



This week at St. Andrew's

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Welcome to St. Andrew's Weekly E-mail Newsletter. In an effort to keep the congregation better informed we will be sending out this newsletter on Thursdays to cover events happening at the church through the following Wednesday. We hope you find it useful.



The Mission of St. Andrew's Parish is to worship God, grow in discipleship, and share Christ's love.
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2018



November 27, 2022

1 Advent

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. John Van Sicen
Organist: Sean Fleming
Choir Director: Linda Blanchard

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I

Altar Guild: Terry Marsh
Intercessor/Eucharistic Minister: Terry Marsh
Lector: Brett Donham
Usher: Jim Swan
Vestry Announcer: Terry Marsh

The worship booklet for the 8am Sunday service is available by [clicking here](#).

10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Altar Guild: Sarah Houghton
Eucharistic Minister/Intercessor: Nancy Gault
Lectors: Sara Sandberg & Fred Kraeuter
Livestream Operator: Bill Judd
Ushers: Sara Sandberg & Fred Kraeuter
Vestry Announcer: Sara Sandberg

The worship booklet for the 10am Sunday service is available by [clicking here](#). This service is also livestreamed to St. Andrew's Facebook page where it can be viewed live or recorded.

You can get to our Facebook page by clicking [here](#)
You can get to our YouTube channel by clicking [here](#)
You can get to our Website by clicking [here](#)

Readings for Sunday, November 27 can be found on the Lectionary Page website.

If you would like to access the website, please [click here](#)

Once you are at lectionarypage.net, you may choose **NEW Resource:** [RCL Daily Readings](#). If you scroll to the bottom you can sign up to receive daily readings via your email.

Stewardship Message

We have so much for which to be grateful as we celebrate Thanksgiving this week...family, friends, neighbors, the natural resources, and beauty around us. We are especially blessed to be part of St. Andrew's Church, whose vibrant and loving ministry enriches our lives and our community. As our annual pledge campaign approaches the final stretch, we encourage and appreciate pledges from those who are able but have not yet done so. We extend many thanks to those who have pledged. Happy Thanksgiving to all parishioners.

Vestry Minutes

If you would like to read the approved October Vestry Minutes, please click [here](#)



Christmas Wreaths and Flowers

If you would like to give thanks for or remember your loved ones with flowers at Christmas, there are envelopes available in the back section of each pew. Please drop the completed envelopes, with your donation (cash or check made out to St. Andrew's Church) in the plate. You may also drop them off in the office. Please contact the church office (563-3533) with any questions.



People to People Christmas Drive

People to People will be collecting items from Nov. 20 - Dec. 11. Please click [here](#) for the items that are being requested. If you can help, please bring your donations to the church and place them in the People to People box in the atrium by December 12. Items will be given to People to People families at Christmas time. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Day

I am in the middle of J. Philip Newell's book, *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul*. Newell is a priest in the Church of Scotland and an author. His focus is Celtic Spirituality, which he believes holds many Christian truths that have been forgotten as Empire has dominated Christianity since the fourth century, truths that need to be rediscovered. I am only a few chapters into the book, but there are a few paragraphs from his Introduction that I would like to share with you, because I think there are some truths that we North Americans need to ponder as we celebrate Thanksgiving this year.

Many years ago, I was giving a talk in Ottawa on some of these themes. I began the presentation by using a phrase from the prologue to St. John's Gospel, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (1:9). I spoke of the way the Celtic tradition invites us to look for this light in one another and in everything that has being. Attending the talk that evening was a young Mohawk elder who had been invited to be there specifically to make observations at the end of my talk about the resonances between Celtic and Native wisdom. The Mohawk elder stood with tears in his eyes as he spoke. He said, "As I have been listening to these themes, I have been wondering where I would be tonight, I have been wondering where my people would be tonight, and I have been wondering where we would be as a Western world tonight, if the mission that had come to us from Europe centuries ago had come expecting to find light in us."

Sometimes words cut us open with their power of truth. These words, spoken humbly by the Mohawk elder, pierced my heart with a truth that I have never forgotten. We cannot undo the tragic wrongs that have been done to Native American peoples during the westward expansion of settlement across what is now the United States and Canada, where indigenous human life was seen as having no value and viewed only as a hindrance in the quest for land and its resources. We cannot reverse the injustice, pain,

and suffering that resulted from such horrendous greed and arrogance. We can, however, be part of new beginnings. We can open ourselves to a radical humility of heart, which is our true strength, and look with expectation for the sacred deep within the “other”—the other individual, the other religion, the other race or nation or sexual orientation. And we can look with reverence to serve this sacredness in the other, to honor it, nurture it, and come into true relationship with it, allowing it to further reawaken in us the sacredness at the heart of our own being as well.^[1]

As I have become increasingly aware of the terrible atrocities that our ancestors committed against indigenous people in the Western Hemisphere in the name of Christ and continue to perpetuate against indigenous people, I’ve become increasingly uncomfortable with our traditional celebrations of Thanksgiving. But I don’t want to throw out the baby with the bathwater. I think it is a good thing to have a national day of giving thanks. A day in which we all take a moment to pause and give thanks for the many good gifts given to us by God.

But I think we must also take time to atone for the harms that were done to those who already inhabited this land. I think we need to acknowledge the many ways we continue to benefit from the horrors perpetrated on the indigenous peoples of the western hemisphere. And I think we can take on Newell’s challenge to learn from our past and allow this new understanding to transform us that we might be a part of new beginnings. As Newell says we cannot reverse the harms done to indigenous peoples in the past, but we don’t have to keep perpetrating these harms. And even more we can be a part of the healing of these harms as we work to see the sacredness in everyone and everything, even those who are “other” to us.

So Happy Thanksgiving to you! May it be a day of warmth, family, good food, rest, gratitude, and new understanding and transformation.
Suzannah

^[1] Newell, J. Philip . Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul (pp. 12-13). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

Photos from the Kid's Sunday afternoon gathering this past Sunday



Weekday Worship

Compline: Monday-Friday 9 PM
Zoom Meeting ID:

Wednesday Healing Service: Wednesdays at 10:00am

Meetings

Benedictine Group: 11:15 AM Wednesday
Zoom Meeting ID:

Knitting Group: 2-4pm Fridays
All welcome: knitters, non-knitters and everything in between
Zoom Meeting ID:

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." (Romans 8:26)

We pray for those who are ill or with special needs:

Rob & Irma Hargreaves, Alan Hargreaves, Phil Bartley, Amanda Smith, Stephen Gorrill, Val Gorrill, Bob Gorrill, Ellen B., Allie, Anne Rossideas, Bruce Rinker, Virginia White, Felicia McAllister, Tom Sullivan, Todd, Donald Johnson Olderson, Tom Belanger, Dick, Catherine Fleming, Alex Place, Mark Place, Donna Badgley, Tyler, Bruce & Julie, Cynthia Troxel, Jane Ferris, Maureen McNiff, Geoff & Rachel Titherington, Sam Young, Brad & Tina Reynolds, Victoria, Robin Schneider, Matthew Schneider, Lorrie Buchanan, Jane Gear, Janice & Paul Roman, Bob Gault, David Harris, Katrina Wozich, Peter Blanchard, John Banta, The Sikora Family, Eileen

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

PO Box 234, 11 Glidden St.
Newcastle, ME 04553
(207) 563-3533

E-mail: stasnew@tidewater.net
Web site: standrewsnewcastle.org

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Suzannah Rohman
Senior Warden: John Ward
Junior Warden: Christine Benken - Clerk: Terry Marsh
Treasurer: Mark Freese - Organist: Sean Fleming - Director of Choirs: Linda Blanchard
Parish Administrator: Ann Kash
Ministers: All Members of the Parish

Visit our Website

St Andrews Church | P.O. Box 234, 11 Glidden Street, Newcastle, ME 04553

[Unsubscribe stasnew@tidewater.net](mailto:stasnew@tidewater.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by stasnew@tidewater.net powered by



Try email marketing for free today!