



# The Signpost Weekly

December 16, 2018  
Third Sunday of Advent

**Fr. Zac Harmon, Vicar**

<http://www.stchristophersnh.org>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
187 East Rd., Hampstead, NH 03841  
Tel. (603) 329-4674

News or Info: [signpostweekly@comcast.net](mailto:signpostweekly@comcast.net)

## Calendar

### Sunday, December 16

☆ Third Sunday of Advent  
(Gaudete- Rejoicing Sunday)

- 8 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m., Adult Formation – Prayer
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Worship Service
- 7 p.m. Lessons & Carols

### Monday, December 17

- 9 a.m. Yoga

### Tuesday, December 18

- 9 a.m., Morning Prayer
- 9:30 a.m., Exodus Bible Study

### Wednesday, December 19

- 6:30 p.m.- Bishop's Committee

### Thursday, December 20

- 7 p.m. Blue Christmas Worship Service
- NO Evening Eucharist/Bible Study

### Sunday, December 23

☆ Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8 and 10:15 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation
- 10 a.m. Sunday School

### Monday, December 24

☆ Christmas Eve

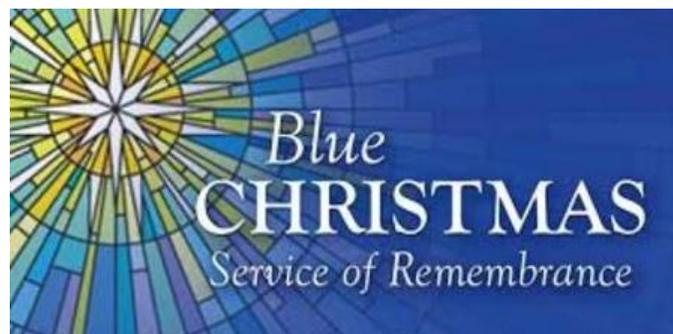
- 3:30 p.m. Children arrive to be fitted for a costume.
- 4 p.m. - Christmas Pageant/Family Service
- 9 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

### Tuesday, December 25

☆ Christmas Day

- 9 a.m. Worship Service

and reunion are all holy themes and characters appearing in this service of preparation for Christmas. While one can compare Lessons & Carols to a concert, it truly is much more - a contemplation and meditation with music. One leaves a Lessons & Carols service with a sense of holy anticipation for Jesus' coming into our world and for Christmas tide. This is an Episcopal/Anglican traditional service which stretches back to the 1870's and has become a much-loved service in many churches. It is also a service which does not include communion, and so is a very easy invite if you have a friend or family member



### Blue Christmas, Thursday December 20, 7 p.m.

While Christmas is so often a treasured time, some years are particularly difficult due to a loss or difficulty. Sometimes too, if there is a deep loss or absence of a loved one we have experienced, holidays like Christmas can cause this loss to feel particularly pronounced. If this is the case for you, we have a service to make space for these more difficult feelings. All are welcome

### Evangelism Soundbite

Just a quick reminder that to build community in our church, at church every Sunday it is important to just take two minutes and say hi to someone you don't know, or don't know well. This small step makes a great difference in connecting with each other, as well as with newcomers and visitors over the Christmas holidays. It builds our church in a stronger community in sharing the love of Christ.

### Adult Formation - Celtic Prayer

Ann Gerns will be leading a discussion about Celtic approaches to prayer - these can be more spontaneous and more connected with nature and the rhythms and actions of common living than the Benedictine tradition we learned about with Br. David last week. It is a great opportunity to take in here in this Advent season of prayer and preparation.



### Lessons & Carols this Sunday @ 7 p.m.

The many musical talents of our parish will be a part of this celebration of Advent in Lessons & Carols. Angels, John the Baptist, dramatic falls, redemption

Almighty and gracious Father,  
 We give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season  
 And for the labors of those who harvest them.  
 Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty,  
 For the provision of our necessities  
 And the relief of all who are in need,  
 To the glory of your Name;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.  
 Amen.

## Stewardship

We've had a great level of participation from the parish this year in our Stewardship Drive. More details will be to you soon. For now, we want to say a big "Thank You" to all those who have pledged support for 2019. If you are still thinking of pledging, a pledge is truly welcome **any time of year. It is never too late to pledge.**

## Name Tags! Wearing yours is a very welcoming gesture to newcomers and visitors to our parish

New members get name tags too, so this Sunday if you see a new member, you can go and introduce yourself to them and make them feel welcome. Just a reminder, it may be easier for the new members to remember you if you are wearing your name tag. A special "Thank You" to Barbara Hughes for her ministry in making the

tags. God Bless St. Christopher's. *Bob Leonard*

## 2018 Pledge Receipts for the Week Ending Dec. 9, John Svitak Reports

- Rec'd, \$5,939 (budget, \$2,308)
- YTD actual rec'd \$114,843 (budget, \$113,077)

Please note: Several of us are behind in our pledges. If you would like to know the status of your 2018 pledge gifts, please contact Nancy Hickey; [nancy@howielegal.com](mailto:nancy@howielegal.com) or 603-329-7840

## A Special Notice about End of Year Spending

As you might imagine with the many repairs which have been needed these last weeks at St. Christopher's and with our tight budget, we need to be mindful about further spending as the year ends. If you or a ministry you are part of in the church is considering spending some funds, please check in with Brenda Getchell (Treasurer) first about what amount is feasible and to help her in planning and allocating funds. Thank You.



# 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

**Our 2019 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 13, 2019, snow date: Sunday, January 20**

As is our custom, we will have one service on that day at 10 am. New members of the Bishop's Committee, Delegates to Convention and Assessors will be voted in. A week before the meeting you will receive a PDF of the new Annual Report via email.

"Hard copies" of the report will also be available at church. This is a very important meeting for the church, one you will want to attend

## Prayers of the People

Prayers for **Carolyn Timbie** and for the repose of her **Father**, who passed away Wednesday. Ingrid and Mark Chapman ask for your prayers for their daughter **Lisa**. Please pray for **Nick**, Anne Darrah's cousin's husband; please pray for **Angie McCurdy** and her family; please pray for **Lincoln**, Christine Collins' cousin's young son who is ill; and for **Aaron, Alex & family** in their time of grief. Prayers for **Zach**, a relative of a parishioner; prayers for **Noelle Schreiber; Ellie McCabe;** prayers for **Bob Gleason, Lucille Gigeure.** For Dave Darrah's brother, **Tom;** for **Deb;** for **Roy Jeffrey; Ann Donovan; Kate; Brayden; Matty; Ian;** prayers for **Howie;** for **Cheryl;** for **Ryan;** for **Jacqueline;** for Natalie's brother **Lorin;** for Mark and Ingrid's son **Eric.**

**Serving in the Military:** Pray for Pam Vazquez's son, **Army 2nd Lt. Nicholas J. Vazquez,** for Del's cousins, **Daniel, Matthew and Sandra.**

**Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Mike, Jen, Maddy, Natalie, and Sean Hayes; Ed and Sue Hale; Alexandra, Ian and Owen Handel; Fr. Zac and Rev. Kate Harmon Siberine.

## Attendance

Tuesday, 12/3, 9 a.m., 8; Thursday, 12/5, 7 p.m. 11  
 Saturday, 12/8, 2 p.m., 4;  
 Sunday, 12/9, 8 a.m., 21; 10:15 a.m., 59

## Third Sunday of Advent



*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*



## BULLETIN INSERTS

### December 16, 2018 – Advent 3 (C) Third Week of Advent: Journeying with Community

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that includes the community. The witness of Zechariah and Elizabeth who bring infant John to the Temple to be circumcised reminds us of the importance of our faith community to sustaining the Way of Love. Just as the community did for John's family, communities provide a place for discernment, sometimes challenging us and other times affirming us. Communities celebrate and mark important moments along the journey.

---

#### Sunday, December 16

##### **WORSHIP**

Pray for each person as they receive communion. Imagine who you would like to see at church next week. Invite them to church today.

#### Monday, December 17

##### **GO**

Read your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing

#### Tuesday, December 18

##### **LEARN**

Read Luke 1:57-80. Name three ways in which your faith community challenges you to practice the Way of Love. Share your list with a member of your community.

#### Wednesday, December 19

##### **PRAY**

Gather with your faith community for a short time of prayer today.

#### Thursday, December 20

##### **BLESS**

Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Then share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.

#### Friday, December 21

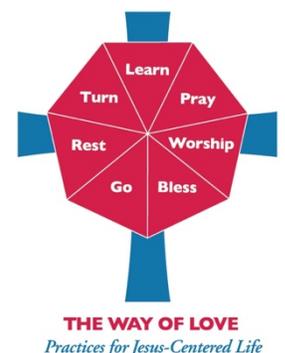
##### **TURN**

Read the General Confession in an unfamiliar location—in the park, at work, at school, or on the bus. What does the prayer invite you to turn from in that location? What does it invite you to turn toward?

#### Saturday, December 22

##### **REST**

How can you or your community open yourselves to people in need of rest and relief from overwork? From oppression? From violence?



---

For more Advent resources related to the Way of Love, visit [episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove](http://episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove). There, you'll find links to the full Advent curriculum *Journeying the Way of Love*, as well as a nine-session curriculum for use anytime, a printable Advent calendar, video, and much more.