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The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
(*The Adoration of the Magi*, Hieronymus Bosch, ca 1475)

## From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are doing well.

I am usually a stickler for keeping the liturgical calendar: celebrating feasts on the days they're actually appointed, observing seasons for their entire duration, etc. This Sunday, however, we get something of a 'bonus,' if you will. For while the calendar still says Christmastide (which continues through 05 January, the Eve of the Epiphany; hence, the Twelve Days of Christmas), our readings allow us the option of hearing St Matthew's account of the Epiphany—the adoration of the Wise Men at the feet of the baby Jesus. And so, while we will not celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday—we'll do that on the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup>—our liturgy this Sunday will be in the 'key' of the Epiphany.

And this is in keeping with the Church's most ancient practices. The Epiphany was the primary, and at first the *only*, major feast of the Incarnational season we are now in. The provenance and emergence of Christmas as a holy day are murky and the subject of much scholarly debate, but from the get-go, the

Epiphany was a critical milestone in the Church year, second only to Easter. The early Church recognized the true gravity ... the full revelation ... of God's decision to take human form and dwell among us not so much in Jesus' birth—miraculous as it was—but rather in the world's making its way to His cradle and acknowledging Him as its King. This is the story of the Wise Men from the East not as an exotic excursus that interrupts the flow of the Nativity, but as the culmination of Jesus' coming: busy, powerful, (self-)important secular society's stopping and stooping to honor and receive the Immanuel.

As we prepare to worship on Sunday ... to 'sneak in' a foretaste of the Epiphany ... I invite you to pray that this world be open, again, to Christ's coming; that its leaders be willing to acknowledge a power greater than themselves and an end higher than their own rule; and that all its citizens unite to realize and manifest the New Age that His Good News has ushered in. For the Epiphany speaks all of these messages. And whether it knows it or not, our world right now deeply needs to hear them.

Take good care, and may God continue to bless the work of the Kingdom you are doing.

In the peace and love of Christ,  
Douglas+  
[Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)  
860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

P S Do not forget tonight's **Service of Self-Dedication at 6:00 pm**. It is a peaceful, meaningful way to leave one year and begin another: confessing our shortcomings during the former and dedicating ourselves, during the latter, to the new covenant God has made with us in Christ.

P P S Please read this week's updated message from our Refugee Resettlement Team. We're getting ready to take possession of the house we've rented in New Milford and get it all set up ... and we still have some needs that everyone is invited to help with.

## This Week at St Andrew's

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Friday, 31 December	<b>New Year's Eve Service of Self-Dedication</b> ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> ) (A light reception follows in the Rectory)	6:00 pm
Saturday, 01 January	Holy Eucharist: <i>The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus</i> ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	10:00 am
Sunday, 02 January	Holy Eucharist: <i>Christmas 2</i> ( <i>in person only</i> )	8:30 am
Sunday, 02 January	Holy Eucharist: <i>Christmas 2</i> ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	10:30 am

Sunday, 02 January	Coffee Hour	11:35 am
Monday, 03 January	Bible Study: <i>The Gospel of Luke</i>	11:00 am
Wednesday, 05 January	Mid-Week Eucharist ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 05 January	A.A. for Women ( <i>Zoom meeting; email us for info</i> )	7:00 pm
Thursday, 06 January	A.A. Meeting ( <i>Parish House</i> )	7:30 am
Thursday, 06 January	Holy Eucharist: <i>The Feast of the Epiphany (in person and live-streamed)</i>	6:00 pm
Thursday, 06 January	Al-Anon Meeting ( <i>Old Vestry Room</i> )	7:00 pm

## Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

Details about each of these events can be found later in this issue of the *Epistle*

Saturday, 29 January	Kent Memorial Library Centennial Celebration: <i>Bricks and Books, A Dramatized History of the KML</i>	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 02 February	Holy Eucharist: <i>Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) (in-person and live-streamed)</i>	6:00 pm
Sunday, 06 February	Annual Meeting of the Parish	11:40 am
Sunday, 27 February	Tom Holcombe Concert & Farewell	4:00 pm

## St Andrew's Current COVID Status

### THE PARISH IS OPEN.

- Pursuant to CDC guidelines, we are asking *everyone to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status*, because the level of community transmission in Litchfield County is **Substantial** (or higher)



- There is congregational singing, at the 10:30 service only

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services, as there are parishioners who are choosing not to be in group settings at this time—a decision the parish fully honors and supports.

## Refugee Resettlement: We Are Getting Close



We are excited to report that a refugee family will be arriving in the next few weeks to New Milford, so our housing team is moving into high gear. Our very generous communities have already offered almost all of our furniture and furnishings and a very generous donor from the Washington community has offered to fund all of the remaining major items that need to be purchased new (TV, mattresses, window coverings, etc). We are targeting January 14 to move into the house, but we still have a lot to pull together.

We may still be in need of some smaller items, especially:

- floor and table lamps
- small desks with chairs for study
- 4 extra dining chairs
- some side tables

Due to the extraordinary outpouring of generosity we've seen, please remember we may not be able to take all suggested items, especially if they are duplicative of something we have. If you still have items to offer, please email the Parish Office ([st.andrew.kent@snet.net](mailto:st.andrew.kent@snet.net)) and include dimensions and a photo.

One of our biggest needs now is **the time of well-organized people** in the next 10 days or so, to help manage bits of the project in a specific way. If you are interested in taking charge of either buying or organizing the procurement of a list of smaller items, like linens and towels, common toiletries, or culturally appropriate food and pantry items, we would love to hear from you. If you purchase these, you could either take this as a donation or be reimbursed,

whichever you prefer.

We also need **volunteers with trucks** to help move furniture, probably between January 12 and 16. We believe that we may have a group of younger volunteers to help with the moving, but are still working on that.

Lastly, we are looking for a **few hours of experienced carpentry or contractor help** during the period January 5 to 14 to help make sure the property is safe for the arrival of our new family.

With gratitude,  
The St Andrew's Housing Team

## TONGHT: A Spiritual Beginning of the New Year



Although the turning of the civil year carries no liturgical significance, for centuries the departure of one year and the arrival of another was, for many Christians, a suitable time to take stock: to reflect on how well we lived into our Christian commitments to love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves, in the year that has passed ... and to re-dedicate ourselves to these ends, in the year that is coming.

Standing at the threshold of 2022, we will gather to do just this tonight **New Year's Eve at 6:00 pm**. Our Service of Self-Dedication will consist of readings and prayers, as well as a hymn or two. A reception will follow in the Rectory, for those who would like to stay on for some time of fellowship. Please do consider joining us.

## Epiphany Tradition: Chalking the Doors



The Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord, on Thursday, 06 January, will usher in Epiphanytide: the season when we especially remember and celebrate the ministry of Jesus among His people. I'd like to recommend a simple—and ancient—Epiphanytide practice that helps us maintain, throughout the whole year, the spirit of love, joy and blessing that somehow seems to come to us more easily in December and early January. For centuries, Christians have used chalk to write a blessing over the main door of their homes on or around 06 January. It looks like this:

20 + C + M + B + 22

The letters of the inscription are the abbreviation for the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* ("May Christ bless this house"). A second meaning (which may have been a mnemonic device) is **C**aspar, **M**elchior, and **B**althazar, which are the traditional names given to the Wise Men who came to Jesus in Matthew 2. The + signs represent the Cross, and 20-22 is the year. (The photo above is the inscription over the rectory door, from Epiphany 2021.)

Each time we enter our home, this simple inscription reminds us of Christ's abiding presence with us. And the chalk's fading, over time, represents His manifestation coming more and more fully into our hearts ... and, we pray, into our hands and feet, our minds and voices.

If you would like to chalk your own home this Epiphanytide, everything you need is ready for you. I have blessed a supply of chalk and prepared a very brief blessing rite. Both are available to pick up in the Narthex of the church, which is now open every day from at least 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Remembering Archbishop Desmond Tutu:  
By Bp Ian Douglas





We awakened on 26 December to the news of the death of the Most Rev Desmond Mpilo Tutu, former Archbishop of Cape Town and Primate of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. The world and the Church have lost a great saint who dedicated his life to God's mission of restoration and reconciliation, and tirelessly fought for justice and dignity for all people. Archbishop Tutu's life and accomplishments will be recognized and celebrated widely, as well they should be, so I will not rehearse them here. What I do want to do is share a few brief recollections of a man who was a dear friend and mentor to me; and who taught me the real meaning of God's reconciling love in Jesus.

I first encountered "Arch" (as he liked to be called) at the General Convention of 1982 when he shared the stage with then Vice President of the United States George H W Bush. I recall how Arch joked with Vice President Bush that he was in the United States illegally as the racist government of South Africa refused to issue him a passport. I then met Arch personally in 1984 when I worked in the World Mission Department at the Episcopal Church Center in New York, and he had just been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He came by the Episcopal Church Center to discuss how The Episcopal Church could better partner with him in his fight to end apartheid in South Africa. Years later, after the end of apartheid and following his transformative leadership of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Arch came to the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) as a visiting professor in 2002. At the time Mpho Tutu, one of Arch and Leah's four children, was studying for the priesthood at EDS. During his time at EDS, I was incredibly blessed to teach alongside Arch; and my family became close to Arch and Leah, his wife, and Mpho and her young family. Our children remember that we always needed to have Arch's favorite ice cream, rum raisin, on hand for his visits. Finally, I was incredibly honored that Arch agreed to be the preacher when I was ordained Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut on April 17, 2010. It was one of Arch's final public appearances as he retired from public life later in 2010.

While we are all saddened by the death of Archbishop Tutu, we can give thanks to God for the life and witness of this great servant of God. The world is a more just, compassionate, and loving place because of Arch. We are moved, particularly in this Christmas season, by the way that Arch incarnated the love of Jesus, especially among the marginalized and oppressed. And we commit

to carrying on his struggle for justice as we celebrate Arch's new life with God.

Please join me in giving thanks to God for the gift of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Pray for his family and loved ones especially Leah and their children in their time of grief and loss. Please also hold in prayer the people of South Africa, and our companions in Christ in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, that they may continue the faithful witness of their beloved Archbishop.

May Archbishop Desmond's soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Faithfully,  
The Rt Rev Ian T. Douglas

*O God, the King of saints, we praise and glorify your holy Name for all your servants, especially Archbishop Desmond, who have finished their course in your faith and fear: for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all your other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we pray that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, p 502)*



Reverse Advent Calendar:  
Time to Gather In





If you have been keeping a Reverse Advent Calendar this year, with food and personal hygiene items for the Kent Food Bank, it's now time to gather in all you've collected. You may drop off your items at the Food Bank (rear of the Community House) from 9 – 12 on Thursday mornings (*note: the Food Bank has not been open on Thursday mornings the past several weeks*); or you may bring your items to the church, and we'll transport them for you. And thank you, as always, for supporting the Food Bank.

## NEW: Christmas Diaper Drive, Hosted by ECCT Deacons



During Christmas we celebrate God coming to us in human form as the Baby Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes. This Christmas, in keeping our Baptismal Covenant to *care for those who are in need and respect the dignity of all* (BCP, p 305), the Diocese's deacons invite you to participate in an ECCT-wide diaper drive to benefit [The Diaper Bank of Connecticut](#)

Did You Know?

- The Diaper Bank works to bring basic health needs, including **75,000 diapers each week**, to low-income individuals in our state who are struggling to make ends meet.

- Most clients who frequent the diaper bank do not have laundry facilities, and laundromats do not allow the washing of cloth diapers.
- Prior to the pandemic, **one in three Connecticut families couldn't afford enough diapers** for their infants and toddlers, and the need has skyrocketed over the past year.
- Diapers can cost **up to \$100 a month** and for those who have no choice but to buy them at local convenience stores rather than big-box retailers, the cost can be even higher.
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (**WIC**) **do not cover the cost of diapers.**
- Without an adequate supply of clean diapers, **babies are more likely to suffer from diaper rash, urinary tract infections and other medical problems.**

No one should have to worry about affording these basic needs.

How can you participate?

- Bring a package of diapers (sizes 3-6) to your parish's services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Christmas 1 (Sunday, 26 December), Christmas 2 (Sunday, 02 January) or the Epiphany (Thursday, 06 January).
- Make a financial donation to **The Diaper Bank of Connecticut** and note "ECCT Diaper Drive" in the "Memo" line.

**Now Available:  
2022 Liturgical Calendars**



JANUARY 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Epiphany, Epiphany Sun 1 Christ the Light Sun 2 Epiphany, Epiphany Readings for the Epiphany of the Magi 1st, 2nd, page 19-20 See Further Below	The Second Sunday after Christmas Day	The Third Sunday after Christmas Day	The Fourth Sunday after Christmas Day	The Fifth Sunday after Christmas Day	The Sixth Sunday after Christmas Day	The Epiphany Sun 1 Christ the Light Sun 2 Epiphany, Epiphany Readings for the Epiphany of the Magi 1st, 2nd, page 19-20 See Further Below
2	3	4	5	6*	7	8
9	10	11	12	13*	14	15
16	17	18	19	20*	21	22
23	24	25	26	27*	28	29
30	31					

The new 2022 St Andrew's liturgical calendars are now in. There is a supply available in the Narthex—please take one. If you are not able to pick one up, please let the Parish Office know, and we will be glad to mail one to you. (You will notice that we are using a slightly different format this year that more closely tracks the feasts we keep here at St Andrew's.)

## Are You Slightly Coffee-Phobic??



Many of us love coffee, but some of us are a little fearful of making it for others—especially in quantity. And we know that may be holding some of you back from volunteering to host a coffee hour.



Well, fear not! On **Sunday, 09 January**, during Coffee Hour, our own **Katherine Almquist** will offer a very brief lesson on how to make coffee in the Parish House kitchen. It's actually much easier than you may think! Please come on by and see what's perking!

## Save the Date: Annual Meeting of the Parish, Sunday, 06 February



Mark your calendars: The parish's Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, 06 February**, 2022, immediately after the 10:30 Eucharist. The annual reports of the Priest-in-Charge, the Senior Warden, the Treasurer and the commissions will be received; new officers and four new vestry members will be elected; and the budget for 2022 will be presented. (The snow date will be Sunday, 13 February.)

## Help Support the Kent Food Bank



Please help our parish family continue to support of the Kent Food Bank by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund  
P O Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of Kent's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro. In addition, Leah has told us how useful it is for her to have IGA gift cards to give to families who are in need. Please consider purchasing a card, for \$25 or \$50, and taking it to Leah's office in Town Hall or dropping it in the donations basket in the Narthex. (You can also place it in the offering plate, marked for the Food Bank.)

The Kent Food Bank also accepts food donations. They are especially in need of staples such as **beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna**. Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past! Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays from 9:00 to 12:00 in the back of the Community House on Main Street. You may also place donations in the basket in the church Narthex or in the bin in the breezeway at the rear of the Rectory.

## Lectons for this Week

### The Second Sunday of Christmas

Year C

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a  
Matthew 2:1-12



## Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order to view past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

## Worship Services

-Sunday-

### Holy Eucharist

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.  
Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;  
Healing Service at 8.30,  
Third Sunday  
In person  
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.  
(10.30 a.m. available live  
stream on YouTube)



**-Wednesday-**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
6.00 p.m.



**-Friday-**  
**Prayer & Meditation**  
5.30 p.m.



**-Holy Days-**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
6.00 p.m.

## 12 Step Meetings

**Wednesdays**  
A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.  
*Zoom meeting*  
*email us for info.*

**Thursdays**  
A.A. at 7.30 a.m.  
(Parish House)  
*resumed*  
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.  
(Old Vestry Room)  
*resumed*

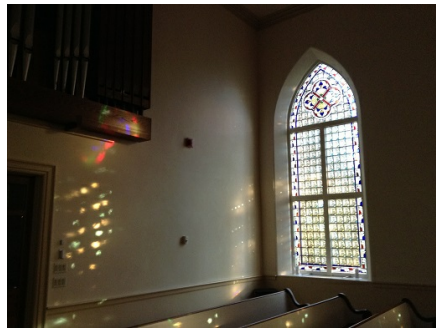
**Fridays**  
A.A. at 8 p.m.  
(Great Room)  
*temporarily until First Church opens*  
*resumed*



## Parish Staff



**The Rev Douglas S  
Worthington,  
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**Thomas W Holcombe,  
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**Parish office open everyday except Friday from 10 am- 5 pm  
(2 pm on Thursdays)**

**Visit St Andrew's website at  
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**The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
[www.ctepiscopal.org](http://www.ctepiscopal.org)**

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