



HOPE

Hope of all the earth thou art.

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-FIELDS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The First Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Live on Facebook and YouTube

Welcome to St. Francis-in-the-Fields!

Whether you're a guest or a member, rich or poor, young or old; whatever your political alignment, racial background, gender, ethnicity, or country of origin; no matter if you're a cradle Episcopalian, from another faith expression, or claim no faith at all – we're glad you've joined us for worship today. Please help us get to know you by completing the Guest Card in the rack at each end of the pew and placing the detachable part in the offering plate. There is a welcome table in the narthex (foyer) where you can receive more information about our parish, along with a small gift. Our clergy and greeters look forward to meeting you after the service.

Worship: Our liturgy follows the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), found in the book rack, with some material from *Enriching our Worship* (EOW). Our hymns come from the blue and green hymnals in the pews, along with other resources. All text for the service is printed in the bulletin. You are invited to prepare your soul for worship by kneeling silently in your pew before the service begins.

Children: We welcome all young children in our worship services, and ask you not to worry if your child is active or makes noise. "Busy Bags" for kids are available from the Ushers. Our "Children's Room" in the office hallway is available if at any time your infant or child needs a change of scenery.

Accessibility: At different times during worship, the congregation may stand or kneel according to custom. Those who suffer physical discomfort are invited remain seated, or stand or kneel as they are able. During Communion, please notify an Usher if you are unable to come forward and we will bring Communion to you. Gluten-free communion wafers are available.

Facilities: Two public restrooms are located in the office hallway.

*(Congregational words and responses are in **bold** text.)*

The Altar Flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving
for our mothers, Shirley Ann Powell and Helen Elmira Hudson
given by Pamela and Richard Hudson

PRELUDE: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

J. S. Bach

INTROIT: Creator of the Stars of Night

9th Century Hymn

*Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.*

*At your great Name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.*

THE GREAT SILENCE

After the bell rings once, please observe a time of silence.

When the bell rings three times, please stand as able for the Procession.

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

A Reading from Isaiah:

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD'S hand
double for all her sins (Isaiah 40:1-2)

The first Advent candle is lit, after which the following is said:

A Prayer for Hope: (said together):

God of all hope, remove from us the shame of sin that entangles us, and set us free to work with you in the mending of your creation. Fill us with such abundant grace and mercy that we may share it generously with the world around us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Savior of the nations, come!

Hymnal 54

- 1 Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!
- 3 Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing his created spheres;
hence to death and hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends.
- 4 Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Hymnal 56 (v. 1-2)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence~
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil~
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches
Thanks be to God

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 (read responsively)

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
Hshine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

ANTHEM: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Larry Shackley

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, O Wisdom from on high,
O come, great Lord of might.
O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
Turn darkness into light!*

*O come, Desire of nations,
Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel.*

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind~ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you~ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here what the Spirit is saying to the Churches
Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN: God of mercy, God of grace

Hymnal 538

- 1 God of mercy, God of grace, show the brightness of thy face.
Shine upon us, Savior, shine, fill thy Church with light divine,
and thy saving health extend unto earth's remotest end.
- 2 Let thy people praise thee, Lord; be by all that live adored.
Let the nations shout and sing glory to their Savior King;
let all be, below, above, one in joy, and light, and love.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Kevin Dellaria

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Beloved people of God:

As we continue our preparation during the season of Advent, let us allow a moment of silence to let our minds settle and let our hearts open.

Silence, allow your mind to become still.

Open your heart to consider God's church, clergy, and all who minister to God's universal mission.

Silence. Pray for God's blessings on Bishop Michael, Bishop Daniel, Father Kevin, Deacon Diane, and all who serve God's Church.

Open your heart to consider the leaders of this nation and all who hold authority.

Silence. Pray for God's wisdom to be with President Biden, Governor Shapiro, and all of our local leaders.

Open your heart to consider all of God's creation.

Silence. Pray that the care of God's creation lives through our actions and intentions.

Open your heart to our local gatherings.

Silence. Pray for God's community to thrive in St. Francis-in-the-Fields and other gatherings in Christ's name. Pray especially for the gatherings in the Merion Deanery and our siblings-in-Christ at Holy Apostles, Penn Wynne.

Open your heart to those of us who are struggling physically, mentally, or spiritually.

Silence. Pray for God's healing love to infuse all of us with peace and comfort. Name those in your life who especially need God's healing love.

Open your heart to those we have lost.

Silence. Pray for God's will to be enacted through those in our life who have died. Pray that one day we will be with all of the saints in God's Kingdom.

Open your heart to those who are celebrating birthdays this week.

Silence. Pray for God's celebratory presence be on Carol and Zac.

Open your heart to our ministries in this parish.

Silence. Pray for God's love to work through our Vestry, Wardens, and other Administrative and Financial ministries of St. Francis, that they may direct our church with diligence and faithfulness.

Open your heart to lift up the other concerns and thoughts that are pressing into our daily thoughts.

Lift up your concerns either in your heart or in your voice.

Celebrant: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Silence

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENROLLMENT FOR BAPTISM

Dear people of God, Daniel Morales and Hermelinda Huerta, who have themselves been baptized into Christ, now desire, as parents, to present their son, Joshua, for the Sacrament of New Birth. The date of January 7th, the *Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ* having been chosen, we now enroll Joshua in the *Prayers of the People* in preparation of this child of God for baptism.

Celebrant: Will you support this family in their desire to grow deeper in Christ,
and to raise Joshua in the faith of the Church?

Congregation: **We will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you stand as witnesses to Joshua's faith through
the covenant of baptism?

Congregation: **We will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you offer prayers for Joshua, and his parents, as the day of
baptism nears?

Congregation: **We will, with God's help.**

Let us pray: O eternal God, you have promised to be a father to a thousand generations of those who love and fear you: Bless this child and preserve his life; receive him and enable him to receive you, that through the Sacrament of Baptism he may celebrate his creation as a child of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

MEDITATION MUSIC

OFFERTORY HYMN: Hail to the Lord's anointed

Hymnal 616 (v. 1-4)

- 1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
- 4 Kings shall bow before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 380 (v. 3)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Hymnal S124

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the blessed Virgin Mary, the blessed St. Francis, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FRACTION

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

FRACTION ANTHEM: Lamb of God

Hymnal S161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (x2)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, all who feel called to a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. Those unable to come forward may signal an Usher to receive communion in their seat.

COMMUNION HYMN: Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Hymnal 324

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.
- 4 At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

NZPB

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

COMMISSIONING OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

BOS 229

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. **Amen.**

SEASONAL BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Lo! He comes, with clouds descending

Hymnal 57

- 1 Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture
With what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

DISMISSAL

Our microphones are still on! Please take any post-service conversations into the Narthex so those who wish, including our streaming audience, can enjoy the organ postlude.

POSTLUDE:

Welcome to Advent! One of my most favorite seasons of our liturgical year. Advent is a season of preparation. And much like lent preparing us for the Passion and Easter, Advent prepares us for the conception and the birth of Christ. And much like Lent, I like to use this time to reflect. However, during Advent rather than reflecting on my personal past, I like to think about our journey as God's people and the history of The Church as a whole. For this reason, you will notice that during this Sunday our hymns and special music are particularly related to chant.

Primarily coming from the Middle Ages, chant was used in prayer services as a way to bring monastic communities together. Chant melodies are characterized as being sung in unison (or octaves) without harmony and melodies that move mostly in stepwise motion. The introit is based on a hymn originating in the 9th century. Then, throughout Lent and also featured in our choir's anthem today, we have a devotional hymn that has existed since the 8th century. This hymn "Veni Emmanuel" is probably the most famous Advent hymn used in our tradition today.

Starting 7 days before Christmas Eve, many monasteries would start singing the "O" antiphons. These were a set of verses that drew upon scripture to help prepare the singers for the big celebration itself. The antiphons (originally in Latin) were arranged like this:

O *Sapientia* (Wisdom)

O *Adonai* (Hebrew word for God)

O *Radix Jesse* (stem or root of Jesse)

O *Clavis* David (key of David)

O *Oriens* (dayspring)

O *Rex gentium* (King of the Gentiles)

O *Emmanuel*

One particular hallmark of Medieval music was an intellectual approach that went beyond the music. Medieval composers would often hide hidden codes and messages in the contents of their composition. For example, take a look at the first letter of the second word in each antiphon. Now look at them in reverse. They spell out the Latin phrase "Ero Cras". When translated this means "I will be present tomorrow." This kind of intellectual trick would have absolutely been intentional in Medieval music.

While many of the particular details of medieval music are not readily apparent, the melodies of chant are a beautiful and simple way to deliver very important text. Allow your voice to soar through these chant-based hymns as we prepare for the season ahead.

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Fr. Kevin Dellaria, Rector
The Rev. Diane E. Faison, Deacon
Mr. Joseph Perry, Minister of Music

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-FIELDS
ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 3, 2023

Prayer Ministers

Our Prayer Ministers are not available this morning but will return January 7, 2024.

Christmas Services

The season of Advent begins today. That means the 4th and last Sunday of Advent coincides with Christmas Eve. Please note the following schedule for services of the Feast of the Nativity: Sunday, Dec. 24 – One morning service of Holy Eucharist at 10am only; Christmas Eve services at 5pm and 11pm. Monday, Dec. 25 – Holy Eucharist at 9am.

Dec 10: Post Sabbatical Presentation by Fr. Kevin

Please mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, December 10th (after church) for a post-sabbatical presentation by Fr. Kevin. A Zoom link will be provided for those unable to attend in person and the presentation will be recorded. A continental breakfast will be provided

December 12: Brown Bag Lunch

We welcome **Sara Wein, Executive Director for National Alliance on Mental Illness of Chester County** to the Brown Bag Lunch on **Tuesday, December 12th Noon-1PM.** NAMI was started in the late 1970s by family members who gathered together around a kitchen table to find understanding as well as identify resources and support for their adult children living with serious mental illness. From there, NAMI was born and today is the largest grassroots mental health organization in the US dedicated to improving the lives of those impacted by mental illness through peer support, education and advocacy. **Please feel free to share this invitation with your family, neighbors, and friends.** Mental illness is a national crisis and all of us, in one way or another, may be impacted. **Bring a sandwich and we will provide beverages and snacks.**

Dec. 11: Deadline - Christmas Flowers

Flowers to decorate the church for Christmas in memory/thanksgiving/celebration of a person or event are available for a donation of \$30. You can find the form in the Narthex of the church, on the website or by calling the church office at 610-647-0130. **The deadline for the donation and the form is Monday, December 11, 2023!**

Dec. 15: Festive Christmas Party

It's a Festive Christmas Party so dress up for a night of fun and fellowship! Appetizers, beer and wine will be provided. Please join us at 6:00 and let us know if you need a ride to the event.

December 20: Christmas Lunch Fellowship

St. Francis will host a Christmas Lunch Fellowship on **Wednesday, December 20, from 12pm to 2pm**, in the Parish Hall. A light lunch and desert will be served and Old-Fashioned Christmas Carols will be sung! There will be door prizes and a few surprises! Volunteers are needed to transport members who don't drive to and from the event. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Bring a friend and celebrate the season!

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10 am both in-person and on Zoom, with Holy Eucharist following. The Zoom link and readings are sent in a weekly email. No study on 12/20 or 12/27.

The Enneagram Journey

Sundays, 4:00pm to 6:00pm, Jan. 7 – Mar. 24 (12 Sundays). Diner provided. *The Enneagram* is a powerful tool with ancient roots that offers insight into personality, spiritual development, temptations, motivations, and most of all, relationships with others. Through the Enneagram you come to *know yourself* better, and learn to *understand and connect* with others in deeper and more meaningful ways. This is a great course for couples and individuals alike. Cost: \$50. To register or more information, contact Fr. Kevin or Donna Dellaria (donnadellaria@gmail.com). Class is limited to 15.

Enneagram Growth Group

Are you a graduate of *The Enneagram Journey*? In early 2024, Fr. Kevin and Donna Dellaria will begin hosting a monthly group for those interested in furthering their study and practice of the Enneagram. Contact Fr. Kevin or Donna Dellaria for more information.

2024 Sight & Sound Field Trip

St. Francis is once again planning a church field trip to *Sound & Sound Theater* in Lancaster. This year the event will be the evening Saturday, April 20th for a production of "Daniel". Tickets are \$94.05 for adults and \$42.00 ages 12 and under. Tickets are limited! A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex for anyone interested. Payment is due by the end of January.

Ministry to Refugees

To do more for refugees, **please visit nscphila.org** where you'll find many opportunities to donate your services or contribute goods to persons in need. Sign up for NSC's newsletter to get periodic updates on what you can do to help. For future furniture pickups, send photos to John Groch at 610-547-3583.

East Meets West

The Campolo Center of Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary and College is delighted to host East Meets West, a visual art exhibit paying tribute to eight innovative women icon makers of Ukraine, a land where the Latin and Byzantine worlds collide and converge. The exhibit runs through January 12. For more information, visit the Eastern University Website at <https://www.eastern.edu/eastmeetswest>.

Thank you!

Thank you for all the wonderful donations to Church Farm School. We will pause for now and resume our collections in the spring.

Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends will meet in person, in the library, on **Wednesday, December 27 at 5:30 pm**. If you are unable to join us in person but would still like to participate, please contact Sue Lenkaitis at suelenk@verizon.net. or 610-570-1112. Packets can be prepared for pickup or delivery as needed.

Altar Flowers

There are many opportunities to sign up for flowers in December and 2024. Multiple entries can be made on one Sunday. With regards to 2024, Pam copied any entry which was placed in ink from the previous year. The donation for the flowers is the same- \$50. Thanks, for the support. If you have questions contact Pam Hudson, pchudson715@gmail.com.

This week we pray for: Andrew, Kaye Archer, Melanie Blasingame, Mary Brown, Athena Carrigan, Christine, Ellis Comfort, Joan Corr, Linda Dellaria, Doris, Stephen Dougherty, Sarah Dutton, Katie Egan, George Giamboy, Hortense Gordon, Gretchen Hall, Susan Hicks, Dianne Kronenberg, Dorothy Langton, Skip Lewis, Beth Maggio, Matt, Jane Moynihan, Julie Palminteri, Perry-Hunter Family, Sammy Petersen, Jim Sampson, Bill Spane, Mary Alice Spane, Georgeanne & Bill Speaker, Baylee Walsh, Franklin Zemel, Cliff Zwerver.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week especially Carol Hatton-Holmes, and Zac Peter Jones. In the Parish Prayer Cycle we pray for our Vestry, Wardens, and other Administrative and Financial ministries of St. Francis, that they may direct our church with diligence and faithfulness.

St. Francis-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church

689 Sugartown Road, Malvern, PA 19355

(610) 647-0130; stfrancisfields@stfrancisfields.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday – Friday

The Very Rev. Kevin Dellaria, *Rector*

Diane Faison, *Parish Administrator & Deacon*; Joe Perry, *Music Director*

Our Vestry:

Jill Quinn, *Rector's Warden*; Nancy Needhammer, *Accounting Warden*;

Kathy Schilling, *Secretary*; Anne Crowley, Susan Lenkaitis, Sherri Lewis, Susan Nangle, Ed Damerau, Roberta Torian, John Groch

MINISTERS OF WORSHIP & SERVICE

	December 3	December 10
Acolytes 10	Gav Dellaria, Trinity Dellaria Josiah Dellaria	Paige Dutton, Noah Alconera Lana Alconera
Altar Guild	Maureen Gunn, Susan Thomas	Susan Thomas Meridith Ridington
Flower Guild		Shelley Steel
Flower Delivery	Lynd Meyer	Susan Thomas
Intercessor 10	Ida Guckes	Tony Fernandes
Reader 8	Carolyn Brown	Donna Geiger
Readers 10	Jane Brooks, Gav Dellaria	Steve Castellan, Paige Dutton
Oblation Bearers 10		Edgar, Julie, & Nolan Alconera
Coffee Hour 10	Judy Culver, Lisa Colon	Christine & Dave Schnackenberg
Greeter/Usher 10	Tim & Sue Kelly	Shirley & Everett Warren
Audio/Visual 10	David Brooks	Mike Quinn
Vestry Member of the Week	Anne Crowley 610-563-8340	Roberta Torian 610-715-2270