



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



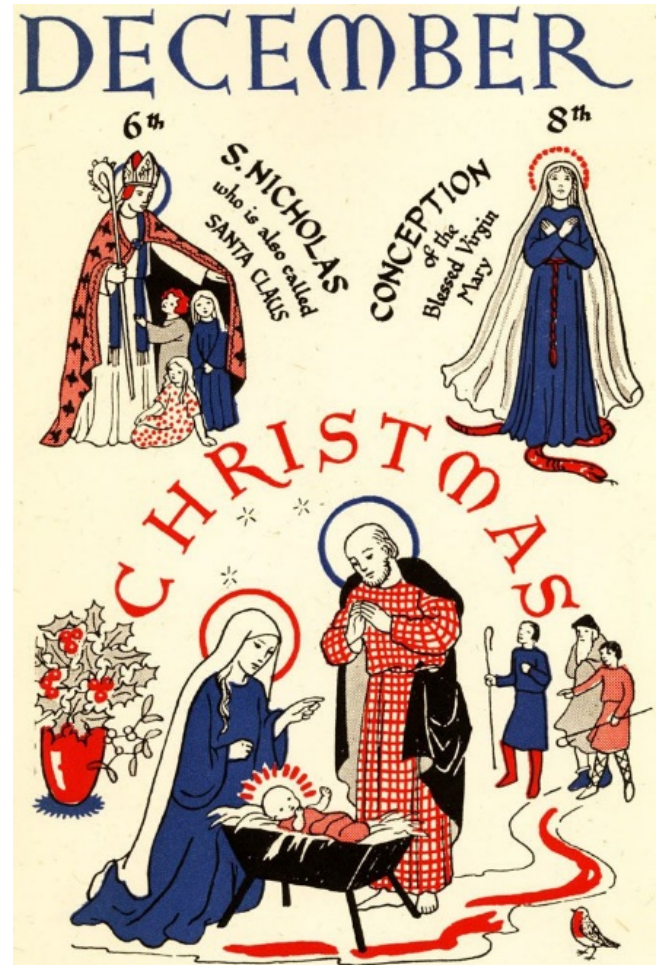
Advent is among us! The purple hangings are up; the church is adorned with subtle Advent greens; and for the next four weeks we will sing hymns of expectation

and waiting.

This Advent we have two special worship and fellowship offerings. The first is our Advent Family Day on Saturday, December 3, at 10:00 a.m. All families with young children are invited to this fun-filled day of interactive learning. The second is our *Let Us Keep the Feast!* mass and dinner for the feast of Saint Lucy on Tuesday, December 13, at 5:30 P.M. As always, we will begin with Low Mass in the Church followed by a festive dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

As this will be the last issue of *The Herald* before Christmas, I invite you and your loved ones to celebrate the holidays at Saint John's. And this year our Christmas observance will begin a bit earlier than previous years. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, at 5:00 p.m., our choir will offer a service of Lessons & Carols. Join us to sing your

favorite carols, hear the Christmas Story, and let the voices of our choir fill you with Christmas peace and joy.



On Christmas Eve, we will begin our round of services with our Family Mass & Nativity Pageant at 4:30 p.m. This is a joyful and heartwarming Christmas service for all ages. This year our Sunday School is putting together a pageant which will include a traditional crib service: a telling of the Nativity story and a procession to the creche.

Our Christmas Eve observance continues with a prelude of carols at 9:30 p.m., followed by Solemn Mass at 10:00 p.m. This year our choir will offer Joseph Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai*. Expect breathtaking and glorious choral music, accompanied by orchestra, along with holiday classics like "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "Silent Night."

On Christmas Day, our celebration continues with a simple yet proper Low Mass & Carols at 9:30 a.m. Please note that there will be only one mass at 9:30 a.m. on *both* Christmas Day and on Sunday, January 1, the Feast of the Holy Name. This year both fall on a Sunday.

And just in case you are still in need of some joyful festivities after the 12 days of Christmas: on Sunday, January 8, we will welcome back to Saint John's our Bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Audrey Scanlan. Bishop Scanlan will celebrate and preach at both the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. masses.

At the 10:30 a.m. mass, the Bishop will offer the Sacrament of Confirmation, a rite in which mature Christians express a commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a Bishop. If you're interested in being confirmed or received into The Episcopal Church, please reach out and join me for one of our Pilgrims in Christ sessions on either Saturday, December 17, or January 7. Confirmation and reception are defined as claiming your

membership in this part of the Church Catholic if you were previously confirmed in the Roman, Orthodox, or Lutheran Churches. More information on these offerings appears later in this issue of *The Herald*.

I hope that you have a wonderful Advent, a joyful Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Advent Blessings.
Fr. Carlos†

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

Dear friends,

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." ~ John 1:9



While listening to Fr. Carlos's sermon last Sunday, I got a sudden sense of awe as we celebrated the first Sunday in Advent. The Christmas season is special to me: the chill in the air, the decorations going up, people passing by and saying Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays (never cared for that one; it's *Christmas*).

This week folks participated in Giving Tuesday, the chance to give to different organizations through the Centre Foundation. I watched as people gave online to their favorite organization, while the total donations kept increasing every second. St. John's was active in giving to six different groups. It shines a

light on who we are as a church family. I am humbled to be your deacon in representing our church through your support. May light shine in your hearts this Advent season.

Fr. Carlos and I recently discussed a new ministry that we hope to start in January. It has to do with the trauma unit at Mt. Nittany Hospital. Basically, it entails providing clothing for people who come to the hospital after a fire, accident, or sexual abuse, and whose clothing needs to be kept as evidence. More information will be available in January.

Through your support I brought meals to 90 people at Centre Care during November and will also provide meals during Christmas. Many of the staff will be off, so food will be provided to the residents. I still have been going to Centre Care for the monthly Liturgy of the Word. The residents there are always grateful to have a service, along with songs of the season.

My dear friend Frank, who has cancer, is still among us, so Ellen and I have been going to New York City every other week to support him and his wife, Terry. He is strong-willed, and after 14 weeks he is still around. A little story about the priest who visits and brings communion to him: after the third visit, the priest told Frank it's ok to let go and let God have him; hahahhaha! Frank looked at the priest and said, "Father, I'm trying

my best to go, but God needs me here a little while longer, so I guess I'll keep praying till that time." God bless him.

I attended our diocesan deacons' retreat at Kenbrook Retreat Centre in Lebanon, PA, led by Bishop Audrey. We studied scripture and practiced leadership skills during the weekend. It was a worthwhile gathering to be among fellow deacons to learn what others are doing and to support each other.

On December 5, I will be at the graduating nursing program at CPI and praying for all our new nurses. I pray and hope that some will go to Centre Care, since there is such a shortage of nurses there. I want to thank all of you for your support throughout the year, spiritually and monetarily. I could not assist so many without your support. Thank you and have a Blessed Christmas.

~Deacon Alex†



SAINT JOHN'S



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

S H A R I N G I N G R A C E

As of Wednesday, November 30, we have received 38 pledges for a total of \$156,768. THANK YOU for your generosity!

Please remember that our parish budget is determined by the total amount of pledges received. The Vestry will begin to work on next year's budget in early December. Our total pledge goal to secure our day-to-day operations is \$170,000; we are only \$13,232 away from reaching our goal.

If you have not already done so, please consider making a financial pledge to support our shared life and ministry at Saint John's. You can now fill out a digital pledge card, here: <https://stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.breezechms.com/form/da9d94>

You can also make a one-time gift to support next year's budget by visiting

our giving page and selecting "2023 Budget Contribution" from the drop-down list, here:

<https://stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.breezechms.com/give/online>

THE REVEREND TED CHRISTOPHER'S ORDINATION TO THE SACRED ORDER OF PRIEST



By the Grace of God,

The Right Reverend Audrey C. Scanlan
XI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
Will Ordain

Edward Barse Christopher

To The Sacred Order of Priests
In Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church

On Saturday, December 10th, 2022

At 11 o'clock in the morning

At

Pasquerilla Worship Hall

Pasquerilla Spiritual Center
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

For directions and parking, please scan QR code.



Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy are invited to vest and process (red stoles.)
Reception will follow.

RSVP by December 5 to
Ms. Allison Shea at office@standrewsc.org

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT SAINT JOHN'S
Saturday, December 10

During Victorian Christmas, Saint John's will be serving as a concert site for the weekend's festivities.

Concerts Taking Place at Saint John's
During Victorian Christmas:

11:30 a.m. – State College Tri-M Honor
Society music students

12:45 p.m. – Paul Leskowitz and SCHS
Jazz students

2 p.m. – Rick Hirsch and the Fraser St.
Saxophone Ensemble

3:15 p.m. – Ned Wetherald, organ recital

Visit

<https://bellefontevictorianchristmas.com>
for more information

LET US KEEP THE FEAST!

Low Mass & Dinner for Saint Lucy's Day
Tuesday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m.



Let us keep the Feast! is a monthly worship and dinner series that celebrates feast days of the Church that would otherwise go unobserved.

Come and celebrate the feast of Saint Lucy, patron saint of the blind. We will begin with Low Mass accompanied by organ music and cantor. For dinner we will enjoy Swedish meatballs, baked salmon, mashed potatoes, roasted veggies, and wine and soft drinks. Bring your prayers and a hearty appetite.

To assist with food preparations, please RSVP for dinner by confirming your attendance on Facebook or by contacting the parish office:
office@stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org.

PILGRIMS IN CHRIST:

A Morning Session on the Sacrament of Confirmation & Reception into The Episcopal Church
Saturday, December 17 & January 7 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.



Those interested in learning more about the Sacrament of Confirmation and

Reception into The Episcopal Church are invited to a morning session and brunch in the Rectory. We will review the rites for the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation, as well as formal Reception into The Episcopal Church for those Baptized and Confirmed in the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, or Lutheran churches. Your participation is expected if you wish to be Confirmed or Received during the Bishop's upcoming visit on **Sunday, January 8, 2023.**

Two meeting dates are scheduled: December 17 and January 7 at 10:00 a.m. Please let Fr. Carlos know if you plan to attend and if either of the dates works for you. Email Fr. Carlos to confirm your attendance at one of these gatherings or if you have a scheduling conflict:
Rector@stjohnsepiscopalbelleville.org

All those who wish to be Confirmed or Received during the Bishop's Visit, please let Fr. Carlos know by **Monday, January 2, 2023.**

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

We begin the Advent season with a special event this Saturday, December 3. During this time we will pray together, learn about the season of Advent, and make Advent wreaths for our homes. As always, refreshments will be served.

Children are invited to participate during this year's family Christmas Eve service. Please let Miss Ellen or Fr. Carlos know if your child will take part in this service.

**EPISCOPAL VISITATION ON THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
January 8, 2023**

On Sunday, January 8, we will welcome back to Saint John's our Bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Audrey Scanlan. Bishop Scanlan will celebrate and preach at both the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. masses. Please mark your calendars.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lillian	North	December 2
Kathryn	Grossman	December 6
Bill	Donovan	December 7
Claire	Bonner	December 9
Vivienne	Clayton	December 9
Thomas	Quigley	December 10
Carl	Meeker	December 17
Stuart	Hough	December 23
Ellen	Dyakiw	December 27



O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30PM FAMILY MASS &
NATIVITY PAGEANT

9:30PM CAROLS OF THE SEASON

10:00PM SOLEMN HIGH MASS
MISSA SANCTI NICOLAI, FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30AM LOW MASS & CAROLS



2022 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS



Saint John’s Altar Guild is receiving contributions to assist in decorating the church for Christmas. Please use this form for making your donation. All forms and donations should be returned to the parish office no later than **Sunday, December 18**. Checks should be made payable to **St. John’s Episcopal Church** and should be clearly marked **Christmas Decorations** on the memo line.

You can also donate online by visiting our giving page (<http://stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org/giving>) and selecting “Christmas Flowers & Decorations” from the drop-down menu. You may type your dedication in the message box, or you can email your dedication to the Parish Office (office@stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org), which will appear in our Christmas Orders of Service.

YOUR NAME(S):

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

LOOKING AHEAD!

New Year's Schedule & Bishop's Visitation



Please mark your calendars accordingly for our post-Christmas Day festivities!

Vestry Meeting November 16, 2022

Rector's Report:

- Holiday Season
 - Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sunday.
 - Discussed with Erik Clayton the schedule and decision is to have one single mass on those Sundays at 9:30. It will be a Rite One mass with Christmas carols.
 - Christmas Eve.
 - 4:30 p.m. Family Mass.
 - 9:30 p.m. Christmas Carols followed by Solemn Mass at 10:00 p.m.
 - Advent Family Day 12/3.
 - Host to Victorian Christmas 12/10:
 - Sign-up sheet for volunteers to greet guests.
- Bishop visit will be January 8th
 - She would like to meet with vestry as part of her formal visit.
- Floor renovations
 - Altar platform will arrive next Monday 11/21, two months early.
- Pledge Update
 - Behind from this point last year.
 - Haven't seen any new pledgers, but have seen increase in amounts pledged.
- Bat Removal
 - Have begun some work.
 - Sealed some areas inside the church.
 - Splitting project in two parts:
 - Will finish up inside.
 - Do the outside in the spring.
- Grant Application Update
 - Did not receive the grant. The grant committee would like to see more collaboration with other churches in Centre County.
 - May take on a different project such as a traveling choir. Will readdress the matter in the spring.
- Directory
 - Is live now.
 - Thank you, Deb Cree and Peggy Jackson, for your work on this.
 - Thought is during annual meeting print out copies to distribute.
 - Provide a link for others to print out if they so choose.
- Last Fundraiser
 - Huge success. Sold out in 1.5 hours. Made \$2,800.
 - Thank you, Charlotte Zmyslo, and other volunteers. Father Carlos read a card he received about the lost art of making cabbage rolls.

Treasurer Report:

- Noticed uptick in pledges received.
- Miscellaneous amount under income and expenses are high because moved money from memorial fund to pay for floors.

Senior Warden

- Thank you, Charlotte Zmyslo, for all your efforts on last fundraiser.
 - Discussion on how successful dinner was. Father Carlos stated that we brought in \$1K more than was projected from parish fundraising dinners this year; barely any advertising costs.

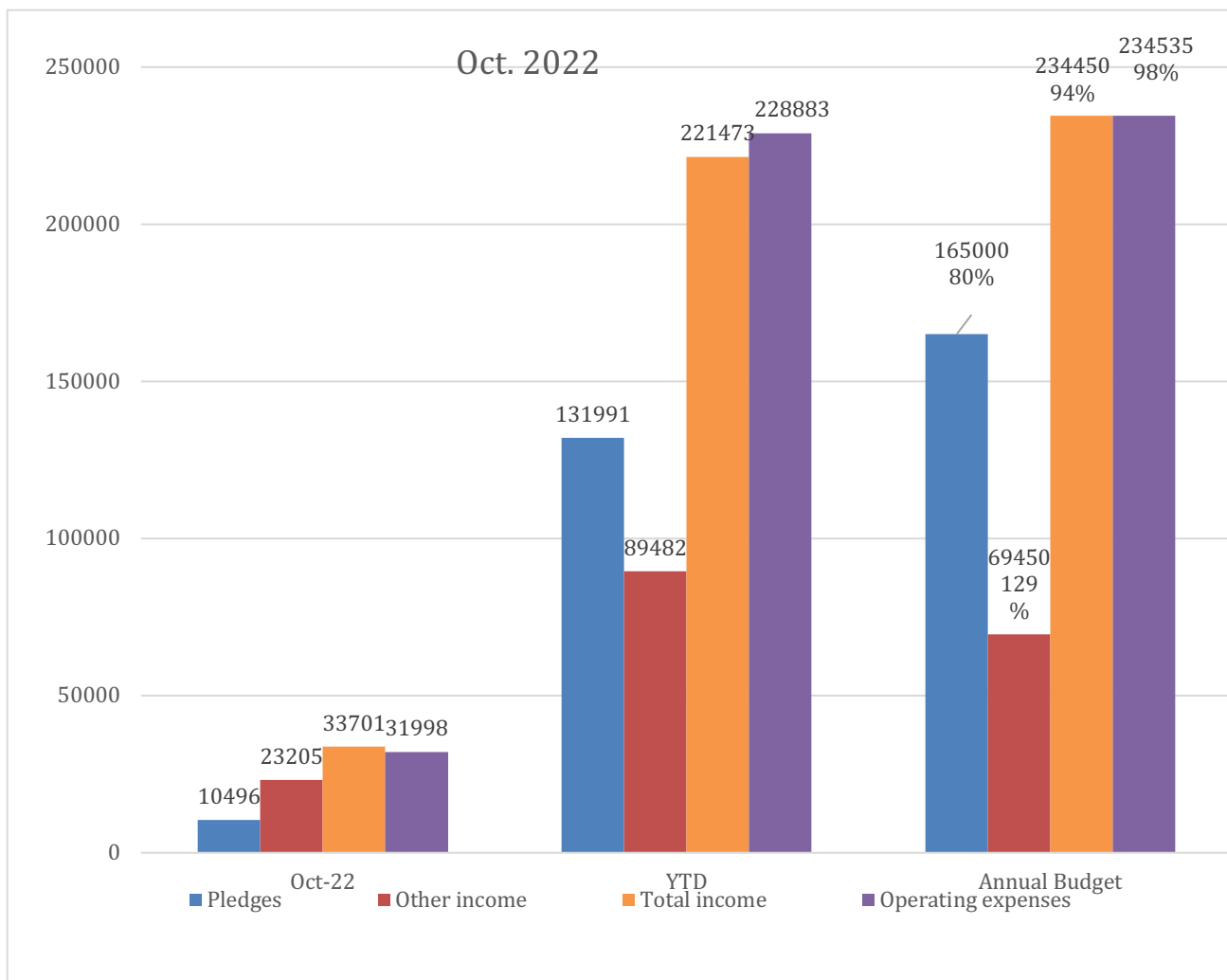
New Business

- Budget Group
 - T. Quigley, C. Zmyslo, and C. Fyfe volunteered to meet with Barbara and Father Carlos to discuss budget in early December.
- Columbarium
 - Being built now.
 - Discussion regarding price to charge. P. Jackson suggested we make everyone aware of what this included. (service, niche, urn, and use of the hall for a reception).
 - Cost chart was shared again.
 - C. Zmyslo liked the 35% price, very cost-effective.
 - D. Cree suggested the 35% be minimum (introductory offer) and perhaps increase the price each year.
 - L. Helms suggested we start off at 35% then rethink in a year.
 - T. Quigley suggested the price be rounded off to \$1,525.
 - Motion to approve 35% was passed.
 - Father Carlos would like help in creating a letter presenting the Columbarium to parish. D. Cree, L. Roberson, and P. Jackson volunteered.

Financial:

	Oct-22	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	10496	131991	165000	80%
Other income	23205	89482	69450	129%
Total income	33701	221473	234450	94%
Operating expenses	31998	228883	234535	98%
Net	1703	-7410		

Numbers do not include investments, savings, or checking acct balance.



ADVENT CALENDAR 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 Worship Advent 1</p> <p>Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?</p>	<p>28 Go</p> <p>Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.</p>	<p>29 Learn</p> <p>Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.</p>	<p>30 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.</p>	<p>1 Bless</p> <p>We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.</p>	<p>2 Turn</p> <p>Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?</p>	<p>3 Rest</p> <p>Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.</p>
<p>4 Worship Advent 2</p> <p>Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?</p>	<p>5 Go</p> <p>Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.</p>	<p>6 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.</p>	<p>7 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.</p>	<p>8 Bless</p> <p>Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.</p>	<p>9 Turn</p> <p>Where did you struggle this week? Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.</p>	<p>10 Rest</p> <p>Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.</p>
<p>11 Worship Advent 3</p> <p>Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.</p>	<p>12 Go</p> <p>Take a new or different route to work, or school, or out to run errands. See how using a different route requires you to see the world differently — to pay a different kind of attention. What do you notice along the way that makes you stop and take a second look? Does anything on this new route inspire your faith journey or remind you of lessons learned?</p>	<p>13 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.</p>	<p>14 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.</p>	<p>15 Bless</p> <p>Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.</p>	<p>16 Turn</p> <p>Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal. Turn your attention toward how you will be resting tomorrow, and put things in place so you can make the most of your sabbath time.</p>	<p>17 Rest</p> <p>Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.</p>
<p>18 Worship Advent 4</p> <p>Linger before leaving your worship time today. How is God calling you to hear and sing along with Mary's Song? Read Luke 1:39-55.</p>	<p>19 Go</p> <p>Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.</p>	<p>20 Learn</p> <p>Read Habakkuk 2:1-4. Does this reading remind you of Thomas the disciple? Why do you think the folks who organized the lectionary picked this reading from the Old Testament for this friend of Jesus?</p>	<p>21 Pray</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 4, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. Pick three or four of your beloveds to focus your prayers on today. Make sure to leave some silent space for God to offer you some wisdom about what they may need right now.</p>	<p>22 Bless</p> <p>Make sure to pick up an extra present or two — a nice candy sampler or a warm pair of slippers or pajama pants, just in case you have extra friends or guests drop by. Ask God to bless those who travel and those who may be alone in the coming days. Take some bottled water and sports drinks over to your local community cold weather shelter. They will be extra glad to have that during the winter months.</p>	<p>23 Turn</p> <p>If you are gathering with friends and family today, consider taking time during the meal to turn to the folks on your right, and then on your left, to thank them for their love in your life. See how this might spread some joy and comfort around the table — or maybe even ease some potentially prickly guests.</p>	<p>24 Rest Christmas Eve</p> <p>The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.</p>