



The Angelus

December 2023

From the Rector's Desk

*O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel...*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
and be Thyself our King of Peace.*

*Rejoice, rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

This Advent hymn is for us now. For us who yearn for peace now, perhaps more than in many years past. For us who know we and the world are lost in the brokenness that is sin, in division, oppression, isolation, hatred, war, fear, distrust that truth abides—with little sign that God is with us.

This is the yearning for God's gracious and peaceful Rule—the Kingdom—that the Jewish exiles knew in captivity in Babylon. Far from the land of their ancestors and the place God promised to be with them. It is a yearning God had, too, for restored oneness with God's own people. The yearning God spoke of boldly through the prophets, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah.

This yearning is about so much more than resolving issues or devising solutions for whatever frightens or enrages in a given moment. Because this is a yearning that springs from the deep awareness of epochal events beyond our control, a yearning that springs from the penitential awareness of our own role and responsibility in the sinful brokenness that enslaves us, that springs from the joyful hope of wholeness and restoration when God will be with us. We simultaneously desire and dread the birth pangs that are the beginning of the Rule of God's own Anointed One, or Messiah, here on earth. "And they shall name him Immanuel,' which means, 'God is with us'."

We await the advent, the arrival, of this Messiah or Christ, in penitence and joy, fasting and rejoicing, confessing and praising. "For there is forgiveness with you;/therefore you shall be feared." Such a subdued and yet vibrant way, a way of hope and contrition, a way of joyful sorrow and sorrowful joy, is the only way to the Kingdom. It is the very way illuminated by that growing, truthful light of God's own promises.

The promised peace of the Kingdom is ours for the taking if we only choose life. For ourselves and for the life of the world. “For the creation waits in eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.”

The Kingdom of God is at hand! Repent and believe in the Good News!

Weep and rejoice!

Welcome to Advent.

Peace,

WLB+

Advent? Advent!

What is Advent (Definition of Advent from AnglicanCompass.com)

Advent is the first season of the Church year. It lasts for four weeks leading up to Christmas Day on December 25. (To learn more about what the Church year is and how it's different from the civil calendar, click [here](#).)

Why is it called “Advent”?

“Advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming or arrival.”

Used by the Church, the word refers to:

1. The “arrival” of Jesus Christ when he was born on the original Christmas Day
2. The upcoming “arrival” of Jesus Christ when, as Christians believe, he will return to judge the living and the dead.

So, the season of Advent is a season of preparation and waiting:

1. First for Christ’s second coming to judge the living and the dead (2 Pet 3:11-14; 1 John 3:2-3), but also
2. To celebrate Christ’s first arrival at Christmas.

Just as the Israelites awaited a Messiah to fulfill God’s promises from Genesis 3:15 to Jeremiah 31:31-34 and beyond, so Christians await the return of Jesus the Messiah to make all things new (Revelation 21). Here is a helpful video about Advent, from “BustedHalo:” [Advent in 2 Minutes](#)

Twelfth Night Open House at the Rectory

Please join Fr William and Tomomi Kanemaru for Epiphany Eve/Twelfth Night of Christmas at the Rectory, Friday, January 5, 6 pm-Whenever

Some food and drinks will be provided, but please bring something to eat, drink, and share, potluck style, to close out the Twelve Days of Christmas and usher in the showing of Christ to the nations of the world, the Epiphany. There will be a brief seasonal blessing of Tomomi and Fr William’s home along with an evening of friendship and warm belonging. No need to RSVP. And bring a friend or two who don’t yet know our delightful congregation or might be nervous about approaching Church otherwise. Questions? Contact Fr William: wbulson@gracesheboygan; 920.452.9659

October Financial Focus

October Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget 2023
\$ 47,565	\$ 273,072	\$ 311,941
October Expenses	YTD Expenses	Annual Budget 2023
\$ 30,358	\$ 280,781	\$ 337,664

Principal Feasts and Holy Days of Obligation

Every once in a while, your rector will stand up at Mass and say, “on such-and-such a date will be such-and-such principal feast and we’re all called upon to show up for that Mass.” What are these principal feasts, why are they such a big deal, and why are we supposed to show up to Mass for them?

These principal feasts are the holy days of the great realities of the Gospel and the Creeds. God is Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has come to the world in Christ’s birth, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ has ascended, Christ will come again. God has sent the Holy Spirit to us to renew the world and bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

Without these realities, we and the world are dead. The Good News is, these Mysteries are true and saving.

So, the principal feasts and days of holy obligation are, as the Book of Common Prayer lists them:

- Easter Day (after the arrival of spring)
- Ascension Day (40 days after Easter)
- The Day of Pentecost (50 days after Easter)
- Trinity Sunday (The Sunday after Pentecost)
- All Saints’ Day, November 1st
- Christmas Day, December 25th
- The Epiphany, January 6th

Mark Your Calendars



- Dec. 3, 3:00 PM, Advent Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 8, 6:00 PM, Holy Hour and Benediction
- Dec. 10, after 10:15 Mass, Visitation of St Nicholas
- Dec. 24, 9:00 AM, 4th Sunday of Advent (One Mass only)
- Dec. 24, 4:00 PM, Christ’s Mass with Children’s Pageant
- Dec. 24, 10:30 PM, Prelude of Christmas Music, 11:00 PM, Christ’s Mass: Eve of the Nativity
- Dec. 25 at 10:15 AM, Christ’s Mass: Nativity of our Lord
- Jan. 1 at 6:00 PM, Holy Name Mass
- Jan. 5 at 6:00 PM, Open House at the Rectory
- Jan. 6 at 6:00 PM, The Epiphany Mass
- Jan. 21 Annual Meeting

Anglican Quote

John Keble was an early 19th century priest in England. He was one of the fathers of a movement that would later become Anglo-Catholicism. He was a respected academic. And he is most lovingly remembered for being a caring and wise parish priest who lived very much “on the ground” with God and people. His collected letters show his warm homey-ness, genuine courtesy, solemn awe, deep love of Scripture and Sacrament, reasonableness borne of real-world experience, and total trust in Christ.

In this quote from a letter he wrote to a young man seeking his advice, we hear him describing how in the Christian’s life, unbeatable joy and sorrowful awareness of our sinful brokenness are not opposites. They belong together. So, this seems like a good quote to ponder as we enter the penitential and joyfully expectant season of Advent.

...the higher hopes one entertains and the more one’s heart is set upon the glorious destinies in store for us, the more painful must be the thought how sadly we have abused, and too often are abusing or neglecting such talents. Who so cheerful in religion as St Paul? Yet he honestly owned himself the chief of sinners in his own eyes. Depend upon it, if a man does but try and act up to these views, especially in the matter of humility—and if he always goes upon what is reasonable, and not upon mere feeling...he will not want cheerfulness in his religion, neither will he despond, however ill he may think of things.

Welcome to Our New Interim Organist, Clayton Logue!

My loving and supportive parents raised me in the Methodist Church in southwest Georgia. They immediately noticed my interest in piano and I began lessons in the 2nd grade. By the 7th grade, I was competent enough to begin playing piano for church services, sparking a career in sacred music spanning five decades.

While I continued playing for two Methodist churches during my high school years, as well as accompanying the church choir on a regular basis, I also accompanied the Seminole County High School chorus for four years. Throughout my high school years, I studied piano at Andrew College in Cuthbert, Georgia with Dr. Larry Belt, a Paris Conservatory and Indiana University alumni.

I attended college at Valdosta University in Valdosta, Georgia, where I studied piano with Dr. John Huxford, a student of Ernst von Dohnanyi. While at Valdosta University, I continued with organ, choral, and music studies. I accompanied the college’s choir and was accompanist for Bemiss Methodist church and choir during my college days. In 1983, I was confirmed in the Episcopal church at Christ Church, Valdosta.

Following graduating from college and leaving Valdosta in 1985, I began my professional career as a pianist in Atlanta, playing for private social clubs, including as staff pianist for 10 years at Piedmont Driving Club and as an occasional pianist for Country Club of the South and Cherokee Town Club. I



was pianist for Four Seasons Hotel Midtown and Saks Fifth Avenue Phipps Plaza for several years. I was a regular pianist for private functions at Coca-Cola World Headquarters, the Carlos Museum, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's annual Christmas house. Throughout the 1990's, I was the director of music for the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation and Holy Family Episcopal Church in the suburbs of Atlanta.

In 1999, I moved to Maui, Hawaii to fulfill my dream of being a musician in a tropical climate. I was hired as organist, pianist, and choral director at Makawao Union Church for ten years.

I was awarded a tuition scholarship from the Hawaii Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in 2000. I studied organ with Katherine Crosier, a student of Marcel Dupre, for 22 years in Honolulu. I was director of music for Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Lahaina for two years, which was recently destroyed in the Lahaina wildfires. For nine years, I was the organist and choral director at St. John's Episcopal Church in Kula, Maui. At St. John's, we were blessed to have a wonderful string quartet and an excellent trumpeter that occasionally accompanied the pipe organ. I was responsible for organizing and securing funds for the total pipe organ restorations and maintenance at all three churches with pipe organs. My proudest moment at St. John's was organizing and writing a grant for the installation of a Zimbelstern for their pipe organ.

While on Maui, in addition to my church positions, I continued to be involved in the community as an active accompanist. I occasionally played piano and harpsichord with the Maui Chamber Orchestra, Maui Community Band, Maui Pops Orchestra, and Maui Choral Arts Association. Maui has a wonderful theater community and I frequently accompanied the pit orchestras of Maui Onstage at Iao Theater, Maui Academy of the Performing Arts, and Pro Arts Maui for musical theater productions. I also accompanied musical theater productions at Baldwin High School, King Kekaulike High School, and accompanied the concert choir of Maui High School.

Maui has one delicious German restaurant, Bridgette and Bernard's Gardencafe, with a renowned month-long annual Oktoberfest buffet every weekend. I inherited the restaurant's 22 year old oompah band and was its director and conductor for many years, the only oompah band in Hawaii.

I'm an active member of The American Guild of Organists, where I served on the Hawaii chapter's board of directors for many years. Through the Hawaii AGO's annual guest artist series, I produced organ concerts on Maui for concert organists Paul Jacobs, Chelsea Chen, Greg Zelek, Adam Pajan, Joey Fala, Katherine Crosier, and several others. Several years ago, I was honored to be accepted into the Association of Anglican Musicians and attended the recent Boston convention. I look forward to attending the AGO Convention in San Francisco and the AAM Convention in Minneapolis during the summer of 2024. I am currently a new member of the Northeast Wisconsin chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

My activities and hobbies include yoga, model railroading, orchids, and landscaping. There are many hymns that I cherish including my favorites, All creatures of our God and King, Love divine, all loves excelling, and Lo! he comes with clouds descending. The singing of these hymns gives me 'chicken skin', as we say in Hawaii!

Christmas Joy

Christmas Joy is an opportunity to show our love and best wishes to the elderly, the sick, and our shut-ins. We will meet on Tuesday, December 19th in the church kitchen at 11:00 AM to package cookies and arrange floral bouquets. A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex to sign up for delivery and baking. Monetary donations are welcome to defray the cost of flowers. (Please write Christmas Joy flowers in the memo line of check.)



EMM and Love INC and the Guild of Saint Alban, oh my!



This icon is called The Flight into Egypt of the Holy Family and was written by the Žiča Monastery of the Serbian Orthodox Church. The outstretched arms of the child Jesus and His mother Mary show the love between them but also the nature of their journey. One can imagine the fear and anxiety of having to flee their home, that holding the embrace of your loved one a little longer is the only way to feel comfort for even a moment. I can't help but think of the families that journeyed to Sheboygan earlier this

year and the parallels they experienced along with the Holy Family. Refugee resettlement has deepened my faith over the last year and our Lord has placed upon us a calling to deepen the faith of our parish in the coming year.

The board of Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) applied to the State Department for approval to open a new affiliate of Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) in Sheboygan County. EMM is one of ten non-profit agencies officially approved to spend public funds for resettling refugees. Last month, thanks be to God the application was approved! The approval required gaining buy-in from local stakeholders like the mayor's office, school district, state refugee office, chamber of commerce, department of health, sheriff's office, and many more.

With approval in hand, Love INC will pursue developing further relationships with many of the stakeholders so that processes are in place for anticipating the reception of refugees next year, probably in

March/April. While Love INC and EMM will work on these relationships there will be more to be prepared for by volunteer teams like the Guild of Saint Alban.

In my last article, I shared some background on the inspiration of Alban and his faithful sacrifice. His faith called him to offer himself in place of the refugee in his day. The guild's purpose is for you to offer the gifts God has bestowed upon you for refugees coming to Sheboygan. Gifts like the knowledge of grocery shopping, navigating the DMV, signing up for school, or taking a prescription to the pharmacist to name a few. I call these gifts because to refugees much of their life when they first come to America is to learn what life is like here. The Ins and Outs of what can be a complicated society are invaluable when you haven't had to encounter these in your life. We'll call these the transactional acts of love. But like many other acts that involve our faith and love of God, these transactions cut deeper to the core of our soul and transform us towards the light of Christ. To sit down and share a meal and laugh as you admire the children running around with smiles ear to ear will set your heart on fire. The best part is that you don't have to learn any new skills! Sure there is training that comes along with this work. Love INC and EMM will be building volunteer teams, like the guild, over the next few months looking for those that are willing to serve those that in some parts of the world, are considered the least. Their ask of these teams is to provide a holy welcome. Something that I think everyone of us would hope for if we were driven from our homes to a foreign land.

During the upcoming season of Epiphany, I will lead a series of presentations during the adult formation hour on Sunday that focus on the ministry of Refugee Resettlement. Please join me as we go into more detail of this wonderful opportunity to bring God's love to the least so that by doing so we also will draw closer to the embrace of Our Lord. As we journey towards the coming of Christ I leave you with this prayer from our Serbian brothers and sisters:

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Hope and Salvation, have mercy on those that are driven from their homelands and seek refuge elsewhere. Guide their steps as You did Your holy family who fled the murderous rage of Herod, and keep them from every danger, evil and disaster as they flee from war, unrest, persecution and cruel injustice. You Who declared that the foxes had dens but You had no place to lay Your head, grant rest and succor to those who are weary, wounded and unprotected. And to those cities and lands to which they travel, grant peace, wisdom and compassion to receive those who come in great numbers and in great distress. Bless and multiply what they can provide as You multiplied the loaves and the fishes to feed multitudes, blessing those who give as well as those who receive. Enlarge them in bounty and spirit that they may be havens of rest and relief to those in need, that Your hospitality may overcome the madness of evil men and chaos of natural disasters. Forgive every transgression of those who are forced to leave their homes and have mercy also on those who receive them and offer them shelter, for You are good and the lover of mankind. To You our gracious Lord and God, we ascribe glory, together with Your Father Who is from everlasting and the all-holy, good and life-giving Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Faithfully yours,

Dcn. Paul

Love INC

On December 10th Kimberly Oreck of Love INC of Sheboygan County will give a presentation at the coffee hour held between the 8 and 10:15 Masses Kimberly's focus will be to make our membership more aware of the activities and volunteer opportunities that Love in the Name of Christ of Sheboygan County offers. Grace Church's involvement with Love INC begins with its inception in Sheboygan County and continues today with several of our members, including Rev Deacon Paul Aparicio and Pat Sather, as valuable contributing members. All members from BOTH Masses are encouraged to attend and bring your generous hearts and open minds to this event.



Annual Meeting

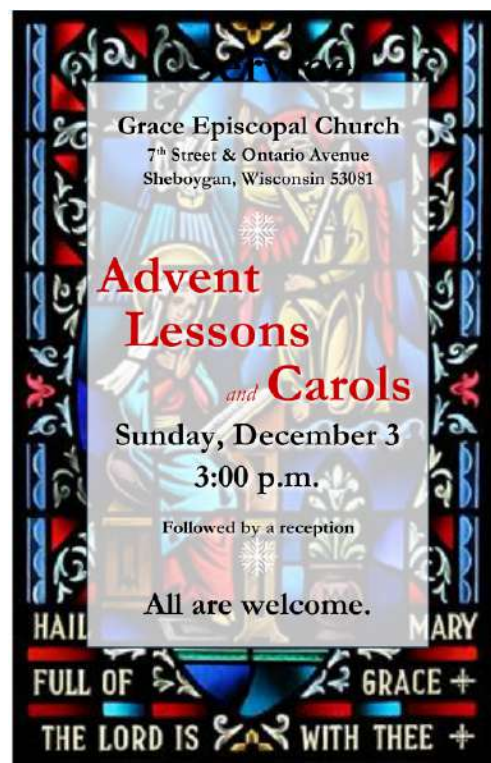
Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 21st. There will be one Mass at 9:00 AM followed by brunch, meeting, and fellowship. If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the vestry or a delegate to our Diocesan Convention please contact either Fr Bulson or Sr Warden, Mary Snyder.

175th Anniversary, Lessons & Carols

Please join us for Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 3 at 3 PM. A high tea will follow to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Grace Church. Also, please know that we will accept free will offerings to be directed to Episcopal Relief and Development. Every dollar donated at the event will be matched by Grace Walsingham Foundation.



175 years



December Birthdays

Andrea Aparicio	12/1	Paul Aparicio	12/17
Htoo Taw	12/1	Zach Sorenson	12/17
Bob Wood	12/4	Dee Crouse	12/21
Shannon Luckey-Mueller	12/6	Kree Hae	12/25
Christian Smith	12/8	Wayne Knocke	12/27
Steve Larson	12/9	Katy Larson	12/27
Lilly Lee	12/10	Pat Ford Smith	12/28
Tom Wright	12/11	Robert Beech	12/31
Margaret Aparicio	12/17	December Anniversary	
		Jessica & Tom Ambelang	12/27

Parish Staff

The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter, *Bishop*
 The Reverend William Bulson, *Rector*
 The Reverend Paul Aparicio, *Deacon*
 Clayton Logue, *Interim Organist*
 Jorge Gonzalez, *Sexton*

The Vestry

The Reverend William Bulson, *Chair*
 Mary Snyder, *Senior Warden*
 John Davis, *Junior Warden*
 Brian Heck, *Treasurer*
 Helen Mullison, *Chancellor*
Vestry: Jack Britton, Tasha Crouse, Mary Gallimore, Jane Hanson, Shannon Luckey-Mueller, Robert McMillan, Jean-Margaret Merrell-Beech, Pat Sather, Connie Schneider

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