

The Herald

December 9, 2012

Second Sunday of Advent

From the Rector: Of Thunder in the Desert

This week's gospel reading is the familiar account of the appearance of John the Baptist in the Judean desert, here translated *wilderness*. Luke employs the language of Isaiah, "the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." This is the classic promise of God spoken through the prophets to the people Israel over their history, that they will be delivered from that which besets them, from that under which they are oppressed. The context of Isaiah's prophecy is the captivity in Babylon. For Luke, the context is the brutal occupation of Palestine by the Romans and their Jewish vassals.

To my mind there are several theological points to be made here. The word for *voice* in the Greek can also mean *thunder*. Eugene Peterson, biblical scholar and translator, in his New Testament translation names this scene "*thunder in the desert*." Often in scripture the voice of God is likened to thunder. So there is an admonition here to listen up. Listen to the thunder out there in the deserts, the wildernesses of the world...That is where God shows up; those are the places God enters this world...God comes via the margins of existence to begin the world's salvation there...among the undignified, among the poor and disenfranchised, the infirm and lonely...It is among these the least of us for whom God thunders, "prepare the way."

So we are not passive bystanders to this thunderous message. The command is for all the faithful to make way for this coming restoration. It is a thunderous call to vocation. It is for us to be at work enabling this gracious new order to take shape...in our personal lives, in our businesses and professions, as a community who believes that this vision of a just and peaceful world is indeed possible. In this season of Advent, we are to wait and watch and listen for the thunder, and when we hear it, get busy clearing the way for God's gracious commonweal that breaks upon us.

In our personal lives and families as well...listen for the thunder from the places we'd rather avoid... from the wilderness and desert places of our lives, listen for the thunder, for there God is showing up to release us from that which enslaves us...and as citizens of God's coming commonweal, pay attention, listen for the thunder...and when you hear it, spring to the responsibility of enacting God's vision for our world in our own day....listen for the thunder just out there.



The Episcopal Church welcomes you

On the Calendar:

Tuesday, December 4
11:30am All Sts @ 15 Place
12N Golden Circle

Wednesday, December 5
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
12N Debtors Anonymous (DA)

Thursday, December 6
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Friday, December 7
Wedding rehearsal

Saturday, December 8
10:30am PFLAG
6pm Wedding

Sunday, December 9
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:20am Sunday School
10:30am Lessons & Carols
Reception following
5-7pm Conde Explorers

Tuesday, December 11
6pm Rector's Forum & supper

Wednesday, December 12
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
12N Debtors Anonymous (DA)
4pm St Cecilia choir rehearsal
7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 13
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Sunday, December 16
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:20am Sunday School
9:25am Incense training
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following
IHN/Family Promise begins

Monday, December 17
6pm Vestry mtg
6pm 15 Place Board mtg

This Sunday, our choirs will offer a Festival of Lessons and Carols at the 10:30 service time. This service is modeled after the tradition of Lessons and Carols held at Oxford University on Christmas Day. (There is no Eucharist at 10:30, but the 8:00am Holy Eucharist will be held as usual.) A reception will follow as usual in the Walter K. Smith room after the service. Please join us for this beautiful time of anticipation!

The next Rector's Forum will be held on Tuesday, December 11. Bring a dish to share for the potluck supper beginning at 6pm. Conversation about a variety of topics follows the meal. The Forum will NOT meet on Dec. 25 (!) but will pick up again on January 8.

Hanging of the greens, an annual event during which time the church makes the transition from Advent blue to Christmas tapestry, will take place on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 23, beginning at 5:30pm. There are garlands to hang, sconces to decorate, a tree full of light and the crèche to set up. You don't have to be a member of the flower guild to help...there's always someone there to tell you what to do!



After the decorating is finished, join us for supper in Stirling Hall, and we'll have some relaxed moments together.

It's time to get ready for the Christmas Pageant! Once again, the story of the birth of the Christ child will be told at the time of the usual Gospel reading during the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Instead of just the familiar words, though, the story will be presented in tableau, with the familiar characters as well: Mary and Joseph, the donkey, the angel Gabriel, the innkeeper, shepherds, sheep and more angels, the wise men and their camels. All children and teenagers are invited and encouraged to participate, including the St Cecelia Choir and acolytes!

If your children would like to be in the pageant, please let Mary Robert know by Wednesday, Dec 19 (438-2492, asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org).

There will be **one rehearsal only**, on Sunday, Dec 23, immediately following the 10:30 service. Costumes will be handed out at that time. This should not last longer than 30 minutes.



The EYC will meet this Sunday, Dec 9, at the Greene's house, 203 Rapier Ave, for dinner and an outdoor movie. Start time is 5:30pm, ending about 7:30pm. Please RSVP to breckpappas@gmail.com or on the EYC Facebook page if you can come so he will know how many to plan for.

The AIDS Alabama South tree still has ornaments on it! If you would like to give something to one of their clients, please take a tag from the tree which is outside the church office. Drop off the unwrapped presents at 2054 Dauphin Street by Wednesday, Dec. 12. For more information, contact Tiffany Collins, 251-471-5277, ext. 11.



IHN / Family Promise Week begins on Sunday evening, Dec. 16 and runs through Sunday morning, Dec. 23. Folks are needed for all the time slots available: breakfast hosts, dinner hosts, evening hosts and overnight hosts. Henry Brewster will be sending out a sign-up list to all those who have helped in the past. If you have not helped before and are interested, please call or email Henry to volunteer at hbrewster@brewsterlaw.net or 251-338-0630.

The Friday Night Supper Club will have its Christmas Celebration at the home of Gwen and Edgar Hughes on December 21, 7:00 p.m. The Hughes live at 1050 Palmetto Street, and you may call them at 433-5881 to arrange what dish you might bring. Guests and new members are always welcome!

Our prayers are offered for Dick Rogers and family at the death of his mother, Ernestine Rogers, last week. *May light perpetual shine upon her.*

Help through ER-D! It's not too late to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy who are still recovering from the superstorm. Remember that the people of the northeast were very generous in helping people all along the Gulf Coast after Katrina. You can support these efforts by contributing to the [Hurricane Sandy Response Fund](#) at ER-D, which will ensure that our help goes where it is most needed.



Advent 2012 Message from the Presiding Bishop

As you prepare for the season of Advent, I would commend two questions to your musings and your prayer and your meditation: What is it that you are most waiting for? And, how are you going to wait this year?

I'm struck this particular season by the waiting of several women in Christian history. Mary obviously, waiting for the birth of the Promised One in her part of the world, a child born for the whole world. Also Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptizer, who comes before Jesus. Elizabeth has been promised a child in her old age, these are both very unexpected births, they are waiting. And I'm struck particularly this year by Elizabeth of Hungary, a saint of the Church who lived in the thirteenth century, who was betrothed as a child herself, married at 14, a mother of three by the time her husband died when she was 20. She spent her life giving it away, giving it away both physically through her means and through her presence and her healing. She was an icon of generosity.

What is it you wait for this year? Is it an opportunity to meet the surprising around you? Is it an opportunity to reflect on what is most needed in your heart and in the world around you? How are you going to wait for that gift? Are you going to wait actively? Engaged? Honing your desire? Stoking the passion within you for that dream? Are you going to wait for a dream that will bless the whole world?

That's what Christians wait for in the season of Advent – of the coming of the Prince of Peace, the one who will reign with justice over this world. I believe that's what the world most needs, this year and every year. May your season of waiting be fruitful and blessed. May it be filled with surprise and a willingness to engage that surprise.

A blessed Advent,
The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

When's the last time you've "been to Chapel"?

Holy Eucharist, Wednesday, 12 noon is what is says in the church listing of weekly events, and what this means is there is a brief service (no music) every Wednesday in the chapel at All Saints. If it's been awhile, or you have never been, the chapel is located off the main parking lot near the entrance to the church office; it's a very lovely space with contemporary stained glass windows, hardwood floor, flexible seating, and nice acoustics.

The service time was chosen by Jim Flowers so that people at work nearby could be spiritually fed between noon and 12:30, and still have time to grab a quick lunch and be back to work; it's a nice 'spiritual shot in the arm' to get you through your busy week until we see you next Sunday. The Rev. Ruth Lamonte, priest associate at All Saints, usually provides our Wednesday service, driving all the way from Fairhope just for us. Most of us are much closer to church; we hope to see some new happy faces on Wednesdays!

Refreshments will be served directly after the service in the Saad Room, and all are welcome. On the refreshment table there will be a special offering box for a collection to go towards much needed updates for the kitchen in Stirling Hall. We all love working and providing meals in the big kitchen, but the stove? Sometimes it doesn't function, and when it does...we are likely heating half the Midtown area! And the dish washing machine: have you seen those wooden racks? Like something Baby Moses was strapped to as he floated down the River Nile! Yes, time for some updates! In addition to refreshments after most services, we have decided to offer lunch once a month. At the first lunch we collected \$120! The next lunch will be in January. Watch the Herald for details. Thank you to all the Saints who have participated and contributed so far. Please come and join us!

-Wyll Lewis

All Saints 2013 Stewardship Campaign

During the 2013 stewardship program, the chairs of the task groups that were created as a result of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process will be speaking on Sundays to both services through December 16. They will be sharing their thoughts and encouraging your participation. December 16 is our target for financial and participation commitments. Please contact the task group chairs to pledge your time and effort or obtain more information.

December 9

Membership Growth,

Chair: Valerie Case, Phone: 340-7416, Email: vvcase7@gmail.com

December 16

Congregational Support,

Chair: Jean Tucker, Phone: 342-0742, Email: jwtucker@usouthal.edu

Financial Stability/Stewardship,

Chair: Don Mosley, Phone: 680-8942, Email: dcmosley@usouthal.edu

Our pledge goal for 2013 is to increase our total financial giving by 5% resulting in a \$462,303 budget. To date, we have received **71 pledges for \$275,930**. We are just over half way to our goal! If you have not yet sent your pledge card in, please be sure to as soon as you can. Thank you for your commitment to All Saints! We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013 (to date)</u>
Total Pledges	143	71
Total Pledge Dollars	\$441,068	\$275,930
2013 Goal		\$462,303

Don Mosley
Stewardship Chairman

Invitation to Our Vision for Christian Education

As part of the Appreciative Inquiry process, participants were asked to "imagine" strengths for All Saints in the next couple of years. Christian education/formation was one of those areas. The second stage of this process a conversation about what we would like to see happening at our church. Please let me know if you would like to be part of the conversation. We will meet Sunday morning, January 13, at 9:15, in Stirling Hall to make a list of all the suggestions you make. No other tasks or assignments are implied at this stage. Just share your ideas for adult and youth programs, speakers, classes retreats, Bible study, whatever you would like to see happening. It may take two or three "conversations" to develop a list we like. Then we will figure out what to do with this list. That means prioritizing, organizing, making assignments, but that is for later. For now just share your ideas. If you can't make the meeting email your ideas to me:

-Woody Hannum

ehannum@usouthal.edu

The Risk of Birth

*This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.*

*That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn-
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.*

*When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn-
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.*

-Madeleine L'Engle, 1973



Winter Woods
"We Begin Again"
Grades 6th - 8th
December 27th-31st, 2012

"At Beckwith, we believe that at camp everyone belongs. When we share communion at Eucharist, we go up together because we're a family in Jesus Christ and no one is left behind whether we receive the elements or a blessing."

We work diligently with outstanding clergy to plan and implement excellent Christian programs that minister to young people in a way that makes their own personal faiths tangible. The Rev. Tim Backus will serve as our Camp Dean. We will spend time reflecting on what it means for God to come live among us in the form of Christ. Our winter camp session for youth offers faith-based adventure activities combined with Christian programs developed for spiritual formation.

Activities include: field and court games, boche ball, ultimate frisbee, soccer, climbing the rock wall, challenge course experience, hiking, and a Beckwith service project. Night time activities include campfires on the shoreline, star gazing, and building friendships.

Arrival: December 27th - 2pm - 4pm
Departure: December 31st - 9am - 10am

Questions - Contact Lara Wiggins 251-454-0205 or campbeckwith@bellsouth.net
Registration information - Contact Anna Bryant - beckwithregistrar@bellsouth.net

[Click here to Register Online](#)

[Counselor Application](#)

visit www.campbeckwith.org for more information

"Camp feels like holy ground because it is. The sacred and the secular collide on our hallowed terrains."

Advent Hands

I see the hands of Joseph.
Back and forth along bare wood they move.
There is worry in those working hands,
sorting out confusing thoughts with every stroke.
“How can this be, my beautiful Mary now with child?”
Rough with deep splinters, these hands,
small, painful splinters like tiny crosses
embedded deeply in this choice to stay with her.
He could have closed his hands to her,
said, “No” and let her go to stoning.
But, dear Joseph opened both his heart and hands
to this mother and her child.
Preparing in these days before
with working hands
and wood pressed tight between them.
It is these rough hands that will open
and be the first to hold the Child.

I see the hands of John,
worn from desert raging storms
and plucking locusts from sand ripped rocks
beneath the remnant of a Bethlehem star.
A howling wind like some lost wolf
cries out beneath the moon,
or was that John?
This loneliness,
enough to make a grown man mad.
He’s waiting for this, God’s whisper.
“Go now. He is coming.
You have prepared your hands enough.
Go. He needs your servant hands,
your cupping hands to lift the water,
and place his feet upon the path to service and to death.
Go now, John, and open your hands to him.
It is time.”

I see a fist held tight and fingers blanched to white.
Prying is no easy task.
These fingers find a way of pulling back to old positions,
protecting all that was and is.
Blanched to white. No openness. All fright.
But then the Spirit comes.
A holy Christmas dance begins
and blows between the twisted paths.
This fist opens
slowly,
gently,
beautifully,
the twisted fingers letting go.
Their rock-solid place in line has eased.
And one by one the fingers lift
True color is returned
And through the deepest of mysteries,
The holiest of holies,
O longing of longings
Beyond all human imagining
this fist,
as if awakened from Lazarus’ cold stone dream
reaches out to hold the tiny newborn hand of God.

~ Catherine Alder

Sunday, December 9, 2012

Second Sunday of Advent

The Lessons

[Baruch 5:1-9](#) [Canticle 16](#) [Philippians 1:3-11](#) [Luke 3:1-6](#) (lessons for 8:00am service)

The Collect of the Day

Lord of the wilderness way, whose word scours our smooth evasions: take us on the unbending road to the raw center of our world with a cry of invitation and the sudden call of grace; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

Those Who Serve

Altar Guild: Melanie Petithory, Kim Gray, Gretchen Thiel, Bruce Rockstad
Bread bakers: Jeff Clearman, Betty Bentley
Flower Guild: Elizabeth Doyle, Barbara Brewster
Breakfast: Carol Mackey, Valerie Case, Betsy Schneider, Woody Hannum
Reception: Kim Gray, Beth Hardaway

8:00am

Lector: Albert Lilly
Intercessor: Bill Evatt
Chalice: Mark Taylor
Ushers: Renee Dillard, Woody Hannum
Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30am

Lectors: Pete Wilson, Tressa McLeod, Alan Blair, Debi Foster,
Eric Browne, Sarah Frances Greene
Acolytes: Brewer Ayres, Boone Reeves, Emily Doyle, Gillian
Ayres
Ushers: Louie Wood, Josh Molla, Chance McWaters, Henry
Brewster

Music for Sunday

Voluntary Johann Sebastian Bach – *Wachet auf, ruft die Stimme* (BWV 645)

Hymn 61 *Wachet auf*

Colin Mawby – *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

Hymn 66 *Stuttgart*

Craig Phillips – *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*

Hymn 67 *Psalms 42*

William Mathias – *Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates*

Hymn 76 *Winchester New*

Charles Wood – *Never Weather-beaten Sail*

Hymn 59 *Merton*

Robert Lehman – *Jesus Came, Adored by Angels*

Hymn 72 *Richmond*

Charles Wood – *Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary*

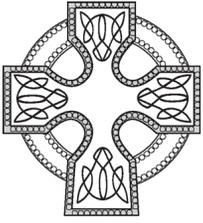
Hymn 278 *Rustington*

Hymn 57 *Helmsley*

Procession Adolphus Hailstork – *Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'*

Please keep in your prayers:

- ✦ For healing for: James Henry LeBatard, Julie Tadlock, Eleanor Mae Hunt, David Leff, Brittany, Angelo Harris, Melanie Wright, Jack Ratcliffe, Steven Bodiford, Arthur Johnson, Walter Sims, Alan Grubbs, Mitch Price, Austin Brown, Jim Wilson, Barbara Deming, John Stephens, David Barrineau, Johnny Madden, Brian Hammond, Heather and family, Martha Collier, JoAnn Pappas, Dunn Chandler, Geoff Peach, Scott Podstata, Abraham Kuol, Roy Muth, Jim Gray, Jane Arnau, Jessica Montalvo-Lopez, Evina Valera, Ed Givhan, LaNiece Bland, Sharon Cleverdon, Mike Downing, Patsy Childress, Anna Marie Brown, Laura
- ✦ For those who serve in the armed forces, especially: Spencer Abbot, Matt Abbot, Jonathan Carter, DeMario Snead, Randy Johnson, Jordan Caturia, William Wesley Pollard
- ✦ For those who have died, especially Ernestine Rogers



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II, Bishop
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Rev. James B. Flowers, Jr., Rector
rector@allsaintsmobile.org
Office: 438.2492 Home: 436.8932
The Rev. Mary C. Robert, Assistant Rector
asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org
Office: 438.2492 Home: 479.7398

All Saints Church Staff

Jeff Clearman, Principal Parish Musician
jeff@allsaintsmobile.org
Mary Holbrook, Financial Administrator
mary@allsaintsmobile.org
Office Volunteer
office@allsaintsmobile.org
Irene Raymond, Parish Sexton
Gretchen Thiel and Aguol Kuot, Nursery Workers
Breck Pappas, Director of Youth Ministries

All Saints 2012 Vestry

Joe Basenberg
Ricky Bradford, Jr Warden
Henry Callaway, Sr Warden
Valerie Case
Harold Dodge
Elizabeth Doyle
Rob Gray
James Hamilton
Woody Hannum
Amy Hunter
Emily Kelley
Don Mosley
Diana Nichols, Clerk
Jean Tucker
Darrel Williams

Curt Doyle, Treasurer

All Saints Committee Chairs

Acolytes: The Rev. Mary Robert
Addiction & Recovery: Becky Wilson
Adult Christian Education: The Rev. Jim Flowers
Altar Guild: Betty Bentley, Melanie Petithory
Choirs: Jeff Clearman
Communications: The Rev. Mary Robert
Community Ministries: Matt McDonald
Constitution & By Laws: Pete Mackey
Episcopal Youth (EYC): Breck Pappas
Finance Committee: Curt Doyle
Flower Guild: Katharine Flowers
Food Share: Mark Taylor, Burl Ratchliffe
Golden Circle: Laura Rutherford, Wylly Stirling
Hospitality & Events: Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Bill Evatt
Lectors, Intercissors & Chalice Ministers: The Rev. Mary Robert
Long-Range Planning: Curt Doyle
Nursery: Elizabeth Doyle, Amy Hunter, Jim Ayres
Parish Development: Clark Kelly
Property: Ricky Bradford
Refugees: Martha Harris
Ushers: Harold Dodge, Louie Wood
Stewardship: Don Mosley, All Saints Vestry
Wedding Guild: Betty Bentley
Youth Christian Education: The Rev. Mary Robert

All Saints Episcopal Church

151 South Ann Street, Mobile, AL 36604 www.allsaintsmobile.org

Service Schedule

Sundays	8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Breakfast 9:20 am Christian Education Classes (during school year) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays	12 Noon Holy Eucharist (Chapel)