each. Please sign up and indicate who you'd like them dedicated to.

ANGEL TREE FAMILY

Our Salvation Army Angel Tree family this year includes Candice and Mark who are the parents of Aubrey (6), Eleanor (2) and Titus (3 mo.).

If you'd like to participate, visit the Angel Tree set up in the Parish Hall.

1. Select a gift tag (or tags) from the tree and take these with you.
2. Find the sheet that has your gift recipient's name and write your name, phone number, and the gifts you are purchasing.
3. Return the unwrapped gift to the church on or before Sunday, December 9 at the beginning of the 10:30 service. Attach the gift tag selected from the tree to your gift.
4. If purchasing clothes or shoes, please include a gift receipt in the event the gift needs to be exchanged for a different size.

Detailed instructions are also available beside the tree in the Parish Hall.

We have recently attached an additional 24 tags to the Angel Tree in the Parish Hall. They are a small family with great needs. They own next to nothing and are about to move into a new apartment. Some items, such as beds and bedding, are being provided by others. We have added tags for items they need for their kitchen and bathroom. Perhaps two families from our parish would like to get together and decorate a themed bathroom, so those two tags are on one hook with a description the parents' preferred colors and themes. Many of the children's needs are being addressed by others, but we've added a couple of tags for toys for the two girls. The parents—Candace and Mark—have almost no clothing, so we've added more tags for them. Also, separate from the tree, there's a sign-up sheet for gift cards to Walmart and Kroger towards a Christmas dinner. Sizes and other information are on the backs of tags.

We need to have all gifts, unwrapped and with the tags if possible, by **Sunday December 9**. Thank you to all who participate in this effort to help a young family in a difficult time of transition. If you have any questions, please contact Grace Ayscue (304) 276-8037 or Patty Harman (304) 685-1608.

OUTREACH, SS, AND YOUTH GROUP SAY, “THANK YOU”



Aurie Acciavatti portions out food for volunteers to take to each basket.

The Outreach committee would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the—once again—successful SRSB Thanksgiving basket program.

If you purchased food, there was enough food to fill a basket for 35 SRSB families (106 people) and a basket for the Salvation Army Angel Tree family, THANK YOU.

If you provided a gift card, each family received a gift card to provide them with meat (or protein) of their choice THANK YOU.

If you were one of the people who came on Friday evening to help sort and fill the bins and bag up the onions, celery and eggs, THANK YOU.

If you were one of the people that stayed Sunday afternoon to distribute the bins to

the SRSB clients, THANK YOU.

Without everyone's help, this outreach project could never have happened. St. Thomas à Becket has a wonderful and caring congregation.

Jesus said, “I will tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these . . . you did for me.”



Cheryl Prichard and Linda Durfee sort food while Grace Ayscue directs.

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ST. THOMAS À BECKET

December 2

First Sunday of Advent
Rite I - 8:00, Rite II - 10:30
Ingathering Sunday

December 16

Third Sunday of Advent
Rite I - 8:00, Rite II - 10:30
Becket Arts! 3:00 pm

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent
Rite I - 8:00, Rite II - 10:30
Angel Tree Gifts Due

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Rite I - 8:00, Rite II - 10:30
Hanging of the Greens

December 24

Christmas Eve Service - Rite I, 1:00 pm
Family Service - 5:00 pm
Candlelight Service - 10:00 pm with pre-service carols and music at 9:30 pm

The Power of Giving Thanks

A Message from the Vestry

The Vestry thanks you for being an active and faithful member of our church community. We have had both an exciting and challenging year, and we are hopeful next year will be even better with a full-time priest in charge. While the Vestry has nothing to announce yet, we will be interviewing a candidate soon. Meanwhile, we want to ensure that St. Thomas' house is in order for next year, and your pledge is an important building block to prepare for next year. Making a pledge to the church for next year allows for the continued work to preach the Gospel, make disciples, and support others in our community who need help. The Vestry earnestly appreciates your ongoing support, and we want to let you know we're here for you. If there's ever anything we can do for you and your family, don't hesitate to reach out. You are a valued member of our church family, and your financial support is making, and will make, a difference.

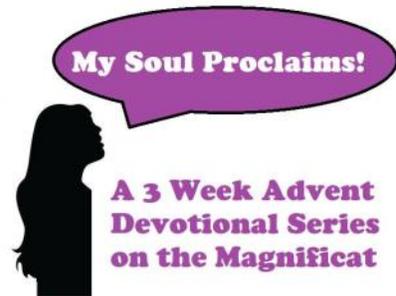
Please bring your completed pledge drive form to church on Ingathering Sunday (December 2nd), mail to the church, or drop off to the church office.



As temperatures are dropping again, our hearts hurt for those in need in these inclement times. St. Thomas Outreach will once again be collecting any winter suitable clothing (coats, hats, gloves, scarves . . .) in a tote in the narthex, that will be taken to Christian Help once a month (or as needed). Please contact Neha Lal (neha.lal@gmail.com) or Grace Ayscue (grace.ayscue@gmail.com) if needed.

COMING UP THIS ADVENT...

All are welcome to join in for three weeks of evening prayer (vespers) and study; Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Dec. 5, 12, & 19. As the Church waits for the remembrance of the incarnation and return of Christ, we'll be using this time together to reflect upon *The Magnificat*.



It is a song of praise, also known as "The Song of Mary," found in Luke's Gospel (1:46-55). Mary spoke (or sang) this during her visit with Elizabeth, when Mary was pregnant with Jesus and Elizabeth was pregnant with John the Baptist.

The term *Magnificat* is from the opening words of the passage in the Latin Vulgate, *Magnificat anima mea Dominum* ("My soul magnifies the Lord").

The Magnificat strongly resembles and may have been modeled after the Song of Hannah (1 Sm 2:1-10) and has been one of the most prominent and earliest Christian Hymns. Like the Song of Hannah, it emphasizes God's holiness and power, God's option for the poor and judgment on the rich, the fulfillment of God's promises, and the redemption of God's people.

In the Anglican and larger catholic tradition, *The Magnificat* is the traditional canticle of vespers. I hope you can join in!

In Christ, Father Tony

Fr Tony

Our Worship Schedule

The Rev. Tony Setley, Interim Rector
The Rev. Al Prichard, Deacon



Sunday

8:00 a.m. (Rite I, spoken)

10:30 a.m. (Rite II, with music)

Nursery care and Sunday School with children's worship are offered during the 10:30 a.m. service.

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