

December 2020



Holy Apostles "Grapevine"

The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Apostles Episcopal Church
1730 18th Street, P. O. Box 188,
Mitchell, Nebraska, 69357

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel." Is probably one of the most well known and most sung hymns of the Advent season. Certain verses have even been marked to use on certain days in Advent. The original version is a Gregorian chant from the 9th century. When sung in that manner the song is a haunting plaintive cry—O Come....

A plaintive cry, fitting for Advent this year. We are weary, we are anxious, we are frustrated and we long for this thing called 'pandemic' to be over. It has pulled at the fiber of strained relationships. It has clouded what is referred to as executive function. (the process and ability to make even simple decisions.) It has driven us into corners such as maskers and unmaskers, each vilifying the other side as either wanting to control or not caring about others. We are all hurting. *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel."*

The people of God, bearers of God's creative and redeeming work in the world, are in need of redeeming, now more than ever. This refrain is a reminder really, that the church, (FYI, this hymn was born in Christian monasteries and the poetic references speak to the notion of the church longing for Christ to come again.) is called to bring God's salvation to the rest of the world, the church, and the people of God who remain in need of redemption. This is Advent.

Maybe it is finally time to reclaim Advent for what it was intended. No, it is not a countdown to the big day. It is not a time to make a list and check it twice. It is a time to live out the Lord's Prayer: thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. The kingdom of God has not fully arrived, the world still sits in darkness. Christ the King Sunday is New Year's Eve in the Church year and Advent tells us again that the church imperfect and frail as it is in an imperfect and dark world awaits the coming of our Redeemer, who will free us from our captivity (our sin included).

So as healthcare workers labor to keep their heads above water and teachers valiantly and anxiously pull together lesson plans, and laborers in homes, offices and factories try to decide what's best for family, work and community, and all of us struggle with exhaustion and disappointment let us join our voices plaintively, recalling we don't have all the answers, we still see as in a mirror dimly, and so we cry out together,

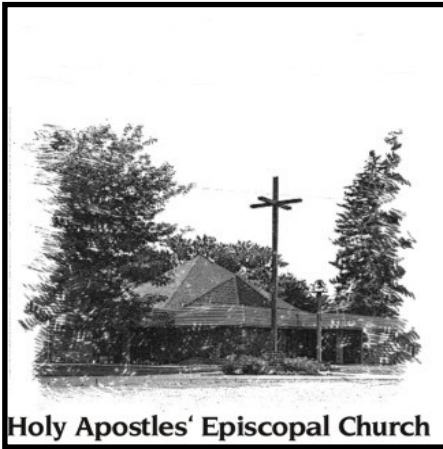
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive us."

trusting that Jesus, Emmanuel, the Word made flesh, will indeed come.

Only then can we find our Christmas cheer and proclaim,
"Merry Christmas!"

Pastor Chris





Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church

1730 18th Street/P.O. Box 188
 Mitchell, NE, 69357
 308/623-1969 E
 mail: holyapostlesne@gmail.com
 Sunday Worship@10:30 a.m.
 Office Hours: Mornings-MTW

**Mitchell Ministerial
 Association
Food Pantry**

Contact Number: 308/641-7326

This month's Food Pantry Request :

Fruit/Vegetable Juices

BackPack Program

This month's BackPack Request:

Individual Packets of Dried Milk

Individual Cereal Boxes

Thank you for your generosity!

**Advent Devotionals
 are available for you
 to pick up at the
 church. Don't have a
 key to the church,
 contact Pastors Chris
 or Sheryl to make
 other arrangements
 to pick one up.**

Family Christmas Baskets

Margaret has once again agreed to do the Christmas baskets, we have 6 kids. If anyone would like to make a donation to help Margaret purchase items for the gift baskets they can get in touch with her directly or leave a donation at the church clearly marked Christmas baskets by Sunday, Dec. 13th. Thanks for your caring!



FYI-Names and Contact Information

Priests-in-charge:	The Reverend Chris Kester-Beyer	(402)694-9189 (cell)
	The Reverend Sheryl Kester-Beyer	(402)694-9182 (cell)
Deacon:	The Reverend Angela Jones	(308)631-1922 (cell)
Senior Warden:	Maryruth Reed	(308)6263-2491
Junior Warden :	Leann Sato	(308)641-9083 (cell)
Holy Apostles Website:	www.holyapostlesmitchell.org	Facebook: Holy Apostles Mitchell NE

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Bishop:	The Rt. Reverend J. Scott Barker	Sbarker@episcopal-ne.org
Canon to the Ordinary:	The Revered Canon Elizabeth Easton	Leaston@episcopal-ne.org
Diocesan Administrator	Lachisha Baskin	Dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org
Director of Finance:	Beth Byrne	Bbyrne@episcopal-ne.org

Virtual Christmas Eve Service @ 5:30 p.m. Holy Communion & Candles Available from 4 to 5 p.m.

Due to continued high Covid-19 numbers in our area, it is with great sadness and disappointment that we are presently planning for our *Christmas Eve Service to be Online Only this year via Facebook Live at 5:30 p.m.* As part of our Christmas Eve worship, we will also be *providing Holy Communion from 4 to 5 p.m. as well as providing candles and drip protectors for you to use at home* during the traditional candle lighting part of the service. Should you wish to receive Holy Communion outside the 4 to 5 p.m. time frame; talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl. Please note: should Covid-19 numbers unexpectedly drop below the 20 per 100,000 threshold set by Bishop Barker for in-person worship, and we are able to have in-person Christmas Eve Worship, we will notify you of our change in plans as soon as possible.



Create Your Own Advent Wreath or Tray at Home

As we begin our Advent journey this year while worshipping at home, we want to invite you to consider putting together your own Advent wreath or tray for use during our worship times together. If you don't have an Advent wreath or tray, you can create one simply by taking a plate or tray and placing 4 candles (traditionally blue, but any color of candles can be used) on the plate or tray; feel free to arrange them however you wish. You could also place a blue cloth underneath your advent tray, especially if you don't have blue candles. Then during worship on Sundays, when we light the Advent candle(s) during worship, light your Advent candles at home and of course, feel free to light your advent candles during your own devotion times or perhaps meal times as a way to remind ourselves of the light of the world whose birth we await and celebrate on Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve or Day, you may add a fifth candle (traditionally white) to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.

December Birthdays

Dec 4 Patty Kurtz

Dec 6 Margaret Fiegel

Dec 4 Rich Taedter

Dec 15 Nick Sakurada

Dec 7 Scott Lane

Dec 19 Lucy Jones

Dec 7 Robert Marlowe

Dec 23 Merrill Newman

December Anniversaries

Dec 4 Mark & Annette Knaub

Dec 30 Lee & Jenny Hughson

Dec 31 Abel & Amber Plasencio

December Flowers

12/9 Given By: Margaret Fiegel In Memory of: Lowell Fiegel, Margaret & James Haggerty



*Christmas Eve
5:30 PM Livestream
worship
via our Facebook page
or
Holyapostlesmitchell.org*

“I am bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day...a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 2nd Sunday in Advent Worship @ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday in Advent Worship @ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 4th Sunday in Advent Worship @ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live	21	22	23	24 Holy Communion 4 to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship @ 5:30 PM on FB Live	25 Christmas Day	26
27 1st Sunday after Christmas Worship @ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

**On December 20th (the 3rd Sunday of the Month)
any cash received will go to the Priest's Discretionary Fund. Thanks for your generosity!**