

E-pistle



Saint Andrew's Parish
Kent, Connecticut



St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

Parish Closed. Either the Town of Kent and/or a majority of the surrounding towns is in red status on the [Connecticut COVID Data Tracker](#). Therefore *all worship services will be pre-recorded and made available on [our YouTube account](#)* at least an hour before they were scheduled to occur. In addition, all *other parish activities will either be suspended or move to online-only*; participants in those activities will be updated separately. The parish will remain in closed status until both Kent and a majority of the surrounding towns are less-than-red for two successive Thursdays.

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I found a good deal of inspiration this week in a reflection I received as part of the #AdventWord series. I thought I would share it with you as my offering for this week.

May the remaining few days of Advent be a blessed time of preparation and anticipation for you, and may your Christmas be peaceful, joyous and restorative, as Our Lord and Savior comes ... again.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

#GO by Miriam McKenney

The seven practices of the Way of Love interconnect often. When it comes to the practice Go, we often add words. Go and preach. Go and serve. Go and listen. Go and worship. Go and pray. In our walks of faith following Jesus, we must find the courage to go beyond our comfortable communities and companions into unknown places and spaces. Doing that work takes practice; I don't know many people who thrive when thrust continuously into unfamiliar situations.

As we go down the road to Bethlehem with Mary this Advent season, what looks and sounds different? What do you see and hear that is the same as you remember? Many of us have had to change how we go in our daily lives. Many of us don't do much going at all. For some of us, we are on a spiritual journey, or as author and social justice advocate Dr. Catherine Meeks calls it, a journey to the heart. As we go within, we encounter darkness and light, lightness and dark, just as Mary and Jesus do as her time to deliver draws nearer.

What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light. Lightness and darkness elicit positive and negative characteristics. In our society, we can attach singular definitions to one or the other, such as the extremely simplistic approach of light is good and dark is bad. We've all seen how that narrow thinking plays out, and we can go deeper. A baby thrives in the darkness of its mother's womb; in darkness, it receives everything that it needs. We grow and thrive in the dark, like seeds sown into good earth.

In my heart's journey this Advent, I'm crossing the boundary that says light and dark is black and white. When God chose to bring the light of the world to the earth on a night in Bethlehem from Mary's womb, God makes it clear that dark and light cannot exist without each other. Too much of one and not enough of the other withers and destroys. Going deeper into our hearts might find us needing to shine a light on unseen and unknown recesses. We can only do this after we take some time to adjust our vision to the dark to see what our heart has hidden so that when the lights come on and temporarily blind us, we remember where to look.

My heart journey this Advent finds me seeking a baby born into darkness who brings us great light and life. Baby Jesus will soon be here for all of us to hold and love—some of us in the hush of night as he fusses and cries, and some of us in the bustle of the day when he sleeps. And we will bind him to us, to go and share this good news.

This meditation originally found in Waiting and Watching: Advent Word Reflections published by Forward Movement.

Weekly Schedule for 20 December

Note: To attend any services please sign up beforehand

Services are limited to 25 socially distanced attendees (with masks)

Friday, 18 December	Prayer and Meditation <i>suspended</i> Friday Night AA Group (Parish House) <i>temporarily</i> <i>until First Church opens</i> <i>suspended</i>	5:30 pm 8 pm
Sunday, 20 December	Holy Eucharist <i>(online)</i> Vestry Meeting Evening Prayer & Benediction <i>(online)</i>	10:30 am 11:45 am-12:45 pm 5 pm
Monday, 21 December	Holy Eucharist: Feast of St Stephen <i>(online)</i>	6:00 pm
Tuesday, 22 December	Tai Chi (Great Room) <i>suspended</i>	7:30 pm
Wednesday, 23 December	Tai Chi (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Holy Eucharist <i>(online)</i> AA Meeting for Women (Zoom) <i>email for info.</i>	4:30 pm 6 pm 7 pm
Thursday, 24 December	AA Thursday Morning Meeting (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Al-Anon Meeting (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Holy Eucharist: Christmas Eve <i>(online)</i>	7:30 am 7 pm 9:00 pm
Friday, 25 December	Holy Eucharist: Christmas Day <i>(online)</i> Prayer and Meditation <i>suspended</i>	10:00 am 5:30 pm
Saturday, 26 December	Holy Eucharist: Feast of St Stephen <i>(online)</i>	6:00 pm

*Note: The 10.30 a.m. Service is also available
live on YouTube
which you can access*

Christmas Tree Sale Is Over!



Please accept my warm appreciation and thanks for everyone who helped with the Christmas Tree Sale and Mini Bazaar. Even though the trees arrived a week late they literally flew off the stands. Our Treasurer Stephen Morocco says we netted almost \$6,000 after all expenses this year – a record!

It was a most needed boost this year, both financially and socially. Working selling the trees made the season feel a little more festive and a little more normal if that's possible. So thanks again and have a Very Merry Christmas.

Christopher Rehkow

Christmas Flower Donations

As we approach the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, there may be special people in your life whom you would like to hold up in love and thanksgiving and prayer.

If you would like to make a donation toward our special Christmas flowers this year ... in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special or in thanksgiving for the blessings of your life ... please email (st.andrew.kent@snet.net) or telephone (860-927-3486) the parish office with your request.

Your check can follow by snail mail. Requests received by *Monday, 21 December*, will be included in the service bulletins for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

From The Stewardship Commission

Of course, it is *never* too late to pledge, but we will wind down the official pledge season before Christmas in order to have time to finalize the budget for the coming year. Because knowing our pledge income is essential for budgeting, it would be very helpful for those of you who intend to pledge to fill out pledge cards and return them to us.

We are happy to send new cards electronically or by snail mail if yours is a lost sheep, or to record pledges received by email or phone. We are grateful to have had very generous pledge support from so many parishioners and hope that those who have not yet participated in this important part of parish life will now pledge.

Saint Andrew's will be grateful for your financial support in whatever amount is comfortable for you, and even more grateful for the blessing that your commitment represents to the parish. Thank you.

Parish Office *Closed*

The parish office is temporarily closed, which means the phone isn't being answered. Father Douglas checks the voicemail once-a-day, usually around 9:00 am. If you have a more urgent need, please call him at 860-592-0171 or email him at frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

Parish Prayer List Has Been Reset

As we enter a new liturgical year in Advent, we have taken this opportunity to reset the parish prayer list. We are, of course, more than willing to pray for anyone as long as they (or the person who makes the request) may wish. But it is also a good practice to re-visit the list at least once-a-year, to make sure it stays fresh.

If there was a name on the previous parish prayer list that you would like to remain on the list, please let Fr Douglas know, by phone or email.

Margie O'Brien Is Stepping Down as Children's Choir Director

After 20 years, Margie O'Brien has decided that it is time for her to put down the baton, as it were, as director of the St Andrew's Children's Choir. Because of Margie's expertise, energy and dedication, two generations of children have been able to hone their music skills, lift their voices in song and, most importantly, serve God through the leadership of worship at Christmastime and other seasons of the year. We are very grateful to Margie for all of her hard work over the years. Thank you, Margie!!

Sunday Evening Worship During Advent – Will Be Recorded and on YouTube

During Advent this year we will offer an additional time of worship on Sunday

evenings at 5:00: Evening Prayer (without preaching), followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. If you have not experienced it, Benediction is "a short service of hymns and prayers offered while the Sacrament [*i.e.*, the already consecrated Host] is placed on the altar" (*St Augustine's Prayer Book*, 194). The heart of the service is partaking, in silence, in the "the unending blessing flowing from God through the grace of the sacraments." The service ends with the Sacrament being placed back in the tabernacle to the accompaniment of a psalm or hymn. (We will record these liturgies and post them to the parish's YouTube account.)

The venerable tradition of Benediction does not 'speak' to everyone, and if you'd prefer to attend only Evening Prayer, there will an opportunity to exit before Benediction begins. But during these times when we cannot receive communion sacramentally, perhaps you may wish to 'try on' another experience of sacramental grace during Advent... as we prepare for the in-breaking of Christ into this world.

All Recovery Meetings *Suspended*

While the parish is temporarily closed, all recovery group (AA and AI Anon) meetings have been suspended. They will resume when we re-open

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 Heather 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!

Baby Furniture Available

A parishioner has kindly offered a "crib/toddler bed/bassinet" to anyone in the parish ... or beyond ... who may be in need. She is even willing to make a delivery! If you know someone who is interested, please contact Fr Douglas.

Save the Date: Parish Annual Meeting Will Be

We have set the date for next year's annual meeting. It will be held on Sunday, 24 January, around noon. So that *everyone* is able to participate in this important parish event, we have decided to hold the meeting virtually (that is, online; perhaps via Zoom). This way, we will not have to worry about masks, social distancing, attendance limits or anything of that nature. We will work out a way to cast votes well in advance. Please save the date on your calendars.

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.*

Lections for this Week

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year B

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16;
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26;
Romans 16:25-27;
Luke 1:26-38



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



for 25 people with masks at
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



**-Wednesday-
Holy Eucharist**

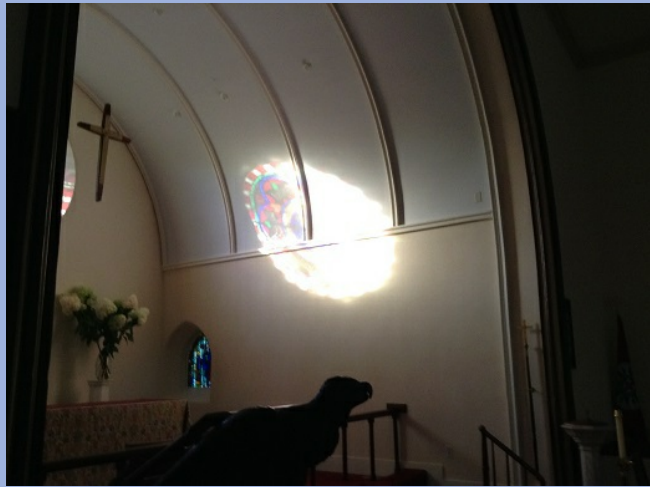
6.00 p.m.
(25 people with masks)

**-Friday-
Prayer & Meditation**

5.30 p.m.
(25 people with masks)

**-Holy Days-
Holy Eucharist**

6.00 p.m.
(25 people with masks)



12 Step Meetings

Wednesdays

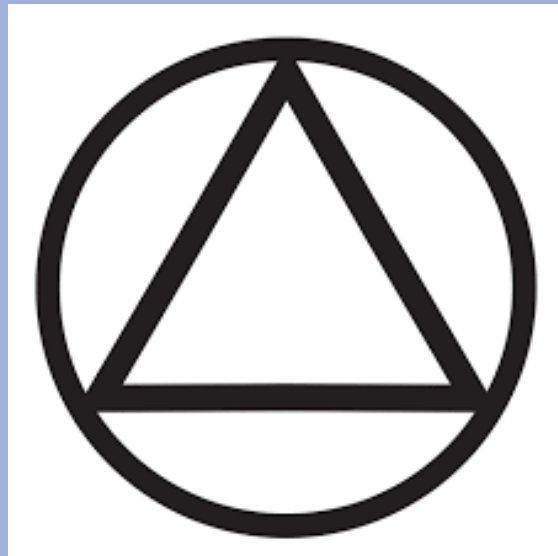
A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting
email us for info.

Thursdays

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Great Room)
suspended
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Great Room)
suspended

Fridays

A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)
temporarily until First Church opens
suspended



Parish Staff

The Rev Douglas S

Worthington,
Provisional
Priest in Charge
frdouglas.sak@gmail.com
860-592-0171

Thomas W Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs



Laura Filippi,
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

Parish office open everyday except Friday from 9 am-6 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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