



Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 16, 2018

Prayer List

Let us pray...

...in thanksgiving for the members of our congregation:

Mary Lou Clem, James Cobey, John Doyle, Kathy Doyle; and for the birth of Linda Downes' grandson.

...for support and protection for those who serve our country at home and abroad:

Mike Busey, Christopher Walker, Steven Mattingly, Sam Gray, Wes Dyson, Michael Petrusic, and Thomas J. Hunt.

...for those in need of God's healing grace: Missy Bowie; Chris Bowie; Wayne Buffalo; Angela Downes; Kathy Doyle; Sam Linton; Lindy Lynch; Erin Macri; Bonnie Santora; Jean Santora. *Our continuing prayers are offered for:* Mabel Bowie; Hope Cameron; Conor Doyle; George Dyson; Butch Helwig; Carol Hindle; Dian Lockamy; Buddy Linton; Rhonda McGraw; Jeanne Read; Rose Speake; Joan Shoemaker; Roy Squires; The Rev. Arnold Taylor; Lisa Tuono; Luci Wright.

The Diocese of Washington cycle of prayer: Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry; St. Thomas' Church, DC; St. Thomas' Church, P.G. County, and the Chapel of the Incarnation. **The Anglican Communion cycle of prayer:** Kivu (Rwanda), The Rt Revd Augustin Ahimana.

Thank you!

You, the people of Durham Church, are a blessing to me, and I am honored to be serving Christ with you. Your generosity of spirit shows in so many ways: it shows in the time and talent you devote to the care of this community, from bookkeeping to cooking to plumbing and so many other expressions of love, and it shows in the generous gift you gathered for me at the anniversary of my installation as Rector. I am both humbled and delighted by your generosity to me. From the bottom of my heart, Thank you!

/Catharine+

Announcements

Don't forget that these announcements can also be found on the church website, OldDurham.org. Look for a button near the top left of the home page. When you read the announcements on line, you can follow the live links to websites mentioned in the announcements.

Adult Forum has concluded its video lecture series on church history from the Reformation to the present! There will be no Adult Forum on Dec. 23 or Dec. 30. Join us in January at 9:15am in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings. On January 6, we will have a special presentation on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Coffee After Church . Join us for a chat and a cup of coffee in the Parish Hall after the service.

Poinsettias! If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church for Christmas please (promptly!) see or call Dian Lockamy at 301-609-9664. The flowers are \$7.50 for a 6" pot. You may pay by check or cash. If paying by check please make it out to the Ladies Mite Society with a notation in whose name you would like the memorial or thanksgiving and by whom the flowers are given.

Wrap some gifts! Our Deacon Susan has passed this opportunity along to us: Our Place Waldorf, the soup kitchen she is involved with, is wrapping gifts at the St. Charles Town Center mall all through December. They could use donations of paper, tape, and boxes, and especially of volunteer wrappers. To volunteer, sign up at www.ourplacewaldorf.com or call 240-210-9813.

Longest Night. St. Paul's, Waldorf, is holding a 'Blue Christmas' or 'Longest Night' service on Weds., Dec. 19th at 6:30pm. These services typically acknowledge the poignant and sometimes sad character of Christmas for people who experience grief at this time of year. No forced jolly-ness, but a reminder that darkness cannot overcome light. Details are here: <https://stpaulswaldorf.org/events/the-longest-night/>

Joe's Place Food Pantry: the next distribution will be Dec. 20, from 4:30-6pm in the Parish Hall. There will be special holiday items and a festive atmosphere, and we could especially use extra hands that day. Volunteers are always welcome to help sort and distribute food to our neighbors.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: We will have one meeting this month - Thursday, December 20th at 6 pm.

Bishop's Visitation. The Rt. Rev. Mariann E. Budde, Bishop of Washington, will be here to conduct her official Visitation next week, Dec. 23. Although she was here just a year ago to install Rev. Catharine as Rector, her usual schedule is to visit once every three years. We will have an expanded, pot-luck Coffee Hour that day. Please bring some finger-food to share if you are able, and definitely plan to introduce yourselves to her and welcome her to Durham. The Bishop will meet with the

Vestry after Coffee Hour.

Christmas Eve: We will have a festive reception hosted by the Vestry at 6:30pm, followed by a candle-lit worship service at 7:30pm. Invite your friends and neighbors!

(More) Lessons and Carols. We will hold a service of *Christmas* Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 30th at 10:30am. Like today's service, it should be a good introduction to the church for friends and neighbors. (Plus, a chance to sing lots of Christmas carols !)

Coming in January: The Way of Love sermon series. Here's a spiritual New Year's resolution for you: adopt a 'Rule of Life.' In January we will follow the Episcopal Church's special 'Way of Love' lectionary to guide us through sermon reflections on the essential practices of a Jesus-centered life. Then in Lent we will offer practical resources for constructing your very own rule of life. The Diocese of Washington has a great collection of 'Way of Love' resources here: <https://www.edow.org/congregational-vitality/the-way-of-love>

A new bishop in our diocese

Bishop Mariann posted a letter to the diocese last week announcing that "the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen will join the Diocese of Washington as Assisting Bishop, effective February 20, 2019. Bishop Knudsen served as Bishop of Maine for a decade (1997-2008) and has since served a missionary in Haiti and as an assistant bishop in four dioceses. She will complete her ministry in the Diocese of Maryland at the end of 2018." The text of the letter can be found at the Episcopal News Service page: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2018/12/07/chilton-knudsen-appointed-assisting-bishop-in-washington/>

Trying something different

We are trying out a change to the 'elements' of our Communion service. In order to be hospitable to people who prefer not to consume wine, we will be offering grape juice in addition to wine. The first (larger) chalice will have the wine, and the second (smaller) chalice will have the grape juice. You may sip from or dip in either cup. There is no requirement to consume either one; you are always welcome to come forward for the bread only or for a blessing only. We will try this system out through Epiphany, and then re-evaluate. Please speak up with your thoughts.



**BEDEW US, HEAVEN FROM
ABOVE, YE CLOUDS
RAIN DOWN THE JUST ONE**

A note on the cover image

"Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also."—Isaiah 45:8

This Bible verse has traditionally been part of the early morning prayers of the church during Advent. It expresses the longing and hope we feel in Advent for God to come and set things right in our world. This verse has been sung for centuries by Christians watching for the dawn of a new era. Many beautiful musical settings of it have been written, and can be found on line. What might it look like if the skies rained down righteousness and salvation sprang up from the ground right here in Charles County?

Ministers in Today's Service

Crucifer: Carl Lockamy; Readers: First Lesson— Rick Posey; Second Lesson— Mary Posey; Third Lesson— Roy Squires; Fourth Lesson— Matthew Rohde; Fifth Lesson— Gary Leyland; Sixth Lesson— June Leyland; Seventh Lesson — Deb Carr; Eighth Lesson — Carl Lockamy; Ninth Lesson— Barbara Macri; Officiant: The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson; Altar Guild: Sue Hunt.