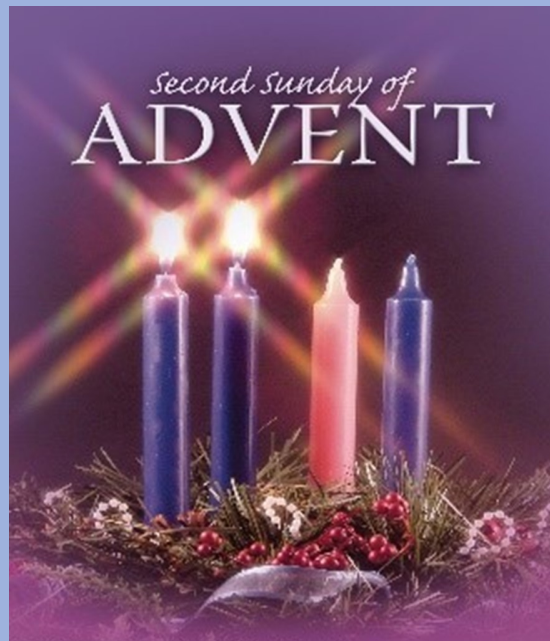




www.standrewskentct.org * 860.927.3486 * st.andrew.kent@snet.net



From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are doing well. Many words have been spoken, written, preached, prayed and sung about Advent, and I am guilty of piling up my fair share of them, I'm afraid. But this week, a poem for the season that was written by Madeleine L'Engle made its way into my mailbox, and it arrested me, as I read it over and over. And so, in lieu of any more words about Advent (at least for this week), I offer it to you, as a way to experience Advent: to prepare, to reflect, to welcome ... in expectancy.

Into The Darkest Hour by Madeleine L'Engle

It was a time like this,
War & tumult of war,
a horror in the air.
Hungry yawned the abyss—
and yet there came the star
and the child most wonderfully there.

It was time like this
of fear & lust for power,
license & greed and blight—

and yet the Prince of bliss
came into the darkest hour
in quiet & silent light.

And in a time like this
how celebrate his birth
when all things fall apart?
Ah! Wonderful it is
with no room on the earth
the stable is our heart.

(A young American composer has set L'Engle's poem to music for choir and organ. You may listen to a recording [here](#) if you'd like.)

** ** *

This Wednesday, 08 December, is beloved Sr Mary Lanning's birthday. Several of us will be gathering in the Nave at 5:30 pm to remember her and how she graced our lives and those of everyone she touched. All are welcome to attend, and if you have a memory to share or a poem you would like to read, please bring it along.

** ** *

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
860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

P S The Advent Quiet Day that was scheduled for this Saturday has been cancelled due to lack of interest. We'll try again in Lent.

This Week at St Andrew's

Friday, 03 December	Christmas Tree Sale	4:00-6:00 pm
Friday, 03 December	Prayer & Meditation (<i>Nave</i>)	5:30 pm
Saturday, 04 December	Christmas Tree Sale	9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday, 04 December	Choir Rehearsal (<i>Choir Room</i>)	9:30 am
Sunday, 05 December	Holy Eucharist: <i>Advent 2 (in person only)</i>	8:30 am
Sunday, 05 December	Holy Eucharist: <i>Advent 2 (with music) (in person and</i>	10:30 am

	<i>live-streamed)</i>	
Sunday, 05 December	Coffee Hour (<i>Great Room</i>)	11:35 am
Sunday, 05 December	Christmas Tree Sale	12:00 noon - 5:00 pm
Monday, 06 December	Bible Study: <i>Genesis</i>	11:00 am
Tuesday, 07 December	Nominating Committee (<i>Zoom</i>)	
Wednesday, 08 December	Mid-Week Holy Eucharist (<i>in person and live-streamed</i>)	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 08 December	A.A. for Women (<i>Zoom meeting; email us for info</i>)	7:00 pm
Thursday, 09 December	A.A. Meeting (<i>Parish House</i>)	7:30 am
Thursday, 09 December	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, 04 December	Music in the Nave: Messiah	8:00 pm
Friday, 10 December	Sing-in Returns!	
Saturday, 11 December	KECNS Santa Breakfast	9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Saturday, 11 December	Showcase of Shakespeare Monologues, presented by Jane Farnol	4:00 pm
Saturday, 19 December	Blue Christmas Service (held jointly with First Congregational, in their sanctuary)	5:00 pm
Friday, 24 December	Family Christmas Eve Eucharist (<i>in person and live-streamed</i>)	4:00 pm
Friday, 24 December	Traditional Christmas Eve Eucharist (<i>in person and live-streamed</i>)	9:00 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.

Off to a Great Start: The Christmas Tree Sale Continues!



The North Lawn is looking Merry and Bright...yes, the annual Christmas Tree Sale is underway! The trees arrived right on time last Saturday, and we sold almost a third of our inventory in two short days!

The sale will continue every Friday (4 – 6 pm), Saturday (10 am – 6 pm) and Sunday (12 – 5 pm) until we run out of trees. We need plenty of volunteers to help sell. If you can help, please be in touch with **Chris Rehow** (crehow@ncsplus.com or 917-544-1763).

A New Advent Practice: The Reverse Advent Calendar



We're all probably familiar with the traditional Advent calendar: Each day, you open a little window to read a verse or a thought ... or maybe get a small toy or piece of candy. Well, this year for Advent (which begins on Sunday, by the way!), we're suggesting something a little different: a *reverse* Advent calendar.

Here's how it works: First, obtain a copy of the calendar (they're in the Narthex of the church and parish office, and also available on the parish's web site and [Facebook page](#)) and purchase the items listed. Also, create a space—a box, a bag or a table—to be your 'calendar.' (The photo above is the calendar we made in the Rectory last year, on Day 3.) Then, each day in Advent, place one item in your calendar, perhaps saying a little prayer of thanksgiving or "O come, O come, Emmanuel" as you do. Finally, after Christmas, gather up all the items in your calendar and either bring them to church or take them directly to the Food Bank on a Thursday morning.

Among the many rich strands of Advent is the call to tune our hearts to Jesus in *expectancy*: in eager, loving anticipation of His Coming and His Coming Again. Spending four weeks joyfully and quietly preparing a gift that will help sustain a family during the cold, dark weeks of winter is surely a beautiful way to open our hearts to the Christ Child and His Peace.

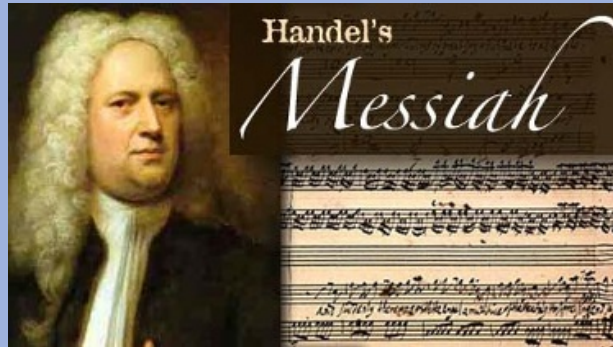
From the Stewardship Commission: "It Ain't Over 'til It's Over"

Although Stewardship season officially ended on 14 November, when we observed the Feast Day of St. Andrew, we hope that those of you who have not pledged will consider pledging now to support the operations of the parish and our plans for restarting our church school and for sponsoring community events to bring more people to St. Andrew's. We will welcome pledges with

open arms at any time with great thanks.

The Stewardship Commission

The Beloved *Messiah* Sing-In Returns: Friday, 10 December



Hallelujah! We're back with our 10th annual Messiah Sing-In on Friday, December 10th at 8 pm in the Nave. James Sinclair leads the Sherman Chamber Ensemble and guest soloists in a performance of Part One (the Nativity) and the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel's glorious Messiah.

And who did we get for a chorus? You! If you so desire, sit up front: we'll lend you a score and you lend us your voice. Or sit anywhere else and just enjoy the show. Either way, it's going to be an evening beautiful music and good times. (Masks will be required.)

Tickets are \$20 and available at <https://bit.ly/messiah10> or the door. Students are free. For more information, call 860-927-3486, email st.andrew.kent@snet.net, or visit www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html.

Saturday, 11 December: Shakespeare Comes to St Andrew's

Love. Lust. Longing. Rage and Revenge! Shakespeare wrote all about it, and it is as fresh today as it was 400 years ago. And you can watch it unfold on Saturday, 11 December, at 4:00 pm, right in the Nave of St Andrew's. Our own **Jane Farnol** is directing a showcase of monologues at the Sharon Playhouse, and on the 11th, we will enjoy Kent's own performance of an abridged version. It's sure to be a soul stirring event! A free-will offering will be received.

After the showcase, there will be a wine-and-cheese reception in the Parish House, complete with a book signing by Jane. Her abridged version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be available for purchase. What a lovely stocking stuffer!

Help Support Kent Education Center

& Nursery School

Our tenant and neighbor KECNS has two fun events coming up, which we're inviting you to consider supporting:



COME CAROL !

Dec 4th at 5:30pm before the KVFD Parade of Lights at St Andrew's Church - in front of the Christmas Tree with KECNS Kent Nursery School!

SCAN TO SING ALONG



SANTA'S BREAKFAST IS BACK!

With a COVID conscious format, breakfast to go, & BYOC (bring your own cup) to reduce waste! Scan to Preview

DATE: Saturday, December 11th / 9am-12pm
LOCATION: Parish House, St Andrews Church

\$5 per person / \$20 per family : Proceeds go to KECNS (Kent Education Center & Nursery School)



A Quieter Expression of the Season:
Blue Christmas Service



The joy the Christ Child brings to Christmas is universal, but not everyone experiences or expresses it the same way. Some of us feel the sting of grief—new or old—particularly at this time of year. Some of us are facing difficult challenges or decisions ... have lost something precious to us ... will be separated from loved ones or beloved traditions this year ... are coping with a final or chronic illness (or love someone who is). The content of each heart is unique as it approaches the Manger, and we must take care to honor this, especially in a secular culture that often contrives joy and refuses to countenance sorrow at this time of year.

Therefore, in what we hope will become an annual tradition, St Andrew's and the First Congregational Church will jointly hold a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, 19 December, at 5:00 pm. This year we will gather in FCC's sanctuary and next year in St Andrew's nave. (A light reception will follow.)

If you seek some quiet prayer, some space for sorrow, a community of care, or a message of hope-within-sadness, please consider attending. And if this is too great a struggle for you, let Fr Douglas know, and he will carry your prayer requests to the service for you.

St Andrew's New Refugee Resettlement Team: Now's the Time to Get Involved!



As of this week, a dedicated team of nine volunteers now comprises the **St Andrew's Refugee Resettlement Team**. As part of the wider effort being

coordinated by the Washington Consortium of Congregations, our parish team will be responsible for *all the housing needs of a refugee family that will be settling in the New Milford area sometime early next year*. Our work will include securing them an apartment, furnishing it, getting all of the utilities connected, stocking the fridge and the pantry, etc.

Our work will be front-loaded: It will happen very early in the resettlement process, and it is one of the first tasks that must be completed. What we provide ... and how we provide it ... will also be one of our family's first introductions to American hospitality and ways-of-life.

We are immensely grateful that **Andie Sehl** and **Sid Head** have volunteered to be the co-leaders of our team. Thank you so much, Andie and Sid!!

We can always use more help. If you would like to get involved, or if you have questions, please be in touch with Fr Douglas.

A Message from Town Hall about the Kent Santa Fund



The Kent Santa Fund, which operates anonymously, assists local children under the age of 16 during the holiday season and utilizes community and business members who shop and donate those gifts. COVID-19 has caused the Kent Santa Fund to change the way we assist the local children, so this year the Santa Fund is going to offer the participants several options for the holiday. The Kent Santa Fund will be providing gift cards to the families which will allow the families to prioritize their family's needs during the holidays. In addition to the gift cards, we will be having our first "Santa's Workshop!!" During this workshop, participating parents can shop for their children and participating local children can pick up a gift for their siblings and/or best friends. Specific information on the Workshop will be shared soon!!

In the past, our community has always been very generous. We hope that you will continue this tradition by making either a monetary donation to the Kent Santa Fund or dropping off a gift for a child between the ages of 1 – 16 years old. Your donations will help members of our community who live with the harsh reality of financial insecurity, every single day.

Monetary donations should be made payable and mailed to the "Kent Santa Fund," P.O. Box 678, Kent, CT 06757. Checks can also be delivered to the attention of Joyce Kearns at Kent Town Hall by placing them in the white drop box next to the front door of Town Hall. Gifts should be dropped off at Town Hall in the Selectmen's office, Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

from now until Friday, December 17, 2021.

Thank you so much for opening your hearts and wallets. Your donations will help us ensure that local children and their families enjoy the holidays.

If you have any questions, please contact Joyce directly at 860.927.4627 or adminassist@townofkentct.org.

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
memo: Food Bank

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.

Lections for this Week

The Second Sunday of Advent

Year C

Malachi 3:1-4
Canticle 16
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6



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

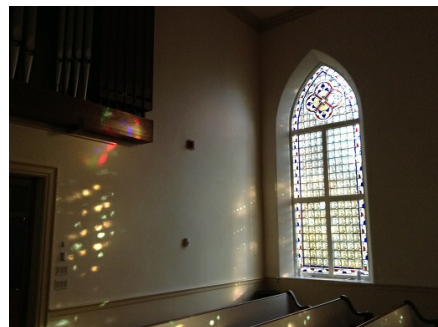
A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)

temporarily until First Church opens
resumed



Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S
Worthington,
Priest in Charge**
frdouglas.sak@gmail.com
860-592-0171



**Thomas W Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs**

KC Compton,

Parish Administrator

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Randy Osolin,
Verger



St Andrew's Church
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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
www.standrewskentct.org

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.ctepiscopal.org

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