



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 28

December 2024



REFLECTION ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2024

Rev. Charles Kamano

Advent is a season of waiting and expectation for Christmas, the birth of Christ, Our Savior. During Advent, we prepare our hearts and homes for four weeks for Christ's coming at Christmas. Every year, each first Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season, comprising a three-year cycle A, B & C. This year we begin the liturgical Year C. The readings will lead us into the new church year with hope and patience in preparation for Christmas.

Around this time of year, I always get really excited because I love all things festive, and I cherish any

reason to celebrate. Yes, even before I became a Christian, while in high school, I always looked forward to the Christmas season, for all the reasons many others do: The lights, the tree, the food, the presents, gift cards, and the pageants, even in countries such as Sierra Leone with a large Muslim population. In fact, the road to my conversion started here. Though I couldn't have expressed it at the time, those treats were teaching me the truth of the incarnation, the entrance of Christ into the realm of human rebellion through taking on the flesh of sinful humanity in order that God and sinners might be reconciled. Through those treats, I started learning gradually about the nature of the Triune God, the purpose and destiny of humanity, and God's love wholly revealed in the miracle of Bethlehem.

I am sure that 2024 has not been all that perfect for many of us. So, if you find yourself in a dark place this Christmas season, know that you fit in perfectly here because Advent will meet you in the dark. Advent has a way of removing societal expectations. Advent tells us to stop, slow down, and breathe. Advent tells us that maybe the darkness we are experiencing isn't wrong; maybe it's right, and maybe

Worship Services

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
in-person and via Zoom

Sunday, December 22, 9:00 a.m., Lessons & Carols - Ugly Christmas Sweaters

Tuesday, December 24, 4:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Service

(Zoom connection information at the end of newsletter.)

Events

Christmas Fair, Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting, Sunday, January 27 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service

it's more on track than we have ever been. Advent knows about darkness. Advent reminds us that it's okay to spend a season in tension, waiting and desperately hoping for better things to come. Advent is where we visit the depths, and it is a great mystery, but this is where the good stuff, like **Hope** and **Peace** and **Joy** and **Love** are ultimately found.

As your Priest-in-Charge, my prayer is that this year, we will let the darkness of Advent lead us to a joy at Christmas that is deeper than we ever could have known or anticipated. May it be so! Amen.



Investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe Office of Public Affairs

Episcopalians around the world and in various time zones gathered to welcome the Most Rev. Sean Rowe as the church's 28th presiding bishop in a first-of-its-kind virtual investiture service, livestreamed Nov. 2 from the Chapel of Christ the Lord at The Episcopal Church Center in New York City.

Rowe, formerly bishop of the Episcopal Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York, was elected and confirmed as the next presiding bishop at the 81st General Convention on June 26. Soon after his election, Bishop Rowe requested a simpler, scaled-down ceremony of Holy Eucharist and Investiture to encourage wider church engagement and reduce carbon footprint. A limited number of in-person attendees participated from inside the chapel.



The rich diversity within the multinational Episcopal Church was highlighted in several ways. A special “roll call” preceding the 11 a.m. ET ceremony featured video greetings from many of the church's 106 dioceses. Water gathered from various provinces of the church was combined in the baptismal font. The Litany for the Mission of the Church featured 15 intercessors who shared prayers in the following languages: Eastern Shoshone, Mandarin, Juba, German, Arabic, Hebrew, French, Anishinaabemowin, Spanish, English, French, and Xhosa.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, who served as the church's 27th presiding bishop from 2015-2024, presided over the first half of the service, which included a land acknowledgment from the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, who served as 26th presiding bishop; a welcome from diocesan and investiture committee representatives and House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris; the renewal of baptismal vows; and the presentation of the primatial staff. Bishop Jefferts Schori joined youth presentative Maya Lattimer in offering prayers for the new presiding bishop, whom Bishop Curry presented along with Bishop Rowe's family.

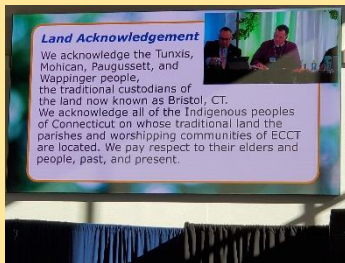
Bishop Rowe presided over the service of Holy Eucharist and delivered a sermon based on the Gospel passage of John 11:32-44. “I believe that it is in our gathered communities across our church where we come closest to glimpsing the real power of the story of Lazarus,” he said. “Every time we feed the hungry, care for the sick, and welcome the stranger, we are reaching for life in the face of death. As we baptize and bury God's people, as we make disciples and proclaim the gospel, as we soothe the suffering and shield the joyous, we are unbinding our congregations and setting our hurting world free.” Find links to the recorded service; worship service booklet; Bishop Rowe's sermon; and more at iam.ec/investiture.

Around the Church

Episcopal Church in
Connecticut Convention
October 25 and 26, 2024
Bristol Event Center



Friday's opening worship
included a tribute to the
indigenous people of Bristol
and the state of Connecticut



Speakers to resolutions and
amendments are timed.



Friday night events included
interpretive dancing by the
Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet



Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT) Annual Convention Report Diane Villano with Astrid Swanson

Astrid and I attended the 240th annual convention, titled “One Vine, Many Branches”, on Friday afternoon and Saturday, October 25 and 26th in Bristol at the Bristol Event Center, where we were joined by Rev. Charles Kamano.

Several things impressed me, especially how seriously ECCT is concerned with creation care. The only printed pieces distributed to delegates were our nametags. Everything else, including the agenda, resolutions and their supporting documents, reports, and elections, was on-line. I used my phone and tablet for internet access, which was smooth and responsive.

The entire convention took place at the same venue; all the business sessions and the buffet dinner Friday night and buffet lunch on Saturday. The Bristol Event Center is new, just a few months old, and will be hosting Convention again next year.

Live streaming cameras projected the action to two large screens, which, when necessary, also included QR codes. Interestingly, a QR code was displayed during the Offertory at the Saturday morning worship service, making physically “passing the basket” unnecessary, although still available. The collection benefited the communities in Connecticut which were affected by the recent flooding. A matching amount from the Bishops’ Fund is going to the areas in North Carolina devastated by the recent hurricanes.

The convention adopted a total of nine resolutions including Clergy Compensation, Clarifying Reparations Board membership, and Recognizing May 5 as Red Dress Day (more to follow in a future newsletter) and three mergers (Good Shepherd, Shelton and Immanuel St. James, Derby; St. Paul’s, Fairfield and St. Timothy’s, Fairfield; and St. Mark’s New Britain Episcopal Church, New Britain and St. James Parish, Farmington).

Friday night’s special events were performances by Theodicy Jazz Collective and Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet. The Theodicy Jazz Collective also provided the music for Saturday’s worship service. Imagine the doxology sung by several hundred voices to a jazz beat!

If you have not yet heard Bishop Mello’s address from the worship service on Saturday, I urge you to access either the YouTube video or read the text, both available on ECCT’s website at www.episcopalct.org.

His address included these inspirational words:
We are growing together. With Jesus as our vine, our branches are stretching and reaching new places - the very places God needs us to be.”



December 1 - Conor Reynolds
 December 15 - Gail Beck
 December 16 - Astrid Swanson
 December 20 - Susan Shultz
 December 25 - Joan Shaffner
 December 29 - Rene Nacca-Visser



December 26 - Ron & Janice Blevins
 December 31 - Revs. Mary Anne Osborn & Joanne Neel-Richard

Christmas Fair

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Fair will be **Sat Dec 7th** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed! All sign-up sheets are on the Christmas Fair board in the Upper Hall. Please take a minute to write down how you can help!

We still need the following donations (as soon as possible please)

- * Scratch lottery tickets for lottery tree (unscratched)
- * Gift certificates for raffle tree. Ask at your favorite store, hairdresser, restaurant, etc. Give these to Ken or Kathy Dougherty. See Carol if you need a donation letter.
- * Raffle items - used jewelry
- * Bake table items - cookies, pies, etc.

Set-up for the fair will be on Dec 6th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There are signs to make and hang, baked goods to be packaged, etc. Everything must be completed by end of day on Friday.

Any questions please contact a Fair Committee member. Carol Link-Ude, chair, Paul Barrett, Melanie Miller, Barbara Parsons, and Audrey Sundwall.



Lessons and Carols, December 22

Christ and The Epiphany's annual service of Lessons and Carols will be on December 22nd this year. Carol Ude reports that this will be an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" day. Brunch will be served after the service. If you would like to contribute a dish, please see Carol.

Advent Reflections

Daily devotional booklets, *Living Well Through Advent*, from Living Compass, in English and Spanish, have been purchased by the Communications Committee and are available in the narthex and thrift store and at the stairway landings. You may

also request their daily email devotional at Livingcompass.org.

Encouraging Words Audrey Sundwall

The true light that gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:9

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government shall be upon his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

John 1:1-8

Christian Tradition - The Liturgical Year

Diane Villano

Happy New Year!

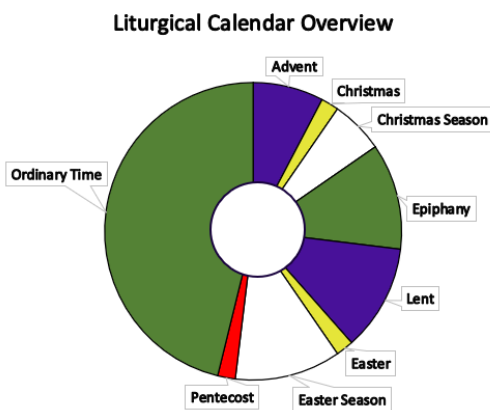
Are your activities geared to the calendar year, fiscal year, or academic year? The activities of the Christian Church are organized by the Liturgical Year, which begins on the first Sunday of Advent, four weeks before Christmas. This year, that's December 1. The structure of the Liturgical Year is determined by two cycles, Christmas, which is a fixed date, and Easter, a moveable date. The Christmas cycle begins with Advent and runs through Epiphany. The Easter cycle begins with Lent and continues through Ordinary Time.

At Advent, the Lectionary (the list of scripture readings appointed for worship) also changes. Sunday readings cycle through a three-year period, designated Year A through Year C. This year, 2024-2025, we'll read Year C. This process is detailed in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), page 888. Consult the **Revised Common Lectionary** (not the Common Lectionary) to determine the appropriate readings. The Daily Office Lectionary also begins a new year, with a two-year cycle (Year One and Year Two). This year, we'll start Year One (BCP 923). Both Lectionaries are available on line.

Advent also marks the beginning of the Cycle of Prayer, produced by the Episcopal Church of Connecticut. Every parish and worshipping community in Connecticut is listed alphabetically by location, from Ansonia to Yantic. Wider witness and ministries and the Anglican Cycle of Prayer are also included. We incorporate this information in our monthly newsletter and in our weekly service bulletin. Christ and The Epiphany Church is recognized in early February.

Liturgical Colors

The colors of clerical vestments and altar furnishings vividly illustrate the seasons of the Liturgical Year:



White, the color of Jesus' burial garments (joy, purity, and truth) - Christmas, Easter, and other feasts or festival days, baptisms, marriages, and funerals

Purple/Violet (penitence, expectation) - Advent (sometimes blue) and Lent

Red (blood of Christ and the martyrs, fire of the Holy Spirit) - Holy Week, the Day of Pentecost, bishop visits, ordinations, confirmations, receptions, and reaffirmations of baptismal vows

Green (growth, renewal, hope) - Epiphany, and the 'Ordinary Time' after Pentecost Sunday

Black - Good Friday

Rose (joy in the midst of penitence) - Gaudete Sunday (Advent 3), Laetare Sunday (Lent 4)

May this new year bring you abundant blessings!

Happy Anniversary!

December 6, 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the consecration of Christ and The Epiphany. Thanks be to God!

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer for the Parish, BCP 817



Safe Church Training through

December 2024

Safe Church is a requirement of The Episcopal Church for all ordained persons, adults who minister with minors, youth in leadership roles, & adults who minister with vulnerable humans. Safe Church practices include training, background checks, and audits.

12/14, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Comprehensive, Virtual on Zoom

The comprehensive training is for clergy and lay people who have never taken safe church training before or it has been more than five years since you've had training, or you are coming from a diocese outside CT. This training includes an online course followed by a three-hour live virtual Zoom session. The online course must be completed at least two days before the Zoom session.

Register online at www.episcopalct.org and email Bernice Jackson, at bjackson@episcopalct.org for any questions or concerns.

November Vestry Meeting

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, December 15th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Worship - We will resume Communion at the rail, rather than approaching one by one.

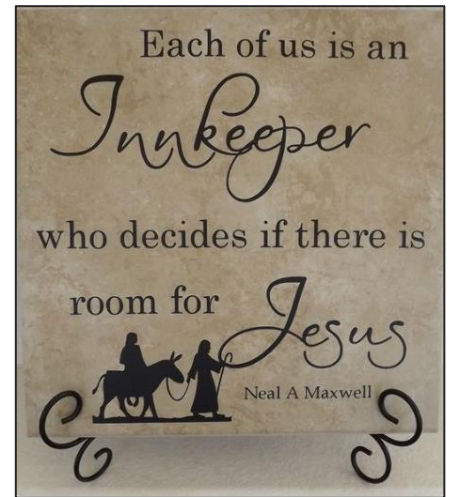
Building & Grounds - Working with United Illuminating on their energy efficiency initiative, the UI has replaced all light fixtures in the church (except the Sanctuary) with more efficient LED lights (185 lights!). They also installed more insulation in all the ceilings. UI has given us a no-interest loan for this work and we expect the savings to pay for the cost of the work.

Also fallen leaves will be picked up weekly during the fall.

Communications - Advent Daily Devotionals have been purchased and are available in the stairwells, narthex, and thrift store.

Technology - A new over-the-ear microphone was purchased as the current one had a split wire.

Nominating Committee - We are still looking for people to fill these positions in next year's Vestry - Senior Warden, Clerk, and two Members at-large. Speak to any Vestry member if you are interested in participating in this aspect of church life.



Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alexis, Amanda, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bohdan & Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, Charlie & Kris Langlan, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Dominick L., Don Dempsey, Donna Hodge & Family, Doreen St. Germaine, Dot Logan, Doug, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Ellen McDonald, Faith, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Hall Levi, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jan McDonald, Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, Korey Mollor, Kris, Lauren, Lucas Sundwall, Rev. Lucy, Matt R., Maureen McPherson, Mike, Michael M., Minogue Family, Nancy, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Regina Schwall, Richard, Sallie Alexander, Sam W., Susan Diaz, Tim, Tish, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family, Wayne

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

ECCT 2024-2025 Prayer Cycle



ADVENT Dec. 1	Parishes: Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany Additionally: Postulants & candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry & its members Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
Dec. 8	Parishes: St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrews', Bloomfield Additionally: Ministries for the homeless, for parishes that offer temporary or permanent shelter. For Chapel on the Green, New Haven & Church by the Pond Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
Dec. 15	Parishes: St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport Additionally: Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely & the oppressed Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Tanzania
Dec. 22	Parishes: St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgeport Additionally: For the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children & all ECCT ministries for children at risk Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Uganda
Dec. 29	Parishes: St. Mark's, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol; St. Paul's, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn Additionally: For soup kitchens & food pantries & all ministries that feed those who go without Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	OCT	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$7,651.42	(\$1,987.91)	\$105,917.25	\$21,919.95
EXPENSES	\$11,089.50	(\$1,713.58)	\$104,009.24	(\$7,750.06)
NET	(\$3,438.08)	\$274.33	\$1,908.01	\$29,670.01

Notes: We were actually fairly close to budget for October. The shortfall in income was due to a timing discrepancy between the Food Pantry's actual payment (paid early) and when we budgeted it. The difference in expenses from budget is primarily due to some grounds and building expenses being pushed to November.

Next Issue The deadline for the January issue is December 17th. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

	1-Dec-2024	8-Dec-2024	15-Dec-2024
Service	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
Presider / Officiant	Rev. Charles Kamano	Wendy Bellmore	Rev. Charles Kamano
Crucifer	George Coulombe		George Coulombe
Acolyte	Audrey Sundwall		Diane Villano
Lay Reader	Terry Osmun	Audrey Sundwall	Judy Herzman
Ushers	Wendy Bellmore	Diane Villano	Barbara Parsons
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	George Coulombe	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe
Ass't Counter	Evelyn Conant	Fred Bowden	Barbara Coulombe

	22-Dec-2024	Christmas Eve 24-Dec-2024 4:00 PM	29-Dec-2024
Service	Lessons & Carols	Eucharist	Eucharist
Presider / Officiant	George Coulombe	Rev. Charles Kamano	Rev. Charles Kamano
Crucifer		George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte		George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall
Lay Reader	Wendy Bellmore Jesse Osmun Terry Osmun Barbara Parsons Susan Shultz Audrey Sundwall	Judy Herzman	Barbara Parsons
Ushers	Kathy Dougherty Ken Dougherty	Audrey Sundwall Diane Villano	Astrid
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz		Astrid Swanson
Ass't Counter	Melanie Miller		Audrey Sundwall

Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Rev. Charles L. Kamano
Senior Warden	George Coulombe
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Gail Beck
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (& Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Audrey Sundwall (& Communications)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Pat Walters
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

ECCT continues to experience a shortage of supply clergy for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving at C&E, please contact the office at christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org

To join by phone call: 929-436-2866, Meeting ID = 763 909 4733, Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking