

# THE WEEKLY E-PISTLE

## news & updates



December 13, 2020 | This Week at Christ Church

## THIS SUNDAY IS SECOND SUNDAY! Pre-sanctified Eucharist ONLINE

### We gather every Sunday at 9 a.m. ONLINE!

Join the interactive service on Zoom or watch livestream on YouTube by clicking below.

CLICK HERE to ZOOM 9 a.m.  
Sunday Service

CLICK HERE to watch on  
YouTube



CLICK HERE FOR Sunday Bulletin with readings

### Today's Service

Acolyte - Louise Delafield  
The Lesson - Danny Alegria  
The Psalm - Mary Paine  
The Epistle - Catherine Aragon  
Nicene Creed - Kiran Kamboj  
Prayers of the People/ Intercessions - Andy Pflaum

### Celebrations

#### Birthdays

Deke Hunter, George Mallinckrodt, Paul Seipp, Hayley Bakken, Juliana Palazzolo, Bruce Beekley, Andrea Kohler, Sarah McAdam, Tricia Suvari

## A Note From Your Rector

Dear Christ Church Family and Friends:

As I have gotten older I have become increasingly aware that Christmas time is not always merry for everyone. Thus, I have tried to create sacred space to hold these feelings and acknowledge the losses and grief that often feel especially acute during the holiday season. Since I arrived in Portola Valley, I have collaborated with other faith leaders in the community in a "Longest Night" service. It is usually held on or near the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. The service seems particularly important this year because there is so much that we have lost, so much we have been grieving and so much we will continue to grieve. It's a time to honor our sorrows and to weep for the hard stuff and hurting places of our souls and communities. This year **the Longest Night Service will be online on Thursday, December 17th at 7 p.m.** The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82950255953>

in collaboration with Valley Presbyterian, Woodside Village Church, and First Presbyterian of Palo Alto. My hope is that it will feed, nurture and care for your soul.

On a completely different note and at the other end of the spectrum, the Merry Zoom Event last Sunday evening featuring Carols, Cookies and Community was festive and fun! Thank you again to Carl, Carole, Lenore and Sherry for putting it together. Thank you to Lauren and the Christ Church Choir for wonderful music. Thank you Angela Hey for being our tech guru and host. Last but not least, thank you to those who shared personal reflections: Tricia Christiansen, James Coker, Louise Delafield, Trask Leonard and Courtney Pflaum. I was not sure what to expect, but it exceeded any and all expectations I had. It made me happy to see smiling, cheerful faces without masks on my screen. My heart filled with nostalgia as we watched video clips of Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman together. Then the reflections and stories that you shared were amazing. Some made me laugh out loud and some made me teary. Thank you for sharing your memories and personal families traditions. It was a treat.

Finally, here are our plans for Christmas Services:

- December 24, Christmas Eve 5 p.m. online (followed by a *brief stay-in-your-car candlelight blessing* in the parking lot after the online service).
- December 25, Christmas Day 10 a.m. online
- December 27, First Sunday after Christmas 10 a.m. online service with the Children's Christmas Pageant

Be safe, stay well, and may God bless and protect you.

With love,  
Beth

longest night...

a space for heavy hearts  
DECEMBER 17 • 7:00pm  
live on ZOOM • Meeting ID: 829 5025 5953

a joint service of Valley Presbyterian, Woodside Village, Christ Church and First Presbyterian Palo Alto

## THE CHRIST CHURCH CAROL PROJECT

Don't forget to send in your videos singing Joy to the World for the Christ Church Caroling Project!

There is no need to have any vocal training; if you can sing in church you can sing for this. The goal is to have many voices so that the contribution of individuals cannot be singled out, just like in a congregation gathered on Christmas Eve. Beth and Charlie have already agreed to lend their voices and I hope many more of you will as well!

You can find the music and audio track you will need [here](#).

Those who joined found my Zoom "[office hours](#)" to be helpful, so I will be holding another session on

Monday, December 14th from 6:00-7:00pm. Please drop by if you have any questions or if you'd like me to personally guide you through the process! Join the meeting on Monday by clicking the Zoom link below. Or, you can always reach me by email at [lauren@ccpvw.org](mailto:lauren@ccpvw.org).

All videos should be emailed back to me by Sunday, December 20th.

I look forward to singing with all of you!  
Lauren

[Click here for Zoom office hours](#)

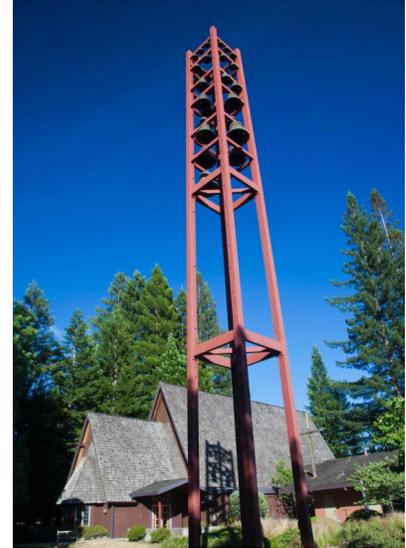
[Click here for the musical materials](#)

## 2021 STEWARDSHIP

### 2021 Stewardship Campaign

Happy Holidays on behalf of your Stewardship Committee! You should have received your pledge card for our 2021 Campaign earlier this week. We are seeking to raise \$375,000 to keep our Parish in financial balance. This translates to an average gift of \$5,000 per family. Every single gift is deeply appreciated regardless of its size, so please give an amount that works for you. And, if you can make your gift or pledge before the end of 2020, it will trigger a \$500 donation to our Carillon Bell Restoration Project. Your commitment will go a long way towards helping our community both through the work of Christ Church and the Carillon restoration. And, enjoy the bell ornament on your Christmas tree or other holiday decoration as a thank you from our committee.

If you have any questions please reach out to Wendy McAdam ([wendymcadam@mac.com](mailto:wendymcadam@mac.com)).



## OUTREACH NEWS



### News from Outreach

**Warm Clothing Drive:** We are collecting warm outerwear for the Maple Street Shelter. New warm washable socks are needed plus gloves, scarves and hats. Bring items to the red Christmas box in the breezeway. No human contact required. If you want to participate but need someone to do your shopping for you, contact Kathy at [kennedyiti@aol.com](mailto:kennedyiti@aol.com). For other questions, contact Ruth Ann at [cwrucke@mindspring.com](mailto:cwrucke@mindspring.com).

**Grocery Drive for 4 local Homeless Families:** We plan to do a grocery drive on Sunday December 27th for four homeless Home & Hope families (6 adults and 7 children including 2 babies). The Signup will be published this week of items needed. Contact Kathy Kennedy at [kennedyiti@aol.com](mailto:kennedyiti@aol.com) or call her at 650-291-9678 with questions.

**Dinners for Maple Street Shelter:** Volunteers Needed We'll be making dinner for 120 people at the Maple Street Shelter on Sunday December 27th. Contact Ruth Ann Wrucke at [cwrucke@mindspring.com](mailto:cwrucke@mindspring.com) or call her at 650-851-8435 to volunteer. Cookie bakers are especially needed.

**Change for GAIA** Last call for coin jars or coin baggies! For the past month Outreach has been running a "Change for GAIA" program to raise money towards purchasing medical supplies needed for GAIA's six mobile medical vans in Malawi, Africa. GAIA also provides medical care for 500,000 AIDS orphans. A little goes a long way in Malawi to help eradicate AIDS. Contact Carol Wentworth at [carol\\_wentworth@hotmail.com](mailto:carol_wentworth@hotmail.com) or call her at 650-854-6750 for more information.

**Linen Drive for Homeless Families:** Outreach concluded the linen drive on behalf of two Life Moves family shelters. This week we delivered five additional warm colorful fleece blankets made by Christ Church teens/college students including three made by Chloe McAdams. Wow! They were so happy to receive them at the Haven House Family shelter.

**Toiletries for the Homeless:** Remember travel and those cute little toiletries that hotels used to give out? If you have any or know anyone who does, we are still collecting them for the Maple Street Adult Homeless Shelter. Bring them to the church breezeway and drop them off in the green Christmas box. No human contact required.

Christ Church Portola Valley & Woodside |  
[ccpvw.org](http://ccpvw.org)

