



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



Joseph recognized by his brothers (Genesis 45)
(Léon Pierre Urbain Bourgeois, 1863)

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are doing well.

A few days ago, I received a sermon preached in 2014 by one of the brothers at the Society of St John the Evangelist, an Anglican monastery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This Sunday's lessons are all about love, and so was Br Curtis' sermon. His words resonated deeply with me, and I wanted to share with you the following excerpt (the full sermon, which I highly recommend, may be found [here](#)):

Participation in Love – Br Curtis Almquist, SSJE

"Each of us should have two pockets," the rabbis teach. "In one [pocket] should be the reminder, 'I am dust and ashes,' and in the other we should have written, 'For me the universe was made.'" (1) For you the universe was made. Why so? Why did God create the universe? Why did God create you? Out of love. For the love of it. But I'm speaking here of your being not just the object of God's love, but also the subject of God's love. God needs you. Those are the shocking words of Meister Eckhart, the 14th century German mystic. (2) God needs you. And centuries later, Martin Buber, the

Jewish philosopher, would confirm the same: "You know always in your heart that you need God more than everything; but do you know too that God needs you?" God does not need you to be eternal, or infinite, or omniscient. But God created you, and God *does* need you, like an artist needs to create. Why do painters paint, and dancers dance, and singers sing? Because they need to, they have to. In creating the artist expresses their own nature: who they are, and what they are, and for what they give their life. And so with God. God needs us because love is of God's very essence. And love does not exist unless it is given away. God needs you, because God is love, and love can only be realized and expressed in relationship: the give and take of love. Julian of Norwich said that there was in God "a desire, a longing, and a thirst from the beginning," and this longing is for relationship. With you. God, if not loving you, and if not loved by you, is somehow incomplete. (3) Love can only be realized and expressed in relationship. God is love.

This is why, in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. In the beginning, God created such a panoply of shapes and colors and creatures, mountain tops and ocean depths, sight, and sound, and sense, all of which dazzles and dazzles with God's glory. But then, there is something amazingly more. God also created human beings in God's very image, the *imago Dei*. Why? To be in relationship. Because God is love, and love only exists in relationship. What is God saying about himself in fashioning us as the creatures we are? (This is the question of the Eastern Orthodox theologian David Bentley Hart.) "[We are] called from nothingness – from dust – to participate in the being that flows from [God], and to manifest [God's] beauty in the depths of our nature." (4) And beauties we are.

1. Quoted from *The Rule of St. Benedict; Insights for the Ages* by Joan Chittister (New York: Crossroad), 1995, p. 81.
2. Meister Eckhart, O.P. (c. 1260 – c. 1327), German Dominican friar, theologian, and mystic.
3. This insight drawn from the Very Rev Michael Mayne (1929-2006), sometime Dean of Westminster Abbey, in his *Learning to Dance* (London: Dart, Longman, and Todd, 2001), pp 157-158.
4. David Bentley Hart, "The Mirror of the Infinite," in *Re-thinking Gregory of Nyssa* p. 112.

** ** *

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

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This Week at St Andrew's

Friday, 18 February	Prayer & Meditation	5:30 pm
Saturday, 19 February	Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am
Sunday, 20 February	Holy Eucharist: <i>Epiphany 7</i> <i>(in person only)</i>	8:30 am

Sunday, 20 February	Holy Eucharist: <i>Epiphany 7</i> <i>(in person and live-streamed)</i>	10:30 am
Monday, 21 February	Bible Study: <i>The Gospel of Luke</i>	11:00 am
Wednesday, 23 February	Worship Committee	11:00 am
Wednesday, 23 February	Mid-week Eucharist <i>(in person and live-streamed)</i>	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 23 February	A.A. for Women <i>(Zoom meeting; email us for info)</i>	7:00 pm
Thursday, 24 February	A.A. Meeting <i>(Parish House)</i>	7:30 am
Thursday, 24 February	Holy Eucharist: <i>The Feast of St Matthias</i> <i>(in person and live-streamed)</i>	6:00 pm
Thursday, 24 February	NO AI-Anon Meeting <i>(Suspended until March)</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*

Sunday, 27 February	Tom Holcombe's Final Service & Farewell	10:30 am
Tuesday, 01 March	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 02 March	Ash Wednesday: <i>Imposition of Ashes</i>	7:30-8:30 am and 12:00-1:00 pm
Wednesday, 02 March	Ash Wednesday: <i>Liturgy of the Day (Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion)</i>	6:30 pm
Saturday, 19 March	Music in the Nave: Manhattan String Quartet	4:00 pm
Saturday, 26 March	"Her-Story," a cabaret celebration of famous women; performed by Suzanne Tanner, narrated by Katherine Almquist, dance by Lyra Wilder (Reception to follow)	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 **High**
- 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.

Tom Holcombe's Farewell: Contribute Toward a Parish Gift



As you know, Tom Holcombe is retiring, and his last Sunday with us will be next week, 27 February. Tom is planning some superb music—choral, organ and hymns—for this day, and afterwards, we will all adjourn to the Parish House for a proper, heartfelt and bittersweet farewell.

Tom and Marty, together, have been both the backbone and the heart of St Andrew's music program for many decades, and we want to send them off with a tangible expression of our love and appreciation. We have purchased a gift from the entire parish that we'll present to them at the reception on the 27th. We want to keep the nature of the gift under wraps until then, but we know they will enjoy it. If you would like to contribute toward its cost, you may put a check in the plate (or drop it by the Parish Office) with the memo "Gift for Tom." Many thanks!!

Update from the St Andrew's Refugee Resettlement Team and an Opportunity to Welcome



The house in New Milford is move-in-ready. We anxiously await the family of six, including four children ages ten to fifteen. We expect them to be here in the next few weeks. Thank you to the Housing Team members and everyone who's been supporting us along the way.

As a way to welcome the family, Fr Douglas suggested that handwritten cards would be a great way to show the family that they are welcome and we are happy to have them here. Since the family speaks very little English, the welcome messages should probably be short and to the point. We think that the children in our parish could especially reach the children of the arriving family by creating cards with artwork and pictorial messages. Please bring your cards and creations to coffee hour at the Parish House **this coming Sunday, 20 February, or the following Sunday, 27 February**. There will be blank cards available on these Sundays if you would like to write a greeting. We will deliver the cards to the house.

Thank you, St Andrew's!

01 March: The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Returns!



Shrove Tuesday

After a brief hiatus, St Andrew's traditional final pre-Lenten hurrah returns on Tuesday, 01 March, at 6:00 pm in the Parish House! Please plan to join us for an evening of fellowship and good times, as well as the full Mardi Gras menu: pancakes, sausages, REAL maple syrup and butter, apple sauce, plus coffee, tea and milk. A free-will offering will be accepted.

(Evening Prayer will be read at 5:30 in the Nave, ahead of the supper. Come for one last opportunity to say "Alleluia" until Easter Day!)

Bob McDowell will be assuming the role of pancake-flipper-in-chief, and he is looking for volunteers to pitch in on the work. He is also looking for three or four flat-top electric griddles to use that night. If you can volunteer either your time and/or a griddle, please be in touch with Bob (860-488-1635 or <mailto:rmcd30@yahoo.com>).

New for Lent: A Small Group Journey Through *The Way of Love*



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

Our primary Lenten offering this year will be a small group that will come together to journey through the Episcopal Church's *Way of Love*. The *Way of Love* is a set of seven very simple disciplines—shown in the graphic, above—intended to connect us with Jesus more regularly and more deeply in our daily lives. It is *not* a lot of reading or theology, but rather a call to personal reflection and experimentation (for example, trying to read the Bible for 10 minutes each day). A brief video introduction to the *Way* is available [here](#). While you can engage the *Way of Love* alone, it's an even richer spiritual journey when taken

as a group: We are enriched by each others' experiences and supported by our commitment to the group.

Therefore, on nine Tuesday evenings, beginning on 08 March a small group will come together at 6:00 pm in the Parish House. We'll share a simple supper and then take time to share with one another ... and discuss how to 'do' the *Way of Love* in our own lives. We'll close each evening with a brief service of Compline, and then be on our way home no later than 8:00.

This really is a low-cost, low-risk spiritual 'try-on' that stresses flexibility, do-ability and being gentle with oneself. It's ideal for anyone who's seeking to go a little deeper ... to live a little more intentionally ... to hold their faith in their heart and not just their head. And all are welcome!! If you would like to be part of St Andrew's *Way of Love* small group (or if you have any questions), please let Fr Douglas know.

Congratulations! Announcing Our New Vestry Members and Officers



We're very happy to announce the results of the election at last Sunday's Annual Meeting:

- *Senior Warden (two-year term):* Randy DiPentima
- *Junior Warden (two-year term):* Katherine Almquist
- *Vestry Class of 2025 (three-year terms):* Patricia Nordskog, Judy Perkins and Michael Ward
- *Vestry Class of 2024 (to fill the unexpired terms of Katherine Almquist and Janet Rivkin, who has stepped down):* Anne Everett and Ned Reade
- *Delegates to ECCT Annual Convention:* Christopher Rehkow and Randy DiPentima
- *Alternate Delegates to Convention:* Ron Marasco and Eric Roper
- *Nominating Committee Chair:* Charmian Place

We heartily thank all those whose terms are ending, and we are blessed to welcome another strong, faithful group of parishioners to succeed them. Thank you, one and all!

From the Town of Kent: Seeking a New Director of Social Services



Town
of **Kent**
CONNECTICUT

We've received the following from the Town of Kent and pass it along to you:

The Town of Kent is looking to hire a **Social Services Director**. The job is full-time, 32 hours a week, at \$30 per hour. Benefits package provided. Applications and a full job description are on the Town of Kent website: townofkentct.org. They are also available from the First Selectman's Office, Kent Town Hall, 41 Kent Green Boulevard, Kent, or by calling 860-927-4627.

Submit a cover letter, resume and application no later than 18 February 2022 (the *new* deadline) to adminassist@townofkentct.org or Town of Kent, Attention Administrative Assistant, P.O. Box 678, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

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. In addition, it is useful for the Director 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 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 Fridays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon 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 Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

Year C

Genesis 45:3-11,15

Psalms 37:1-12

1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

Luke 6:27-38



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

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

(10.30 a.m. available live

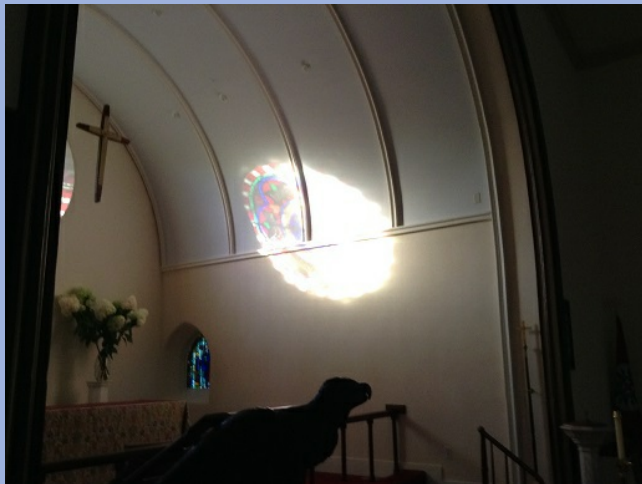


stream on YouTube)

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

**-Friday-
Prayer & Meditation**
5.30 p.m.

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

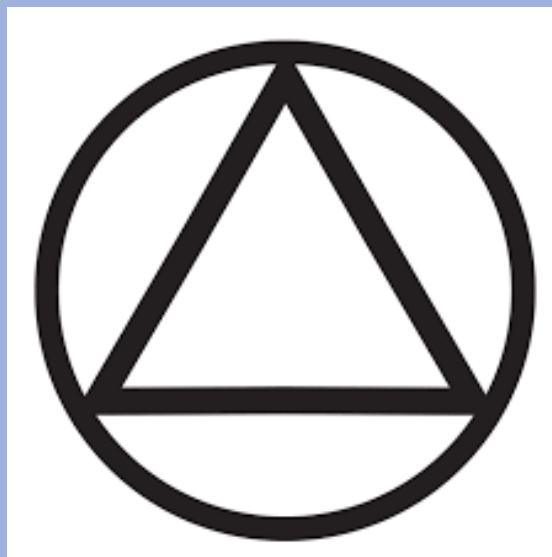


12 Step Meetings

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

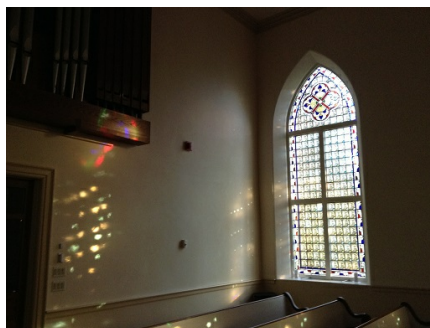
Thursdays
A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Parish House)
resumed
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)
Suspended until March

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



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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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