

**This Sunday:  
The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023  
9:00 AM  
Holy Eucharist**

Join us in person for our service.

Or join us by going to the Parish Facebook page for the online service:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpetersport/>

The worship leaflet can be found [here](#).

The Song of Praise, "Why is it so?" can be found [here](#).

There will be a coffee hour after the mass.

**Sunday Morning Ministers:**

Eucharistic Minister: Janene Gorham

Crucifer: Wayne Franklin

Lector: Wayne Franklin

Usher: Cindy Sherwood

## Coffee Hour Hosts: The Hickey Family

Music Notes for this Sunday are found at the end of Key Notes. Resident Soloist Mary Sullivan joins us for the service.

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Dear Friends,

Each week as we begin our mass, I look out at the camera and try to picture all of you who are joining us online for our service. I also know that some of you will view the service at a later date - the recordings of each service remain on our Facebook page for 30 days. Thank you for the commitment you make to joining us this way.

We are hoping to improve the streaming of our services with a new camera system, which we will be testing again this coming Sunday now that some technical difficulties have been ironed out. You may still see the one view you usually see on a Sunday morning, but if our internal test this week is successful, you can look forward to a better representation of the service as you tune in each Sunday.

And for those who can gather each week in our building: are you aware of how widespread our parish is? Each week, we may have participants from Florida, Chile, New Mexico, Great Britain, Illinois, New Hampshire, and any number of other places as well. Other participants are more local - Buxton, Westbrook, and Portland, just to name a few local communities.

“In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,” proclaim the words of one of our hymns. I give thanks that our reach is widespread, and that our worship and praise of God is not confined to the four walls of our building. May God extend that reach even more and more.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Tom

Each week, as we begin ou  
Faithfully,  
Fr. Tom

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## **Greetings from our Postulant, Myrna Koonce**

On Sunday, a number of us had the chance to meet Myrna Koonce, who is joining us as a postulant in her preparation for ordination to the priesthood. Here is a letter from her sharing a bit more about her background and call to the priesthood:



Dear People of St. Peter's,

It was a pleasure to meet and talk with many of you last Sunday, and I look forward to getting to know you and your ministries better over the coming months. I am excited to see how the Spirit is moving at St. Peter's, and privileged to be part of this!

My own faith journey began when I became an Episcopalian as a teenager at St. Mark's, Waterville. As Father Mousin mentioned, I have been a parishioner at St. Paul's, Brunswick, for 29 years, where I engaged in many lay ministries and leadership positions. I became part of the healing prayer ministry team who provide laying on of hands and prayer for healing twice a month, and this led me to chaplaincy and eventually to my path toward ordained ministry.

I have long had a heart for those on the margins. My husband and I first met when we were houseparents at a

residential treatment center for children with emotional disabilities and behavioral issues. When we first moved back to Maine in 1985, we settled here in Portland, where I worked as a Head Start Center Director on Munjoy Hill. After our move to Brunswick, I spent several years as a cook in the soup kitchen, then housed along with the food pantry at St. Paul's. And in my current position as palliative care chaplain at Maine Medical Center, I meet many of the "lost and the least" who struggle in ways I cannot imagine.

Also, I love to sing! Being part of the choir at St. Paul's was integral to my worship and I really enjoy the sung parts of the liturgy, which is one of my newfound delights at St. Peter's.

My husband and I have two grown children. Our son Nate, his wife Olga and our granddaughter Maia live in Utrecht, Netherlands, and our daughter Hannah lives in Barcelona, Spain. We are a family who loves travel and while it is hard to be so far apart, we are grateful that we can visit them with some regularity.

Thank you for such a warm welcome, and I will see you all on December 17 (I will be away this weekend for a long-planned birthday celebration).

In hope and peace,

Myrna Koonce  
Postulant to the Priesthood

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## **Our Next St. Elizabeth's Volunteer Day is Tuesday December 12**

Please join us for a morning of volunteering at St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry on Tuesday the 12th. We gather at St. Luke's Cathedral 8:30 AM.

We also continue to collect winter coats and gloves, hats, and mittens for the pantry. You can place your donations in

the undercroft.

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## **Youth Service Corps Will Meet on Sunday December 17th**

The next Youth Service Corps gathering will be on Sunday December 17th. Plan to meet at Marden's in Scarborough at noon - where winter clothing will be purchased for Maine Needs. After delivering the clothing to Maine Needs on Forest Ave., the group will share pizza. If you plan to attend, please let the rector know before December 14th (and clothing items can also be brought to church for this mission project.).

**Fr Martin Smith invites us to consider new ways of praying to meet Christ during Advent -** Wednesday December 13th from 7:00 PM -8:30 PM, followed by refreshments. See below for more information.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

# Christ Comes Surprisingly: A Quiet Evening of Advent Preparation with Fr Martin Smith

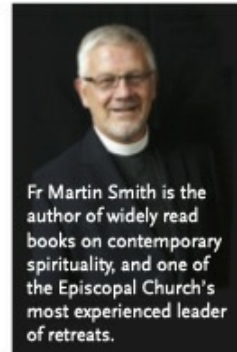


A striking theme of the Advent scriptures is that Christ comes to us in places and at times when we weren't expecting his arrival. We will try out simple ways to pray that allow us to meet him in unexpected ways in the here and now. Fr Smith will give three brief reflections, each followed by a time for personal prayer and reflection. We will conclude the evening with Compline and refreshments.

**7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**  
**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

678 Washington Ave. Portland, ME  
stpetersoffice10@gmail.com ■ 207-775-1179

The evening will also be livestreamed on the parish's Facebook  
page: [facebook.com/stpetersport](https://facebook.com/stpetersport)



Fr Martin Smith is the author of widely read books on contemporary spirituality, and one of the Episcopal Church's most experienced leaders of retreats.



Here is an update on our "Rooted In Abundance" stewardship campaign. **We have now heard from 33 individuals or families who have pledged a total of \$44,580.** Thank you for this generous increase in pledges!

We will be in touch with you if you have indicated interest in sharing your time or talent in areas of ministry. We are blessed! If you have not yet made a pledge, you can do so with the pledge form [here](#).

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## **Apologies to Wayne Franklin...**

whose name was left off the list last week in Key Notes, recognizing the volunteers who moved our choir pews and altar rails back into place. Below - proof that he was indeed there, leading the project and here helping Fred Fowler arrange one of the pews.



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## **Looking Ahead**

**Second Sunday of Advent: December 10**, with coffee hour to follow the mass.

**St. Elizabeth's Volunteer Morning: December 12, 8:30 AM**

**Advent Quiet Evening on Wed. Dec. 13, - see info above.**

**Third Sunday of Advent: December 17**, with coffee hour to follow the mass.

**December Vestry Meeting on Zoom on Mon. Dec. 18 at 6:30 PM**

**Aging With Grace Gathering on Zoom: December 20th at 3:00 PM**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 24**, with coffee hour to follow the mass.

**Christmas Eve Service on Sunday Dec. 24th at 7:00 PM**

**Christmas Day Mass on Monday Dec. 25th at 9:00 AM**

**Lessons and Carols Service on Sun. Dec. 31st at 9:00 AM**

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## **Compline Link**

Join us for the Compline Prayer Service on Zoom on Wednesday, December 13. **Compline for this night only will be on our Facebook page, starting around 8:15 PM as a conclusion to our Advent Quiet Evening.** There will be no Zoom connection for this evening.

**Here** is the service for Compline.

The Facebook page is **here**.

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## **Liturgical Rota for December**

### **December 10**

Eucharistic Minister: Janene Gorham

Crucifer: Wayne Franklin

Lector: Wayne Franklin

Usher: Cindy Sherwood

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Hickey Family

### **December 17**

Eucharistic Minister: David Savage



Crucifer: Steve Koskinen

Lector: Jan Tracy

Usher: Anita Chandler

Coffee Hour Hosts: Colette Desjardins and Janene Gorham

### **December 24**

Eucharistic Minister: Tom Ainsworth

Crucifer: Wayne Franklin

Lector: Emily Keniston

Usher: Bob Simmons

Coffee Hour Hosts: Bring a holiday treat from home!

### **December 31**

Eucharistic Minister: Lenita Richard

Crucifer: Fred Fowler

Lector: Anita Chandler

Usher: Anita Chandler

Coffee Hour Hosts: Lorna Blackmer and Jane Noone

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## **Weekly Prayer List**

### **Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends**

**Ann Marie Cady**

**Allison Schroth**

**Francisco Andreu**

**Steve Secord**

**Diane Dalton**

**Judy Howes**

**David and Dino Rice**

**Robert Stillings**

**Janene Gorham**

**Linda Foster**

**Peter Haskell**, *friend of Allison Schroth*

**Martha and Steve Gagliardi**, *friends of Fr. Tom*

**Tommy Valente**, *friend of Don and Ann Marie Cady*

**Jane Reiha**, *friend of Judy Howes*

**Brenda Pappalardo**, *friend of Judy Howes*  
**Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche**, *friends of Dino Rice*  
**Marge Devine**, *family member of Allison Schroth*  
**Jimmy Devine**, *family member of Allison Schroth*  
**Sharon Bay**, *family member of Ann Bay*  
**Fuji Sprott**, *friend of David and Dino Rice*  
**Ray Ruel**, *family member of Jane Noone*  
**Patty Libby**, *friend of Allison Schroth*  
**Eleanor Keniston**, *granddaughter of Tom Ainsworth*  
**Steve Garnett**, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*  
**Jane Hartwell**, *senior warden at Trinity Church*

If you wish to add or return persons to the prayer list, please contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinators:

Allison Schroth, at: 207-807-1315  
ASchroth@maine.rr.com

or

Emma Bond at: 207-619-3662  
emma.e.bond@gmail.com

### **A Prayer for Those We Love**

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

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## **MUSIC NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY**

In an age seemingly dominated by popular culture, it is interesting to note that the most frequently performed and largely attended musical composition of all time remains Handel's great oratorio, *Messiah*. Composed in an incredible 24 days, the work received its premiere at a benefit concert in Dublin. The reception was enthusiastic, to say the least: so that the largest possible audience could be admitted to the concert, gentlemen were requested to remove their swords, and ladies were asked not to wear

hoops in their dresses. The performance earned unanimous praise from the assembled press: "Words are wanting to express the exquisite delight it afforded to the admiring and crowded Audience," enthused Dublin's leading music critic. The Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral was so overcome by soprano Susanna Cibber's rendering of "He shall feed His flock" that he leaped to his feet and cried, "Woman, for this be all thy sins forgiven thee!"

The text for our sequence hymn was written by Father Tom Mousin as his Advent poem for 2022, thus continuing a tradition begun in 1990. The tune *Puer Nobis* began life as a folk song, and was later formalized by the prolific late-Renaissance composer Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

Composer, teacher, lecturer and mentor to countless younger composers and conductors, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) is regarded as one of the towering figures in the history of English music. *The Call*, one of a group of *Mystical Songs* composed in 1911, uses as its text a poem by the Elizabethan poet George Herbert.

The authorship of Bach's *Eight Short Preludes and Fugues*, standard fare for every serious organ student, is a source of ongoing controversy. Attributed to Bach in the mid-19th century by the editors of the first complete edition of his organ works, the so-called "Eight Short" have more recently been thought to be by his student Johann Krebs, since in so many places they seem unlike anything else Bach is known to have written for organ. The only problem with that hypothesis is that they're unlike anything Krebs ever wrote, as well! Did some other composer--one of Bach's talented sons, for example--produce them, perhaps with some help from the master himself in places? Within the past few years, the brilliant but controversial German musicologist/organist Harald Vogel has offered a new theory: the "Eight Short" were composed by Bach all right, but for the pedal clavichord, not the organ, which he feels would account for the departures from Bach's usual style of

organ composition. Whatever the case, they're fine pieces and can serve effectively at various points in a church service, as the example heard this morning attests.~ HT

As always, it is a pleasure to welcome resident soloist Mary Sullivan to St. Peter's Church. Mary will also join us on December 24th for the Christmas Eve service at 7PM.

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St. Peter's Church | 678 Washington Ave., Portland, ME 04103

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