



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



The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
(Ancient Roman mosaic)

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are doing well.

The death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, on 26 December, caught many of us off-guard. There had been little recent news of his declining health, and because he died the day after Christmas, commemorations of him vied with many other sentiments and activities of the season.

Nevertheless, it is only fitting that we pay tribute to a fellow Anglican, a fellow Christian and a fellow child of God who so prominently served as the conscience of his country ... and also of the world ... during his long and venerable career. The Rt Rev Ian Douglas, our bishop diocesan, knew "Arch" personally, and the tribute to him that Ian published when he died appears below. He does a far better job than I could of capturing the essence of this spiritual and moral hero of his times.

I will, then, only share this prayer that the Archbishop adapted from one originally written by Sir Francis Drake and that I heard only recently.

Disturb us, O Lord

*when we are too well-pleased with ourselves
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.*

Disturb us, O Lord

*when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life
when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.*

Stir us, O Lord

*to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow.
Amen.*

We don't usually pray to be disturbed—for God to poke and prod and discomfit us. But it is a sound and necessary prayer. In times of ease, we can be tempted to bask in all we've accomplished or accumulated. And even in times of distress, sometimes we can be tempted to think we've tried enough or to lower our standards or diminish our dreams. In *all* times, we do need to "dream of eternity" and let Jesus "push[] back the horizons of our hopes." To honor the late Archbishop, I think I will 'try on' this prayer for a season, and maybe some of you will care to, as well.

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)

This Week at St Andrew's

Friday, 07 January	Prayer & Meditation	5:30 pm
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Saturday, 08 January	Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am
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Saturday, 08 January	Finance Commission	2:30 pm
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Saturday, 08 January	Education Commission	3:30 pm
Sunday, 09 January	Holy Eucharist: <i>Epiphany 1: The Baptism of Our Lord (in person only)</i>	8:30 am
Sunday, 09 January	Holy Eucharist: <i>Epiphany 1: The Baptism of Our Lord (in person and live-streamed)</i>	10:30 am
Sunday, 09 January	Coffee Hour	11:40 am
Wednesday, 12 January	Racial Reconciliation Study Group	4:00 pm
Wednesday, 12 January	Mid-Week Eucharist <i>(in person and live-streamed)</i>	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 12 January	A.A. for Women <i>(Zoom meeting; email us for info)</i>	7:00 pm
Thursday, 13 January	A.A. Meeting <i>(Parish House)</i>	7:30 am
Thursday, 13 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 Tom Holcombe Sacred Music Concert & Farewell	11:40 am
Sunday, 27 February		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 - perhaps even as soon as next week! - 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) 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

Epiphany Tradition: Chalking the Doors



The Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord, on Thursday, 06 January, ushered 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)



Celebrating KML's Centennial: A Very St Andrew's Drama!

In Conjunction with the Kent Memorial Library's Centennial Celebration

BRICKS & BOOKS


A Dramatized History of the Kent Memorial Library

**Saturday, January 29, 2022
at 6:00 p.m.**

St. Andrew's Parish House, 1 North Main Street

[Snow date
Sunday,
February 6]

**A reception will follow. Free & open to the public. Please register.
Masks Required. Proof of Vaccination is Required for Entry.**



It may interest you to know that parishioner Georgianne Kent wrote this history, and our own Jane Farnol will direct it. Herman Harmelink, Lyra Wilder, Katherine Almquist, Ryan Foote and Fr Douglas are all slated to take part, as well.

Now Available:
2022 Liturgical Calendars

Well, fear not! **This 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
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.

Lectons for this Week

The First Sunday After the Epiphany

Year C

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



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.



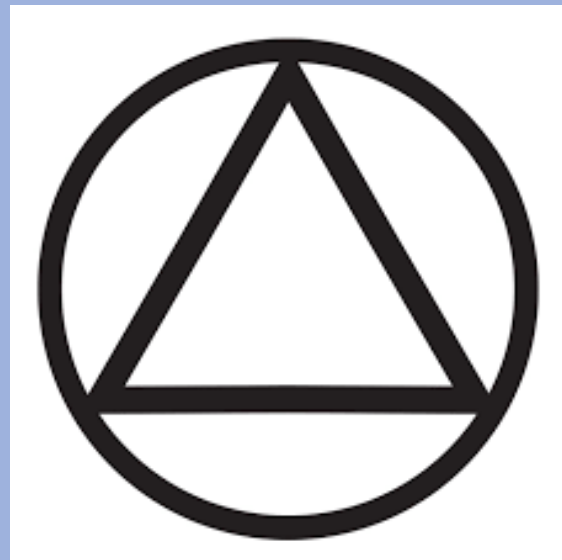
-Holy Days-
Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.

12 Step Meetings

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

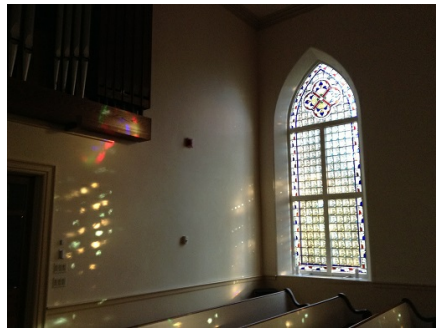
Thursdays
A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Parish House)
resumed
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)
resumed

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
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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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Kent, CT 06757**

**860.927.3486
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**

**The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.ctepiscopal.org**

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