



Weekly Schedule for 15 November

*Note: To attend any services please sign up beforehand
with Irene Connors:*

collageconnors@gmail.com

860.592.0030

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

Friday, 13 November	Prayer and Meditation Friday Night AA Group (Parish House) <i>temporarily until First Church opens</i>	5:30 pm 8 pm
Sunday, 15 November	Holy Eucharist Vestry Meeting	8:30 & 10:30 am 11:45 am
Monday, 16 November	Bible Study Group (Zoom) Book Group (Parish House)	4:30 pm 7:30 pm
Tuesday, 17 November	Tai Chi (Great Room)	9 & 10:30 am
Wednesday, 18 November	Tai Chi (Great Room) Holy Eucharist AA Meeting for Women (Zoom) <i>email for info.</i>	4:30 pm 6 pm 7 pm
Thursday, 19 November	AA Thursday Morning Meeting (Great Room) AI-Anon Meeting (Great Room) <i>resumes on this day</i>	7:30 am 7 pm
Friday, 20 November	Prayer and Meditation	5:30 pm

*Note: The 10.30 a.m. Service is also available
live on YouTube
which you can access
through our website
www.standrewskentct.org
or
the Saturday Epistle YouTube Live Stream link*

From Father Douglas



Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I'm struck by a certain sense of incongruity that seems to be inhabiting our days just now. I think the primary source of it, for me at least, is the amazing weather we've been having for the last week or so. Because it feels a bit more like late spring or early fall ... but is also dark by 5:00 or 5:15 in the evening ... there is a certain is-and-isn't quality to what's happening outdoors.

So, too, our national elections. Thankfully, our collective experience of casting our votes was calm, cool and civil. No reports of widespread violence, intimidation or outrage. And a record number of people exercised their franchise and made their voices heard. At the same time, there is a lingering sense that the election isn't over ... that a sizeable portion of the U.S. electorate hasn't yet agreed who will be sworn in on 20 January 2021. So far (I write this on Tuesday), thankfully, that open-endedness has also been largely calm and peaceful, but it, too, contributes to a sense of is-and-isn't.

The news this week has brought word of at least one possible successful vaccine against COVID and another novel treatment of the virus that can help reduce its severity. And yet, neither is approved for general use. Experts tell us that even if the vaccine proves safe and efficacious, it won't be widely available for several more months. The end of COVID is here (maybe), and it isn't. And part the incongruity I'm feeling flows from our own liturgical

calendar. Advent doesn't officially begin this year until 29 November, but for largely historical reasons (the season was once six weeks long) our Sunday readings begin to take a more Advent-y turn right after All Saints' Day. And if, like me, you pray the Daily Office each day, you encounter those "the Day of the Lord is upon us" prophecies in the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament and the visions of The End in the Revelation to St John on daily basis. It is hard not to feel like Advent has begun ... at least in our hearts ... even though the calendar says we still have a few more weeks of Ordinary Time. It is Advent. And it isn't.

What do we do with this in-between-ness ... this sense that things are pointing in a certain direction, but it's not yet time to say our destination is fixed? I would offer: Live in it. Embrace the equivocality (!) of this particular point in time, not so much as uncertainty, but as possibility. Not as something to fret or worry about, but an invitation to reflect. We have had—all of us—a year unlike any of us has ever experienced. As we approach its drawing to a close, hold in one hand the doubts, fears, frustrations and outrages that it has brought you ... and in the other hand, the hopes, aspirations, opportunities and celebrations that you foresee ahead. And just live in that space, hands full, for a while. For this is the very sense we *want* to foster in ourselves as we prepare for Advent: that Christ is coming—not only in a manger, but also on a throne—and His Way will soon be the way of the world, but also that none of that has yet taken place. And so we wait, with our hands full, our hearts filled and our hopes ever rising.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

From the Stewardship Committee

We are well into our annual pledge season, and we have received just under 1/2 of the pledges we are hoping ultimately to receive. As with last year, we started the Canvass early in autumn, yet we very quickly approach the close of the Canvass. Help us stay on track as a parish community - if you have not yet made a pledge for 2021, please make and send one today. Do what is comfortable for you in this challenging time.

We look forward to 2021 and the shared joy, solace and fellowship we each find in being part of our St. Andrew's parish family.

Thank you.

Al-Anon Meetings Have Resumed

After a hiatus, weekly Al-Anon meetings have resumed, on Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the Parish House, with masks and social distancing. Please contact Kathy Fricker if you would like additional information.

Computer Help is Available

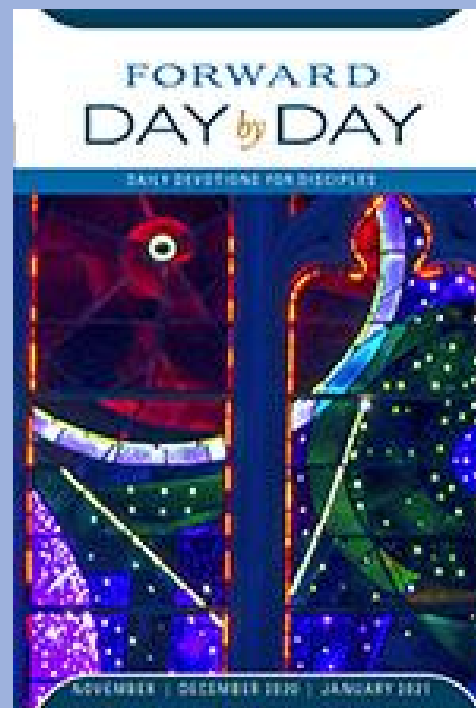


If you or someone you know is having difficulty accessing our online services, the weekly E-pistle or our web site ... or who would like to participate in our Zoom offerings but don't know how ... please let Fr Douglas or Heather know. We have parishioners who are willing to help you and also make sure 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!

Forward Day-by-Day Booklets Available

The parish subscribes to the quarterly booklet called *Forward Day-by-Day*. Published by Forward Movement, which is affiliated with the Episcopal Church, *Forward Day-by-Day* contains daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage. The passages are chosen from the Church's lectionary readings, either for Eucharist or the Daily Office, as listed in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

If you attend worship in-person, you can pick up a new booklet every quarter in the narthex. If you would prefer, we would be happy to mail you a new booklet each quarter. Just let Heather know, and she'll add your name to the mailing list.



Christmas Bazaar and Christmas Tree Sale

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to cancel our annual Christmas Bazaar this year. As with so many other cherished events, we did not see a way to hold the bazaar in a way that was safe and responsible, both for our guests and our many volunteers. Next year!!

We will, however, be having our annual Christmas Tree Sale, beginning the Saturday after Thanksgiving – many more details to follow. We are planning to sell small items (such as ornaments) in addition to our fine trees.



Christmas Tree Donations

Christmas trees are a cherished tradition in many families. The look – the fragrance – the decorating: Nothing heralds the season more than a fresh tree in the living room or den. But not everyone can afford a tree ... and this year, perhaps even fewer people than ever, given the COVID-dampened economy.

If you would like to donate the cost of a tree (or part of the cost of a tree) for this year's Christmas Tree Sale, just drop off or mail a check with the memo line "Christmas Tree Donation." The volunteers staffing this year's sale will make sure families who can't afford to pay for a tree nevertheless have one their homes this Christmas, with best wishes from St Andrew's.

Sunday Evening Worship During Advent

Hard to believe though it may be, Advent begins on Sunday, 29 November. 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.

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.*

Lectons for this Week

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 28, Year A

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18;
Psalm 90:1-8,12,15-17;
I Thessalonians 5:1-11;
Matthew 25:14-30



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.

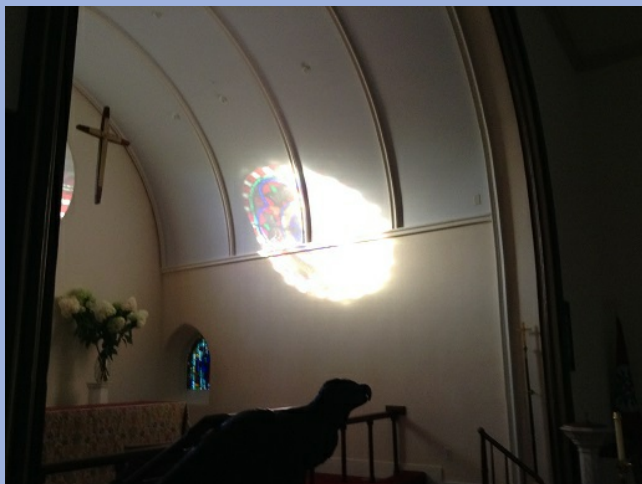
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-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)

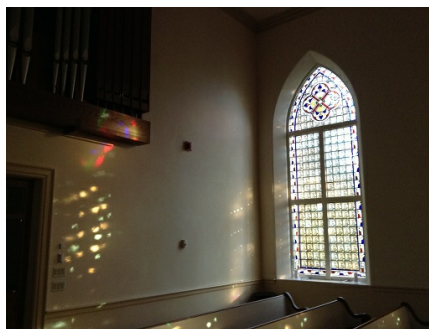
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Great Room)

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



Parish Staff

The Rev Douglas S
Worthington,
Provisional
Priest in Charge
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860-592-0171



Thomas W Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs

Margie O'Brien,
Director of the Children's Choir

Heather Scofield,
Parish Administrator

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Bill McLaren,
Sexton

Randy Osolin,
Verger



St Andrew's Church
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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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