
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE DIVINE LOVE

December 2021

LOVENOTES

Priest in Charge The Reverend Jean Quatorze

Wardens Roe Prosser & Anthony Giordano

Clerk of the Vestry Jessica Berbeck

divinelovemontrose@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAYS

10:15 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II in church and on zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88697797621?pwd=NIQzSnI0VFJPSHhXNWpSL1lxL3JmZz09>

WEEKDAYS –

OTHER PROGRAMS

Sunset Nursery School – Mon-Friday 9AM-12PM (914-737-1818 for info)

Alcoholics Anonymous – Mon & Thurs at 8PM (meets in church)

Al Anon – Wednesday's at 7pm(meets in church)

Carriage House Thrift Shoppe – Thurs & Sat from 10AM-2PM

Christmas Eve 7pm

Christmas Morning 10:15am

Our Christmas Services will be as follows:

Christmas Eve 7pm

Christmas Morning 10:15am



November 15, 2021.

Dear Church members, family and friends,

Greetings and Blessings to you all! In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he speaks of three Gifts of the Spirit: faith, hope and love. We all know these words well. Our church is open and vibrant! As we now gather for worship through in-church and along zoom services, we aim to continue engaging in all of the important parts of our weekly worship services. We continue to sing hymns. We continue to pray. We also need to continue to worship through receiving offering from you.

Every year around this time we talk about Stewardship. At its heart, Stewardship is not just money. Certainly, we need financial support if we are to maintain and continue our ministries here at Divine Love. But stewardship is so much more: it is about using all the resources God has given us, our talents, abilities, strength, mind, and time to faithfully serve God together as kingdom's people. This year we would like to engage in conversations about gifts of the Spirit and how these particular gifts inform our giving and sharing here at Divine Love. Good things are happening here, even amidst difficult circumstances, and your generous giving allows us to have a vital ministry to our own members, and to those beyond our doors.

You have always been so supportive of the church of the Divine Love, generously giving of your time, wisdom, experience, passion, and financial resources to sustain and grow our work and ministries. As we begin a new year's annual giving, we hope that we can count on your support again.

Included in this mailing is a pledge form for 2022. Please prayerfully consider the amount you pledge financially so that church of the Divine Love can continue to share God's love with even more people and making a positive difference in the lives of everyone in our community and beyond. We ask that you return your pledge form by commitment Sunday, which is scheduled for December 12, 2021. Your pledge form can be mailed to 80 church of the Divine Love, Montrose NY 10548.

We thank you in advance for your commitment to the Divine Love and wish you many generous blessings!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Priest in charge

“Keep awake “and to” be ready”

The day and hour about which we do not know comes to us in a thousand different ways. It comes to us as an unexpected gift, an unwanted loss, an unimagined future, a dream come true. Regardless, we had no way of knowing when, how, or if it would come. And we had no way of knowing what it would bring. Despite our best efforts to plan and prepare for the future, we live in the midst of uncertainty and unknowing. There are days and hours that take us completely by surprise, in good ways and in not so good ways.

The day and hour of uncertainty and not knowing are what Advent is about. Advent isn't just a season in the church year. It describes our life. The seasons of the Church year are a lens through which we see and reflect on our lives. Advent, whether in the Church or in life, always begins with the day and hour about which we do not know. Nobody knows when, where, or how that day and hour will come. It is unforeseeable and unpredictable. It comes, Jesus says, like a thief in the night or a sweeping away flood.

Every year the gospel for the First Sunday in Advent sounds ominous and threatening. We call texts of the first Sunday of Advent apocalyptic, and we tend to hear them as end of the world texts. That's often how it feels when life is uncertain, the future is unpredictable, and we are powerless to control what comes next. It can feel like the world is ending. But in those texts Jesus never says that the world is ending. Jesus is not predicting the end of the world. He's talking about how to

live in the face of impermanence and changes that are neither predictable nor controllable.

Impermanence and uncertainty characterize those texts. It begins with the day and hour about which we do not know and ends with the unexpected hour. And everything in between is about not knowing.

Look at the world today. Read the news. If there is a theme it is uncertainty, not knowing, a feeling of chaos and powerlessness. So, what if apocalypse is not about the grand finale, the end of the world, but about living in the midst of uncertainty and unknowing, living with the unpredictability of the future, living in the midst of chaos?

Apocalyptic days and hours are difficult ones. Life feels chaotic and out of control. We often don't know what to say and sometimes we don't know what to pray. Questions abound and answers are few and far between. Explanations neither satisfy nor make sense. That day and hour is not so much about what is happening in our head but what is happening in our heart, that deep place where the mystery of God and our own life meet. The question then is not about the end of the world, but about how we live with uncertainty, not knowing, and powerlessness. What does faithfulness look like in those times? How do we live in the midst of impermanence? Where is our center on that day and hour?

The challenge of Advent, of that day and hour about which you do not know, is to cultivate what the poet John Keats called "negative capability." Negative capability is the ability to sustain uncertainty, to live with not knowing, to stand in the mystery, to keep the questions

and possibilities open, to embrace ambiguity, to not be too quick to resolve or shut down doubt, and to do all this without running away and trying to escape, without grasping for facts and reason, without blaming others and justifying ourselves. I think that's what Jesus is getting at

when he says we are to "keep awake" and to "be ready."

Keep awake and be ready for what? I wish I could tell you, but I can't. I don't know. It's the day and hour about which no one knows. The most I can tell you is to keep awake and be ready for whatever comes to you, and what does not come to you. It is the unfolding of your life. These days and hours are unpredictable, unknown, and impermanent. That does not, however, diminish life. It intensifies life. It heightens its value. It deepens its meaning. It opens us to the possibility of the impossible, to life and more life. Everything matters. And we don't want to miss a moment.

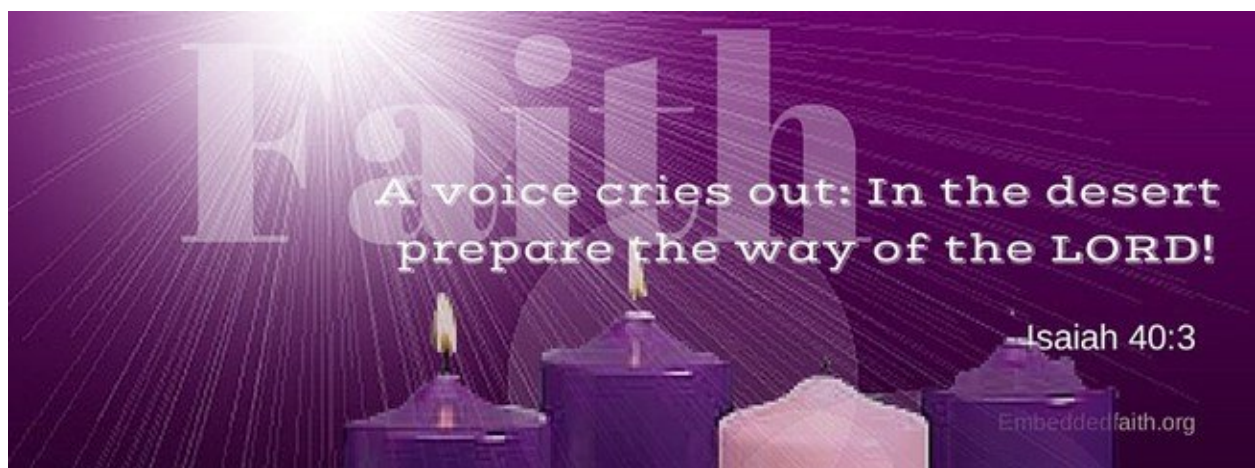
It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss. This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death, and destruction. This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly. It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever. This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God,

the Everlasting, the Prince of peace. It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world. This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and so I am with you, even until the end of the world. It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers. This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams. It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history. This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ, the life of the world.

Happy season of Advent and be blessed!

Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze



Hello from Sunset Nursery School

The season of giving thanks!

November has been a fun month full of philanthropy. We are currently running a food drive, a “furry friends” drive for the SPCA and Operation Christmas Child. We love having the children learn how wonderful it feels to give.

“Operation Christmas Child” is something we turn into a circle time lesson. Together, the children will put together shoe boxes full of items to give a child in need. We do this activity during circle time. We will pick a country to research and talk about. The children will see where that country is located and talk about its culture; what the children wear, what they do for fun and foods they like to eat. This makes the experience more personal for them and they can truly feel how wonderful it is to give and help others. We will have the boxes and information available to you within the next few weeks in case you are interested in putting together a box from your family. Information regarding both events will be in your child's mailbox soon.

It is especially “merry” here at Sunset during the month of December. It is a magical time because we have the privilege of enjoying the magic of the season with the children. We decorate our tree, the children spontaneously burst out with a Christmas tune and the sweet story of baby Jesus is the reading topic of the month. Their eyes sparkle a little more this time of year and everyone has an adorable story to share about their family, Christmas plans and, of course, their Christmas list!

I am feeling incredibly blessed to be at school with the children again this year. Let us pray that we continue to be able to provide a safe place to learn and play and that the children stay safe and healthy. I thank our parents for being both considerate and responsible in helping us provide a safe and healthy environment for all. Everyone plays an important role in making this happen and for that I am grateful.

As always, we thank you for your prayers of support, and we ask that you continue to keep us in your hearts when you pray. We wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas and lets all be hopeful and pray for a peaceful and wonderful New Year.

**Melissa Wassil,
Director**

Pumpkin Soup:

This delicious and very healthy soup is a traditional dish in Haiti, the original home of Ftr.Jean and his wife Marie. Pumpkins contain a lot of Vitamin A! The soup has a very appetizing color. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

Pumpkin

Turnip

Potato

Chili Pepper

Leek

Macaroni

Cabbage

Goat Meat, Chicken or Beef

All the other spices you would like

The Carriage House Thrift Shoppe is currently holding its annual Christmas Sale! Please stop in on Thursday's and Saturday's from 10am - 2pm and browse all of the wonderful Christmas items we have to offer! Parishioners are also welcome to browse in the Pumpkin Room after church services on Sunday.

All other items also available! Clothes, Toys, Kitchenware, homeware, Purses and wallets, and much more!