

A Grace Note from the Rector
December 7, 2023

Dear Ones,

TONIGHT! ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL

At 7pm tonight, come enjoy a candlelit recital of organ music for the Nativity Season.
There may be singing. Reception to follow. Bring your friends.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DON CURTIS

The funeral for Don Curtis will take place on Saturday, **December 16 at 3pm**, Visitation at 2pm at **The Episcopal Church of the Nativity**, 7300 Lantern Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256. Don's obituary is here: <https://www.legacycremationfuneral.com/obituaries/donald-curtis> Cards may be sent to Teresa Curtis, 1804 N Sandal Wood Drive, Yorktown, IN 47396.

POINSETTIAS

To dedicate a Christmas poinsettia plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one, there will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Parish Hall. A donation of \$20 to the Altar Flower Fund is recommended, but not required. A list of donors and memorials will be included in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You may also contact Mark Mordue with the necessary information at: markmordue@gmail.com

2023 GIVING TREE

There was a wonderful response to this year's Giving Tree in support of two families in the care of A Better Way. As of yesterday, there were only 4 tags left on the tree. When you have purchased and wrapped the gift, remove the part of the card you took from the tree that describes the gift, and affix the remainder ("Boy 1", "Mom 2") to the package. Please have your gift under the tree by Sunday, December 17, so that Santa Claus can get them delivered on time. Blessings to all of you who are participating!

CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24	9:30am	Holy Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24	5:30pm	Lessons & Carols followed by Holy Eucharist <i>In-person only, no Zoom</i>
Monday, December 25	10:00am	Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day <i>In-person only, no Zoom</i>
Wednesday, December 27	Noon	Midweek Eucharist: St. John's Day
Sunday, December 31	9:30am	Holy Eucharist: 1 st Sunday after Christmas

GATHERING GRACE & A BETTER WAY – WINTER PROTECTION

New and gently used gloves, hats and scarves are still being accepted to help prepare Gathering Grace guests and A Better Way clients for winter. Thank you to all who have contributed thus far.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Food Pantry: Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & pasta sauce, mac & cheese.
Personal Care Items: Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets.

YARN & YARNS

The next gathering for Yarn & Yarns needlework group will be Wednesday, December 20 at 10:00am at Grace Church. Bring your current project and join us!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Derek Bailey (December 8)

Blake Watson (December 9)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The invitation of Advent is to pay attention to the now. Be where your feet are. We sing, “O come, O come, Emmanuel” – “O come, O come, God-with-us”. Not “God who was with us”, or “God who will be with us”, but “God who **is** with us”. To help us glimpse where Emmanuel might be, here’s a poem by Mary Oliver.

Making the house ready for the Lord

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

Wishing you a blessed Advent,



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