



DECEMBER 2020

FROM OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

THE REV. DR. ROB CAVANNA

ADVENT THEME: "The light shines in the darkness." John 1:15

Happy Advent! Advent is probably the most "counter-cultural" season of the year right after Lent. In these four weeks of Advent, we're asked to wait and very few people want to wait for anything in 2020. We want faster check-outs, speedier deliveries and instant gratification. Life just seems to go faster and faster!

Advent is a time to slow down and to be more concerned about where we are in our life and what we're doing about our presence in the situation. Maybe instead of starting with what's going on in the world, we ought to begin with the question, "what's going on with me?" For more often than not, we don't see other people and the world as they are, but as we are.

If I'm all wound up and anxious, the world is a difficult place to be and I'll want to run away! If I'm living in the past and the way it used to be, I'll miss this present moment. If I'm scared and frightened, other people can easily become threats and enemies. If my life is full of problems, I'll be quick to judge others. If I'm filled with guilt, I'll look for someone to blame and the list goes on and on.

We can be pretty sure that if we don't tend to what's going on inside of us, we'll project it out onto the world and other people. If we don't remain awake and alert, we'll sleepwalk our way through this world and our life. Somehow this awakening and awareness within ourselves changes the way we see the world, other people and ourselves. We see with a clarity and objectivity we didn't have in the past. We are always waking up to the truth. We need to have our memory jogged over and over again. That's what this season of Advent is all about for you and me.

In closing, you and I need to be reminded, to wake up, to reconnect to the beauty of life, the mystery of love, the wonder of creation. You and I need to be connected to that original beauty that resides in each of us, that has always been there and has never been lost; maybe forgotten, but never lost. You and I need to be reminded and connected to each other in a deeper way. You and I need to awaken to hope. You and I need to be alert to the presence of God in unexpected places and surprising ways. You and I need to awaken to and be reminded that simple presence often says more than our words and does more than our actions!

Have a meaningful and blessed Advent! Please follow the practices in the Advent Calendar on page 5. May you go deep within yourself to that knowledge and love of Jesus. The light truly shines in the darkness! May you find it during COVID and be renewed and refreshed by it.

Thank you for your steadfastness, devotion and love of Jesus Christ. Your financial support is very much appreciated as you live a life of "faith-filled generosity!" I miss and love you all. I can't wait for the day we'll be back together again. Stay well, be good of heart and let go, let God especially during COVID!

Faithfully in Christ,
Fr. Rob+



I want to thank all of you who have pledged for the new calendar year 2021. Thank you for your financial support and thank you also for the stewardship of your time and talents. Your financial commitment enables us to continue to build "beloved community" at Holy Trinity.

As a "beloved community" we strive to grow every day to be reconcilers, justice-makers and healers in the name of Christ. "Feel the Love" isn't just a slogan we use but one we try to live into every Sunday and every day of our lives.

If you forgot your Pledge card or to pledge, please complete a card and put it in next Sunday's offering.

Your faith-filled generosity is very much appreciated as we continue, in spite of COVID, to bring Christ's message of hope to a broken world.

Sincerely with the Grace of God,
Sue Nagorski



#AdventWord

For the seventh year in a row, #AdventWord will gather prayers via a global, online Advent calendar. Virginia Theological Seminary is offering meditations and images during this holy season beginning Sunday, November 29.



Images and meditations can be experienced via the #AdventWord website, direct daily emails, as well as on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and ASL videos via YouTube. This year, meditations will also be available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

New this year to the #AdventWord offerings include a podcast for each day, voiced by Virginia Theological Seminary community members, and produced in partnership with Forward Movement.

The short, daily podcasts provide another access point to absorb the lectionary-inspired writings by 27 different authors. The 27 days of podcasts will mirror the same meditations included on social media, found in the daily email, and will be included on the AdventWord.org website.

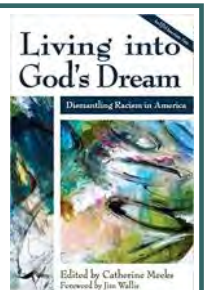
Want to make certain you get the daily podcast? Find and subscribe by searching AdventWord on your preferred podcast platform. It's available on Apple podcasts, Spotify, Google Play, Stitcher, and others.

Join an international community in prayer to explore the mystery and wonder of Advent!

Racial Justice—3rd All Parish Read

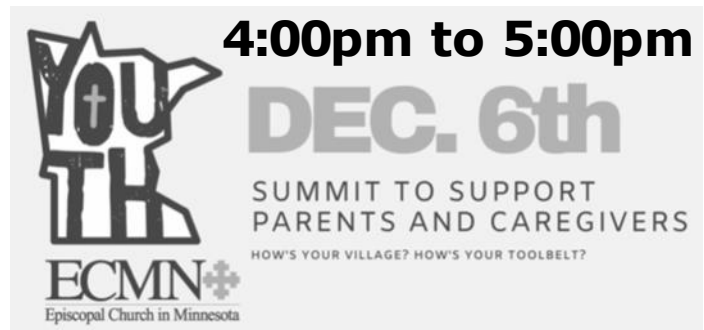
Living Into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America
by Catherine Meeks

(Available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Cathedral Book Store)



Bishop's Summit

At this gathering, Bishop Loya will be asking parents, caregivers and ministers to share – how's your tool belt, and how's your village?



Walking alongside young people as they navigate the complexities of life in the world has never been easy. But this year in particular, the complexities have grown exponentially.

Now, many of us are facing a **dual challenge**: learning to interpret and act given these new challenges ourselves, and then seeking to help the young people in our lives interpret this world that they are inheriting.

The challenge is great, and we can't do this alone. So come and chat back and forth with your new Bishop, as well as have breakout room conversations with other Episcopal parents in small groups with similar age kids.

December 6th will be a chance for all those supporting young people to gather for a summit. We need chances to share, to learn, and to find inspiration and encouragement from one another. **We need to feel and know that we are in this together.** We need to give and receive our collective wisdom.

Many of us are feeling that we've **pulled out all the tools** in our tool belt, and that we're **isolated from the village** that usually supports us alongside our young people.

Register: <https://forms.gle/xRbDr5w6vpUvRjzj6>

At this meeting you will be able to:

- Share your experience with others
- Meet other Episcopal parents in small group breakout room conversations
- Learn more about ECMN's priorities and collaborative work to support youth
- Learn about and give to the Youth Scholarship Fund which sustains our inclusive ministries with young people for the long haul

Learn more: <http://www.ecmnyouth.org/donate>

We are excited about growing this fund, and it is available to support your young people just by checking a box on any event registration.

Feast Days in December

6th	Nicholas, Bishop of Myra
21st	St Thomas, Apostle
26th	St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
27th	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
28th	Holy Innocents

Looking Ahead: January

1st	The Holy Name of Jesus
6th	The Epiphany
18th	The Confession of St. Peter the Apostle
25th	The Confession of St. Paul the Apostle



Special Blessings to all our
December & January
Birthday Trinitarians!

December

01 – Mariatu Andersen
02 – Camden Marquette
05 – Jackson Stewart
11 – Julie Raitz

12 – Carol Weber
12 – Holly Goodwin
13 – Lindsey Latteman
18 – Matt Krogman

20 – David Fensch
30 – Emily Stutler
31 – Ginny Anderson

January

01 – Kylie Scheck
08 – AP Hopper
12 – Ben Bastyr

13 – Mikayla Warner
14 – Deacon Georgia Steele
17 – Sherry Tyler

22 – Dan Krieger
26 – Stephanie Krieger
27 – Marilyn Bina
30 – Tammy Whiteoak

Holy Trinity Happenings

Sundays 10:00am **Online Sunday Worship —Facebook Live.**
Wednesdays 2:00pm **Zoom “Get Together”** Look for link in your email Wednesday morning.
Thursdays 8:00pm **Evening Service of Hope and Peace. Compline Service—Facebook Live.**

Thursday, December 17, 2020, Blue Christmas Service - 7:30 pm, Facebook LIVE!



Our Mission Statement

Holy Trinity is a diverse, multi-cultural, growing, dynamic faith community rich in liturgy and music that serves Christ in all persons and does God’s work in the world.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH			HTEC VESTRY MEMBERS		
Priest-in-Charge:	Fr. Rob Cavanna	320-339-4852	Senior Warden:	Sue Nagorski	612-868-9263 C
Deacon:	The Rev. Georgia Steele	651-338-2946	Junior Warden:	Gary Wedl	763-427-0776
Parish Admin:	Jen Haag	763-441-5482	Service:	Dick Anderson	612-812-2581 C
Director of Music:	Bea Bastyr	763-441-4068	Liturgy:	Daryl Herrmann	269-580-9040
Head Usher:	Dan Krieger	763-441-7072	Education:	Megan Campbell	208-413-0619
Altar Guild Chair:	Gail Weber	612-850-4250	Evangelism:	Nancy Lloyd	763-370-9598 C
Women’s Group Co-chairs:	Linda Krieger Pauline Hoffine	763-441-7072 763-688-4540	Pastoral Care:	Sandy Sisson	763-267-7623
Men’s Group Chair:	Ben Bastyr	763-441-4068	Treasurer:	Jon Lloyd	612-434-3295 C
Youth/Sunday School:	Megan Campbell	208-413-0619	Vestry Clerk:	Joyce LeClaire	763-263-7740 C

ADVENT CALENDAR FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Follow the practices in the calendar. Resolve to do so and your Advent will be a fulfilling one!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship Advent 1 What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with a friend or family member.	30 Go Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously or someone with a different perspective than you. Pray that you hear this person	1 Learn Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying "yes" to God?	2 Pray Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer – "Here I am, God" – until time is up.	3 Bless The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?	4 Turn In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. From what do you need to turn in order to be generous of	5 Rest From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Find that rest today, and do it for as long as you are able.
6 Worship Advent 2 What part of gathering for worship fills your heart with hope?	7 Go Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.	8 Learn Read Luke 1:45. Consider how your faith is a blessing. Share your faith story with a friend.	9 Pray Offer a prayer of thanks for each person you encounter – both stranger and friend – silently or aloud.	10 Bless Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Share with this person how they are a blessing.	11 Turn Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends? Give thanks for the gift of fresh starts that we have through God's grace.	12 Rest Set aside 30 minutes to rest, pause, and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love in relationship.
13 Worship Advent 3 Pray for each person as they receive Communion. Imagine whom you would like to see at church next week. Invite that person to join you.	14 Go Today, choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play. Whom or what did you encounter differently?	15 Learn Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.	16 Pray Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: "May I pray for you?" Then offer prayers on the person's behalf as you move through your day.	17 Bless Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.	18 Turn Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.	19 Rest In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation "good" and rests. What can you proclaim to be "good" instead of "not enough" as a witness to God's love for the world today?
20 Worship Advent 4 Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you on a journey into the world to witness to God's love.	21 Go Go out into your neighborhood today. Where do you see God at work? What attributes of God's love are visible? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate and join in that love.	22 Learn Read Luke 2:8-10. When has God surprised you? Share with a friend.	23 Pray Set aside a time today to pray for others. Include three minutes of intentional silence, asking God to speak to you.	24 Bless If you are gathering with others today, take turns naming a way the person on your right or left has blessed you.	25 Turn Christmas Day Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body,	





How to Reach Us

Address	1326 4th St., PO Box 65, Elk River, MN 55330	Phone	763-441-5482
Office Hours	Wednesdays 10:00am-4:00pm	Church proper is open for YOU!	
E-mail	office@holytrinityelkriver.org	Website	Holytrinityelkriver.org
Twitter	Robert Cavanna	Facebook	www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityElkRiver/