

S T . T H O M A S'

Tidings

Sunday, November 1, 2015

All Saints' Day

We welcome all who enter these doors, especially those who enter for the first time or after a long absence. May this place be like home to you! All are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this altar. People are available in the Chapel during Holy Communion to pray with you about any need or thanksgiving.

Prayer List

We celebrate those members who have birthdays this week: Bill Freeman (November 1), Mabel Colby (November 4), Kevin Murphy (November 5), June Dolcater, Connie Rader (November 6), Brian Rafter (November 9), Sandy Lyle, Manette Pottle (November 10). Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: Marya Allen, Chris Pettee, Seana Roubinek, Ron, Andrew, Jean Harper, Nancy Mack, Jeremy Tucker, Bill Sharpe, and others who need our prayers.

Prayer Ministry

Do you need a special prayer for yourself or someone you know? Our prayer ministers meet in the Chapel during Communion.

Forward Day By Day

The *Forward Day By Day* booklets containing daily devotional prayers for November through January, are available in the Sun Room and in the Narthex.

What's Next?

The lead article in the *Chapter and Verse* newsletter explains the process that lies ahead for choosing a new rector. Canon Michael Ambler will be our celebrant and preacher for both services on Sunday November 22. He will lead a question and answer period after both services as well.

Today's Music

Today we commemorate all the saints with hymns rich with references to saints and angels as well as joining us in communion with them. We enter worship singing *Ye holy angels bright* with the sturdy music of John Darwall (1731-1789) and text by Richard Baxter (1615-1691). Isaac Watts (1674-1748) wrote the classic, mystical hymn, *Give us the wings of faith to rise*. Watts' text speaks to the saints as if they were in a corner of the room, ready to answer his questions. Derek Williams (b. 1945) wrote this richly harmonic music specifically for this text. At the offertory we sing John Mason Neale's translation of the 12th century monk, Bernard of Cluny paired with the mid-nineteenth century tune of Alexander Ewing (hence the tune name). During communion we sing the Beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12) from the Russian Orthodox liturgy. We go forth into the world singing one of our finest hymns, *For all the saints*, with words composed by 19th century William W. How. Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote the music especially for these words. The hymn tune, *Sine Nomine*, meaning "without a name" perhaps honors all those saints known only to God.

The Choir sings an exquisite anthem

Oh May I Join the Choir Invisible

*Oh may I join the choir invisible
Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better by their presence: live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
For miserable aims that end with self,
In thought sublime that pierce the night like stars,
And with their mild persistence urge man's search
To vaster issues.*

*So to live is heaven:
To make undying music in the world,
Breathing as beautiful order that controls
With growing sway the growing life man.
So we inherit that sweet purity
For which we struggled, failed and agonized
With widening retrospect that bred despair.
Rebellious flesh that would not be subdued,
A vicious parent shaming still its child
Poor anxious penitence, is quick dissolved;
Its discords, quenched by meeting harmonies,
Die in the large and charitable air.
And all our rarer, better truer self,
That sobbed religiously in yearning song,
That watched to ease the burden of the world,*

*Laboriously tracing what must be,
And what may yet be better — saw within
A worthier image for the sanctuary,
And shaped it forth before the multitude
Divinely human, raising worship so
To higher reverence more mixed with love —
That better self shall live till human Time
Shall fold its eyelids, and the human sky
Be gathered like a scroll within the tomb
Unread forever.*

*This is life to come,
Which martyred men have made more glorious
For us who strive to follow. May I reach
That purest heaven, be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony,
Enkindle generous ardor, feed pure love,
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty —
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense.
So I shall join the choir invisible
Whose music is the gladness of the world.*

— George Eliot

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which uses parts of the poem by George Eliot (1819-1880) and composed by Carlton T. Russell just this past January. Carlton sent me the manuscript and gave us permission to make enough copies to learn and to sing it. This summer, it was accepted for publication by *St. James Music Press*. Here is Carlton's inscription: "*For Jane Schroeder and the choir of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Camden, Maine.*" Some of you will remember Carlton as the Interim Minister of Music here just before me. He and his wife, Lorna, have "retired" from academia to their home in Sandy Point and together share the music ministry at St. Francis', Blue Hill. Another connection: at an American Guild of Organists, Bangor Chapter choral workshop a year ago, Carlton and Tiffany Andrews had a discussion about George Eliot's poem. I was familiar with Eliot's wonderful novels, *Silas Marner*, *Middlemarch* and learned of the poem from Carlton and Tiffany. This anthem is a deeply moving tribute on so very many levels.

Go forth surrounded by saints!

—*Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music*

Next Sunday

November 8

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 146

Kings 17:8-16

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

7:30 am: Celebrant and Preacher:

The Rev. Bob Hargreaves; **Chalice Bearer:** Pam Bardon; **Lectors:** Pat Ayers, Pam Bardon; **Prayers of the People:** JoAnne Ryan; **Usher:** Terry Mello.

9:30 am: Celebrant and Preacher:

The Rev. Bob Hargreaves; **Crucifer:** David Manning; **Chalice Bearer:** Jeff Conrad; **Lectors:** Jane Hards, Roy Gilley; **Prayers of the People:** Br. Donovan Bowley; **Acolytes:** Kavan Kibler, Thor Gabrielsen; **Oblations:** Lucy Ebbert, Holly Vondell; **Ushers:** Joan Bennett, Roy Gilley.

Calendar

Meetings and Events are subject to change. St. Thomas' welcomes the use of its facilities for meetings and events. Please contact the Parish Office before scheduling any event. A detailed building calendar can be viewed in the office copier room.

Sunday, November 1

All Saint's Day

7:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal

9:15 am Sunday School

9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

5:00 pm Centering Prayer—Green Room

6:30 pm AA meeting—Basement

Monday, November 2

6:30 pm AA meeting—Parish Hall

Tuesday, November 3

9:00 am Xi-Gong Group—Green Room

6:30 pm AA meeting—Basement

6:30 pm OA meeting—Conference Room

Wednesday, November 4

9:30 am Liturgy of the Word and Healing Service—Chapel

10:15 am Coffee and Conversation—Sun Room

10:45 am Staff Meeting—Library

4:00 pm Education for Ministry—Conference Room

5:30 pm VoXX Rehearsal—Parish Hall, Green Room

6:30 pm AA meeting—Basement

Thursday, November 5

5:00pm Choir Rehearsal—Green Room

6:00 pm Eastern Orthodox Vespers and Bible Study—Chapel, Sun Room, Kitchen

6:00 pm All Addictions Step Study—Conference Room

6:30 pm AA meeting—Basement

Friday, November 6

6:30 pm AA meeting—Basement

Saturday, November 7

6:30 pm AA meeting—Basement

Sunday, November 8

7:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal

9:15 am Sunday School

9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

5:00 pm Centering Prayer—Green Room

6:30 pm AA meeting—Basement

How to reach us

Church Office: 207 236-3680

(We're closed on Monday)

You can leave messages for the church staff on our voice mail, or write to us directly:

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