



St. John's Episcopal Church

The Eagle

The Twenty-fourth Sunday
after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

A New Word

As we have settled in our new home, we are learning all the nuances that come with such transition. We are discovering which light switches operate which lights, which keys go to which door and which rooms run hot and which rooms run cold. In other words, lots of everyday experiences still feel new with a sense of discovery that comes with increasing knowledge of our house.

If you have lived in your house a long time, I suspect you know most of the nuances, and because of familiarity, there is no need to reflect on them. I would guess that some of the quirks in your home are endearing and others are a little annoying, but they are accepted, and life goes on.

Perhaps this is true for our hearing and reading of Scripture. There are many familiar stories, and when we hear them or read them again, our minds race to the previously discovered and accepted teaching, plot or conclusion of the story. However, I want to invite us to resist the temptation of easy acceptance. Over the past few weeks using the gospel of Matthew assigned for Sundays, we have been reading and listening to Jesus teach by way of parable. The author and priest Robert Capon writes, "With Jesus, however, the device of parabolic utterance is used not to explain things to people's satisfaction but to call attention to the unsatisfactoriness of all their previous explanations and understandings." (Kingdom, Grace, Judgment, p.5)

Capon captures the pedagogical point of parables in that parables are intended to be unsettling, upsetting assumptions. Social, economic, political, and religious norms were the targets of the parables and Jesus' intent to rattle the listener toward a new understanding of how God's kingdom would look and exist. In other words, a deep listening would result in reflecting deeply on our biases, prejudices, and certitude. Perhaps, the parables, Jesus thought, would encourage new ways of thinking, living, praying and participating in the work of God.

I pray that you and I can always hear God's word as fresh as each new breath we take. I pray that you and I can listen with open hearts and minds to what is being said for our lives here and now, for today and for each day we engage with Scripture. Let each day be an awakening, a discovery and a fresh start for how we live our lives in the presence of God, in the presence of God's people and in the household of faith we know as this world.

Peace,
John+

Pre-Advent Reflection Day

with the Rev. Julia Gatta, PhD.

November 21, 2020 9:00am-10:45 am virtual program

“The Grace of Advent in Time of Pandemic”

Mother Gatta is a professor at the School of Theology at Sewanee. Many people in EFM are familiar with Mother Gatta and her latest book, *Life in Christ*. This will be a virtual event. Cost is \$10. Please encourage friends to join us! To register for the event go to Dioala.org

Do you have 3-4 hours you can give to St. John's. Do you want to “hang out” with all the wacky St. John's staff? Then come be a phone volunteer!

We need several volunteers to help answer the phones and man the front desk of the church. It's a pretty low stress job but helps us tremendously!

Duties include answering the phone, accepting packages from the UPS/FedEx delivery people, and maybe an occasional request to help us stick on labels.

Since the office is still fairly closed to visitors, there is not much traffic in & out of the doors. Mainly its just staff & the postman, so you might want to bring a book!

We need help Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm. If you are interested, please call or email Anne Tippett.

262-1937 anne@stjohnsmontgomery.org



St. John's is offering two Advent Reflection Groups during Advent 2020.

Groups will be using a free Advent reflection book called *Living Well Through Advent 2020, Practicing Hope with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind*.

A Sunday meeting is offered at 6:00 PM via Zoom on November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81357691208>

A Monday meeting is offered at 5:30 PM via Zoom on November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88963530345>

Please contact Carrie Shaw at graycegray@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in a group.



Las Posadas is a special tradition at St. John's!

During Advent, we invite different families to open their homes to the Holy Family (plastic statues). In doing so, you are opening your home to the homeless of the world.

Sarah Collier will email information and a sign-up genius to all families. This information will also be on the St. John's Facebook page and website.

Email sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org with questions.

“Liturgy: The Work of the People”

Led by: The Rev. Dr. Deonna Neal

Next Class: Wednesday, November 18th at 6.30 pm via Zoom

This upcoming week's class will focus on the relationship of preaching to the liturgy. Deonna and John will discuss how their authority to preach is derived, the responsibility that comes with it, and how they approach this aspect of their ministry.

New St. John's Treasurer

After 25 years as Treasurer, Helen has decided that her time to retire is now. We honor her request with heartfelt gratitude for an amazing and faithful tenure and ministry. We will have a proper celebration for Helen at the Annual Meeting in January.

Richard Bradford has accepted my invitation to be the next treasurer for St. John's. He and Helen will work together for a time to ensure a responsible transition, along with Phillip Brown, who remains assistant treasurer and our financial administrator, Heather Herring.

Please join me in thanking Helen and Richard.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have responded in support of our mission and ministry by returning a pledge card. We are grateful for your increased commitments and your enthusiasm for the priorities here at St. John's. If you have not returned your pledge card, please join with others by doing so. In order to finalize the budget, we need your participation and the pledge card returned as soon as possible. Thank you!

THE LESSONS: Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

THE COLLECT:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Joy and Concern

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Bonner Engelhardt, Karen Jarrell, Caroline Majors, Christopher Marshall, Joe McGough, Marilyn Pickett, Caroline Clark Calhoun Serrato, Scott Simmons, Sarah Stone, George Wakefield.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Betsy Arnold, Dottie Campbell, Margaret Carlson, Raye Gregory, Pee Wee Kohn, Diane Kuehndorf, Charlie Leisy, Russ Levensen, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Lavada Spears Persons, Ernie Reddick, Mark Wimble.

Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care. The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify if the name listed needs to be included longer.

This Week At St. John's

SUNDAY

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite One
9:00 am Children's Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite Two
5:00 pm EYC

MONDAY

8:10 am Facebook Live Morning Prayer
12:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom
5:00 pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom
9:00 pm Facebook Live Compline

TUESDAY

8:10 am Facebook Live Morning Prayer
9:00 pm Facebook Live Compline

WEDNESDAY

8:10 am Facebook Live Morning Prayer
9:00 pm Facebook Live Compline
3:30 pm Coffice at Cafe Louisa
6:30 pm Liturgy Zoom Class

THURSDAY

8:10 am Facebook Live Morning Prayer
9:00 pm Facebook Live Compline

FRIDAY

8:10 am Facebook Live Morning Prayer
9:00 pm Facebook Live Compline

St. John's Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-262-1937
Fax: 334-262-1931
Website:
stjohnsmontgomery.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #376
Montgomery, Alabama
36104

«LA_LABEL_NAME»
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Vestry and Staff

Rector: John P. Leach

Priest Associate: Deonna D. Neal

Staff:

Anne Tippett: Assistant to the Rector, Clerk to the Vestry

Sarah Collier: Director of Children's Christian Formation

Joleen George: Director of Youth Ministries and Parish Communications

Heather Herring: Financial Administrator

Joel Gregory: Organist and Choirmaster

Mike Jarrell Maintenance Superintendent

Myron Smoke, Judson George: Maintenance Staff

Vestry of St. John's:

Jimmy McLemore Sr. Warden, Radney Ramsey Jr. Warden

Class of 2021

Virginia Banister, Richard Bradford, Kathryn Dailey, Mike Jenkins, Stephanie Norrell, Todd Westhauser

Class of 2022

John Carter, Will Gunter, Katie Keller, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Nick Prillaman, Emily Wise

Class of 2023

Betsy Cannon, Cissy Johnson, Brice Johnston, J.R. Marshall, Scott Mitchell, Dudley Perry, Will Hill Tankersley

Treasurer: Helen Wells