



[www.standrewskentct.org](http://www.standrewskentct.org) \* 860.927.3486 \* [st.andrew.kent@snet.net](mailto:st.andrew.kent@snet.net)



King Solomon's Temple  
(a detail from the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Murals)

## St Andrew's Current COVID Status

**THE PARISH IS OPEN.** At its meeting on 16 May, the vestry decided, in accordance with the May guidance from the CDC and at the recommendation of the priest-in-charge and the wardens, to more fully open the parish for worship. In light of revised guidance from the CDC and the current surge being caused by the Delta variant, our worship protocols have now been slightly updated as follows:

- **We are asking *everyone to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.*** The variant is highly transmissible, even by people who are fully vaccinated, and according to the CDC, Litchfield County's level of community transmission is now **Substantial** (or higher)
- Congregational **singing has now resumed**, at the 10:30 service only

In addition, it is no longer necessary to sign-up in advance to attend worship, but we will record the names of those who attend, in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

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.

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are doing well.

As we will hear in this Sunday's Old Testament lesson, it is King Solomon, one of David's sons, who finally builds what is known to history as the First Temple and dedicates it to the worship and praise of God. It must have been a most impressive sight. After centuries of God's abiding with Israel in an ark—essentially a wooden chest with some carrying poles—Solomon constructs a truly magnificent temple right in the heart of Jerusalem. He spares no expense or effort. The materials are exquisite, the craftsmanship expert and the design beyond compare. (Indeed, the description of the Temple and its construction consumes an entire chapter-and-a-half of the First Book of Kings.) The Temple glitters and shines. As Solomon intends, jaws drop in awe and hearts swell with pride.

But what strikes me most in this story is not the grandeur or the ceremony, but Solomon's prayers at the dedication. In the reading we will hear, his first prayer, although heartfelt, is not surprising: that God be truly present in this new grand house and heed the prayers that Israel will pray in the Temple. But his second prayer always takes me a little by surprise: that God *also* hear the prayers of any foreigners who pray "toward this house" and, having heard them, "do according to all that the foreigner calls to you." On a day of monumental national and cultural pride, this is an open-hearted—even ecumenical, one might say—prayer for God to show love and mercy to every people in every nation.

The news from other nations these past several weeks and months—even if we momentarily ignore COVID—has been particularly upsetting. A brutal military coup in Myanmar; thuggish oppression of political rivals in Nicaragua; seething unrest in South Africa; vicious warfare and a tenuous peace in Israel and Palestine. And now, in the space of just a few days, a head-spinning regime (and, perhaps, cultural) change in Afghanistan and another deadly earthquake in Haiti. We can, and should, pray to Jesus to be present ... to make intercession ... in all of these crises, of course.

But the beauty and the reassurance of King Solomon's prayer for "foreigners" lies in its reminding us that God hears *all* people's prayers ... in all tongues ... in all walks of life ... and in all faiths. Some of the countries I've named have a strong (Judeo-)Christian heritage, and others do not. But I believe with all my heart that whether a prayer is offered by a one who calls herself a Christian, a Jew, a Muslim, a Buddhist, a Hindu, a Sikh or any other faith-name, it is one God—our God and their God—who hears and responds. And in these gut-wrenching times when it can be hard to listen to the news or read the front page of the paper, this gives me great comfort and even greater hope: In the face of all the things we humans do to one another ... and that we endure at the hands of nature ... God is present, God is listening, and God is responding. And for this, thanks be to God, indeed!

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)

PS - I will be away on vacation from Friday, 27 August, through Friday, 17 September. I will be checking email only infrequently while I'm gone. If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call the rectory line (860-592-0171) and leave me a message. If there is something KC Compton, our parish administrator, can help you with, she will be keeping her regular hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 – 2:00.

## Weekly Calendar

Friday, 20 August	Prayer & Meditation ( <i>Nave</i> )	5:30 pm
Saturday, 21 August	Choir Rehearsal (for fall music) (Choir Room)	9:30 am
Saturday, 21 August	Music in the Nave Committee ( <i>Old Vestry Room</i> )	10:30 am
Sunday, 22 August	Holy Eucharist: Pentecost 13 (spoken) ( <i>in person only</i> )	8:30 am
Sunday, 22 August	Holy Eucharist: Pentecost 13 (with music) ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	10:30 am
Sunday, 22 August	Coffee Hour	11:35 am
Sunday, 22 August	Buck McDaniel Organ Recital ( <i>reception to follow</i> )	4:00 pm
Tuesday, 24 August	Holy Eucharist: Feast of St Bartholomew ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 25 August	Mid-week Holy Eucharist ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 25 August	A.A. for Women ( <i>Zoom meeting; email us for info</i> )	7:00 pm
Thursday, 26 August	A.A. meeting ( <i>Parish House</i> )	7:30 am
Thursday, 26 August	Al-Anon ( <i>Old Vestry Room</i> )	7:00 pm

A TREAT IN STORE FOR US:  
Organ Recital This Sunday, 22 August



This summer, we have been happy to provide a rehearsal space to Thomas "Buck" McDaniel, who is the [Organist and Director of Music at St Edward the Martyr Parish in New York City](#). Buck is preparing for an upcoming recital tour and has been spending part of his summer in Pawling. It's been a delight to hear him practicing, and he's even graciously played for a couple of our mid-week Holy Eucharists and feast days. Those of us who've heard him play have been very fortunate indeed.

Therefore, we are excited to announce that Buck will be giving a recital at **St Andrew's this Sunday, 22 August, at 4:00 pm**. He will play works by J S Bach, William Byrd, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Jean Langlais and Marcel Dupré. A free-will offering will be received, and a reception will follow.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend – you'll be happy you did!

## Presiding Bishop Curry Encourages All Who Can to Get Vaccinated

The Rt Rev Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church has recorded a brief video to encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to do so. As he says, this is what Jesus means when He says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." You can watch the video [here](#).

## SAVE THE DATE: Welcome Home Sunday, 19 September



It is always a good feeling when we re-gather after a summer season that's taken many of us in so many different directions and at different times. And this year, that celebration will be greater than ever, as we also continue to emerge from the constraints of COVID and return to living together in community once more.

**We're planning a wonderful homecoming celebration on Sunday, 19 September, at 10:30**, with hospitality and plenty of time for catching up afterwards. Please save the date, and look for many more details to follow!

# HOSPITALITY AT ST ANDREW'S: Looking for Volunteers

Following an outstanding run by Bernadette Ellegard and her crew (thank you, one and all!), we are pleased to announce that Katherine Almquist has agreed to become the new chair of the Hospitality Commission. We are so grateful for Katherine's willingness to take on this work, and we know St Andrew's tradition of wonderful parish events will continue.

Katherine is looking for volunteers to help her, beginning with our first event of the new church year: an all-parish reception following the 10:30 service on Welcome Home Sunday, 19 September. You do not need to be a chef! There are jobs available for all skill levels and interests. If you are willing to help, please contact Katherine at [kt\\_almquist@hotmail.com](mailto:kt_almquist@hotmail.com).

## THE MISSIONS WE SUPPORT: Greenwoods Counseling and Referrals



*Perhaps you would like to know more about the charities and agencies that St Andrew's helps fund? Perhaps you might even want to get involved with one of them? Well, we will be highlighting some of the charities and agencies that our parish supports via the Mission & Outreach Commission. This week, we feature **Greenwoods Counseling and Referrals**, a Litchfield-based mental health organization that provides swift, affordable access to quality mental healthcare, regardless of ability to pay, for individuals and families living and working in Litchfield County. Here is more from their website:*

"Greenwoods began as a small grass-roots agency, and we will always retain our personal, intimate approach to our services and programs. Providing access to excellent care is central to our mission, a service that is badly needed. Lack of access to quality behavioral health and social services is a well-established and appalling fact.

"Public clinics are often overcrowded, and private counselors are overbooked, creating long waiting times for therapy. No one gets turned away or deferred at Greenwoods. After a swift mental health assessment, a client is matched

with a 'best-fit' counselor from within a network of 130 providers and its in-house clinical staff. In 2018 Greenwoods connected 615 patients with mental health care representing a 62% increase over the previous year. In 2019 Greenwoods scheduled 670 mental health assessments, 5% more than the previous year, and 733 people were connected to highly-skilled professionals; over \$25,000 in financial aid was given in support of 63 referred clients. Additionally, Greenwoods supports the region's most vulnerable populations through its substance use disorder recovery program and school based mental health program in Litchfield, WAMOGO and Oliver Wolcott Schools.

"Greenwoods is a recognized leader in community mental health education and wellness efforts across northwest Connecticut. Due to the Opioid epidemic in Litchfield County, Greenwoods now provides leadership for the Litchfield County Opioid Task Force, instituted a Medication Assisted Therapy program for people in recovery, and provides a community outreach and recovery navigator. To better respond to growing demands for mental health services and a need to shorten time between initial interview and scheduled counseling sessions, Greenwoods increased its in-house clinical staff. In 2020, the Board of Trustees changed the organization's name to Greenwoods Counseling & Referrals to reflect these expanded counseling services.

"Over the past 29 years, Greenwoods has grown its network and expanded its services to become a trusted and unique resource in mental healthcare for Litchfield County communities. People challenged by depression, anxiety, trauma and addiction receive excellent care through Greenwoods. It remains a small grass-roots agency dedicated to retaining a personal, intimate approach to its services and programs. Its offices are located in St Michael's Episcopal Church at 25 South Street in Litchfield, Connecticut."

## All Recovery Meetings Are *Resuming*

As the parish has re-opened, all recovery groups (AA and Al Anon) have been invited to resume their meetings. Please check with their organizers or the parish office for details.

## Computer Help is Available



If you or someone you know is having difficulty accessing our online services,

the weekly E-pistle or our web site ... or who would like to participate in our Zoom offerings but don't know how ... please let Fr Douglas or KC know. We have parishioners who are willing to help you and also make sure your equipment and internet connection are working properly. We don't want anyone to miss an opportunity to be part of the life of St Andrew's!

## Kent Food Bank



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

Kent Community Fund  
P.O. Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757

\*Remember to put Food Bank in the memo of your check.

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of our town's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro.

The Kent Food Bank is also taking food donations during this difficult time.

The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of:

*Staples such as beans, rice, tea,  
coffee, sugar, nuts,  
hot & cold breakfast cereals,  
peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna*

Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays  
from 9.00 to Noon  
*in the back of the Community House  
on Main Street.*

*Please DO NOT come into the Food Bank, but leave  
outside the door.*

## Lectons for this Week

### **The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Year B*

1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11,22-30,41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69



## 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.



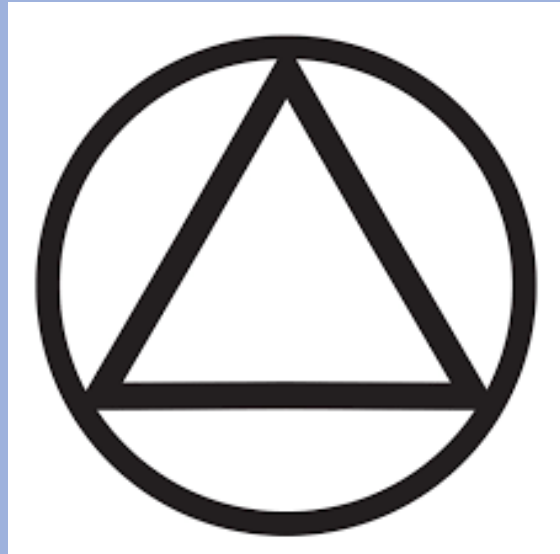
**-Holy Days-**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
6.00 p.m.

## 12 Step Meetings

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

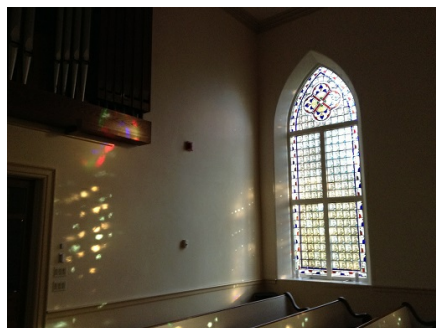
**Thursdays**  
A.A. at 7.30 a.m.  
(Parish House)  
*resumed*  
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.  
(Old Vestry Room)  
*resumed*

**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](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)  
860-592-0171



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

**KC Compton,**  
Parish Administrator

**Joan I Cassel**  
Financial Secretary

**Bill McLaren,**  
Sexton

**Randy Osolin,**  
Verger



St Andrew's Church  
P. O. Box 309  
1 N. Main St.  
Kent, CT 06757

860.927.3486  
[st.andrew.kent@snet.net](mailto:st.andrew.kent@snet.net)

Parish office open everyday except Friday from 10 am- 5 pm  
(2 pm on Thursdays)

Visit St Andrew's website at  
[www.standrewskentct.org](http://www.standrewskentct.org)

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
[www.ctepiscopal.org](http://www.ctepiscopal.org)

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