

St. Alban's E-Blast Week of Advent 3

Raves and more raves

Sunday afternoon the St. Alban's Carolers hit the road, bringing joy to the hearts of many. A BIG THANK YOU to those who added their voices to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, led by Violet Virtue: Nicole Gabriel, Sherry & Charlie Rodriguez, Robin Sade, Sue McCoy and her grandchildren and a friend, Annabelle, Karissa and Gillian; Cohen and Cailyn Callaway, Laura Showers, Karrie Dvorak, Apryl Winckler, and Violet's mother, Emily. Who knows – this could become an annual event!

It won't be long now. We are in the third week of Advent and it is not visions of sugar plums dancing in our heads, but visions of the luscious desert where crocus rejoice with joy and singing and the burning sand becomes a pool and springs of water break out. The wolf will live with the Lamb and the leopard will lie down with the goat; the calf and the lion and the yearling together! Feeble knees no longer and weak hands strengthened. The lame are leaping; the blind are seeing; the sick are healed, and even the dead are raised up. Oh, how I long to see it all.

Longing. Waiting. Watching. He is coming soon. Will I be ready? And just what do I need to do to be ready? Zechariah wondered the same thing when the angel of the Lord visited him as he was burning the incense that day in the Holy of Holies. Elizabeth, keeping her secret for months, dreamed about being ready, cherishing the child being knit together in her womb. And how does one prepare to receive the Son of God? All Mary did was to say yes, *"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."* (Lk 2:38).

Come Lord Jesus, come. Come quickly before I change my mind; before I retake control of my life. Lord Jesus, give me a courageous spirit, willing to risk being in your presence, willing to endure your judgments, able to receive your mercy and your love. May I hear an AMEN!

Judith+

Lessons and Carols

Advent 4

December 22, 2019

10:15

Join the choristers and congregation on Sunday as the story of God unfolds in words and in song. We will begin at the beginning with God in the Garden of Eden announcing Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head. Then through the voice of the prophet Isaiah we will hear God's comforting words to His people as he calls on them to prepare for redemption and a new covenant is promised which will be written on our hearts. And there is a king coming who will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation. Seems as if we have heard all this recently. Then the announcement to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom will never end. There will be shepherds and kings as we hear their response to the multitudes of angels and one very special star.

And there is MORE!

Following Lessons & Carols, we will be preparing the Nave and Sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Services. All are welcome to help with this time of prep. Those that stay will be nourished with chili and conversation afterwards.

Christmas Flowers -

It is not too late for that last minute gift to help with the flowers decorating our Nave and Sanctuary during the Christmas season in thanksgivings or in memory of a loved one. See Robin

GOOD NEWS

Announcing that we have two volunteers who have answered the call to serve on the Vestry of St. Alban’s, beginning in January 2020 for a three-year term. **Cathy Curtis**, a long-time member, and **Ann Capion**, a recently received member, have answered the call to serve, after much prayer. They are excited about the possibilities. Let’s keep them that way and be sure to greet them with a “Thank you for serving” when you see them next.

Advent Soup and Video

Join us on **December 18th** for an evening of Adventures in Advent as we share a bowl of soup, some bread, and sit back to watch a video. A lively discussion will surely follow. **5:30 to 7:30 PM**. All are invited and encouraged to be part of this Advent practice of reflection and spiritual growth.

Dismantling Racism: Training for Church Leaders

This training is required of all lay and ordained leadership in the Church (including vestries, search committees, diocesan leadership, etc.). The training day has been restructured to reflect the Episcopal Church’s commitment to this work as part of our lifelong spiritual formation and our Church’s long term commitment to social justice, healing, and reconstruction. Trinity Cathedral has graciously volunteered to host the East Chapter’s Dismantling Racism Training on **January 11, 2020** from **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**. Mark your calendars and sign up now. See Judith or Robin to add your name to the list.

**Readers, Readings & More
For Sunday, Advent 4
December 22, 2019**

8:00 AM

Holy Eucharist

First Lesson Isaiah 7:10-16
 Psalm 80:1-7,16-18

Reader Ann Capion

2nd Lesson Romans 1:1-7
 Judy Murdock

Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

Prayers Don France

10:15

Lessons and Carols

Lighting of the Advent Candles
 Cohen and Cailyn Callaway

LEV Sue McCoy

Acolyte Cohen Callaway

Usher Scott Shovar

Counters Charlie & Michelle

The Christmas Season

**December 24 5:00 PM
 10:30 PM**

1 Christmas Dec 29, 2019

8:00 & 10:15 AM

2 Christmas Jan 5, 2020

8:00 & 10:15 AM

Epiphany January 6, 2020

Pageant & more

6:00 PM