



St. Michael & All Angels, Kauaʻi Monthly Newsletter December 2019

Upcoming Events

- Adult Advent Formation
December 10 & 17 at 6pm
- Finance Committee
Dec. 11, 11:00 am—noon
- Property Committee
Dec. 18, 3:30—4:30 pm
- Vestry Meeting
Dec. 19, 4:30—6:00 pm
- Lessons and Carols
Dec. 20 at 7:30 pm
Lihue United Church
- Parish Office Closed
December 25—January 2,
2020

So What's Up with Advent?

Andrew McMullen, Rector

So, what's up with Advent? For many, it is the most overlooked season on our Christian calendar, likely the result of the ever-increasing boundaries of Christmas – what was intended to be a season of twelve days now seems to encompass at least two months! I thought maybe some background and comment about Advent might serve to reset us, to encourage our embrace of this meaningful time in our common life.

Advent is derived from the Latin *Adventus*, translated as "coming," and the term commonly refers to the coming of Christ. The ecclesial season of Advent developed differently in the western and eastern churches. For example, Advent in the east starts in mid-November, while in the west, Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to the Feast Day of St. Andrew (Nov. 30) and lasts for four Sundays. In the west, the first reference to the observance of a specific season in anticipation of Christmas is made in the latter half of the 6th century. Traditionally, Advent has been kept as a season similar to Lent, with the same emphasis upon self-sacrifice, prayer and reflection. These practices allow believers (continued on next page)

What Should We Do?

Lindsay Kamm, Vestry Member

The Vestry has begun to address the issue of homeless people on campus by forming a committee to develop a church policy. Chair Geoff Wall convened the first meeting of the committee on November 17, where Fr. Andrew presented a theological statement meant to inform the deliberations. The theological statement reminded us that, based on the life of Jesus

and his teachings, "We are to be a people who treat all with care, compassion, mercy and forgiveness," especially those who are poor and marginalized. So, that is a given. It is also true that there are limits to what we can do for folks who are homeless. Beyond food and shelter, their needs are diverse and complex, and St. Michael's is not a clinic, a shelter, or a government agency. We do not have the facilities, funds, (Continued on page 3)

So What's Up with Advent? (continued)

a time of preparation and expectation for the coming of Christ into the world. As time passed, the church became less strict in the required devotions during Advent as compared to Lent. In the west, for example, fasting is no longer formally required, but it is interesting to note that the church mandate to "discourage festivities" and observe the season with a "solemn character" are still in place. This explains why we do not decorate our nave until the conclusion of Advent.

Liturgically, the season has been traditionally marked with the color purple, the same as used for Lent. It is unclear how the color purple was first selected to represent the times in the life of the church when self-sacrifice and repentance were emphasized, but it has been linked to Lent, and later Advent, since the early days of the church. However, there is one exception to the use of purple during Advent. On the third Sunday, the church may use rose colored vestments. This represents a "break" from the obligations of the season, and allows the congregation a day to freely celebrate. Otherwise, our prayers and readings change for the season, especially on the First Sunday in Advent during which The Great Litany and Rite I are used. Overall the changes in our liturgy emphasize the dual nature of Advent — the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ on Christmas Day and also the second coming of Christ as judge on the last day.

Many churches observe the passage of Advent with a wreath of greenery, although the tradition started, likely in northern Europe, as a devotional practice at home. Four candles are placed in the wreath, three purple and one rose, one to mark each Sunday. Some Advent wreaths include a white candle in the center known as the "Christ Candle" which is lit on Christmas Eve. Our wreath follows this tradition.

The Anglican tradition during Advent follows its Roman roots of the west. However, following the reign of Henry VIII and throughout the English Reformation, it became a common practice to use blue stoles, vestments, etc. as a way to distinguish Advent from Lent. Many Episcopal Churches, including our parish, continue this tradition in the United States, while others have retained purple.



It is my belief that the full meaning of Christmas is lost without Advent. It is hard to see Christ when we don't know what we are looking for, and Advent is a time of guiding our hearts and minds to the birth of Christ, the coming of the love of God into our world. It is a time of humble self-exploration, finding out who we are and where we rest in the fabric of creation. It is a time of reflection and prayer, hope and faith, so that we might see and embrace the light of the star as it guides us to the love that is among us. Advent leads the way. May we allow it to do so.



What Should We Do? (continued)

staff or expertise to improve their lot. The church also has tenants, groups that use our facilities, people who attend events on campus, and parishioners who have rights and expectations about personal safety and security on campus. In addition, if anyone, including a homeless person, should come to harm on our campus, the church may very well have some liability in that circumstance.

So, that puts us between a rock and a hard place. We are sympathetic to people who have nowhere to go, but we cannot support a nightly camp of people, some of whom leave human feces and used needles behind. It will take time to discern our desired outcomes and to develop action plans, but these are the points we discussed:

We should continue to welcome everyone to worship with us and to extend sincere fellowship, especially to those who may feel they don't belong.

We should continue to welcome everyone to join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments, especially those who may not enjoy regular meals.

Perhaps there is more we can do with our food ministry on Sunday mornings ~ a topic for future discussion.

Metal gates have been manufactured to install in the Administration Building and the entry to church bathrooms. Jr. Warden Brian Pearson will assemble a crew to get that done before Christmas. The gates will serve to keep people from sleeping upstairs, in the stairwells, and in the hall.

The campus could be better lit, which might deter people from camping there ~ something to look into.

For legal clarity, "no trespassing" signs should be posted.

We will hire an agency to conduct security sweeps before dawn for two weeks, which might deter the homeless people from sleeping on campus, and will certainly cause them to leave before the office people show up for work. The security guard will issue trespassing notices and keep records.

The committee is made up of Chair Geoff Wall, Stephanie Ellis, Madeleine Hiraga-Nuccio, Lindsay Kamm, Brian Pearson, Wendi Rusaw, and Alan Van Zee. Geoff welcomes your feedback; you may reach him at geoffwall@hotmail.com.



Christmas Schedule at St. Michael's

We hope you will join us in celebration on Christmas Eve. We have 2 Christmas Eve services – one at 6pm (Holy Eucharist with our children and youth leading much of the liturgy) and one at 9pm (Holy Eucharist with sacred music). There is no Christmas Day service.

Our parish office will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2019 through Thursday,

January 2, 2020. If you are needing anything from our parish administration prior to the end of the year, please make sure to reach out to Loretta prior to Monday, December 23.

Loaves and Fishes lands on both Christmas Day and New Years Day this year. Please note that there will be no food pantry on these two holidays.

February 7-9, 2020

ALL ANGELS MUSIC FESTIVAL



Friday, Feb 7, 7 pm

Jason Gay with Matt Lemmler, Abe Lagrimas, Jr. and Darryl Miyasato

Lao Tizer Trio, featuring Lao Tizer, Ric Fierabracci and Gene Coye

Saturday, Feb 8, 7 pm

DeShannon Higa with Matt Lemmler, Abe Lagrimas, Jr. and Darryl Miyasato

Ricardo Flamenco Jazz, featuring Ricardo Garcia, Julie Gunn, Amelia Moore and Yuichiro Tokuda

Sunday, Feb 9, 8:30 and 11 am

Jazz Mass!

Featuring Matt Lemmler, Abe Lagrimas Jr. and Darryl Miyasato, with All Angels Jazz Mass Choir, soloists and instrumentalists.

FREE and open to all



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