

CHRIST CHURCH, BELLEVILLE



ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

WITH THE GREAT 'O' ANTIPHONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

CHOIR OF CHRIST CHURCH

ALEX PIERSON, ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER

REVEREND KATE ANN FOLLWELL, DEACON

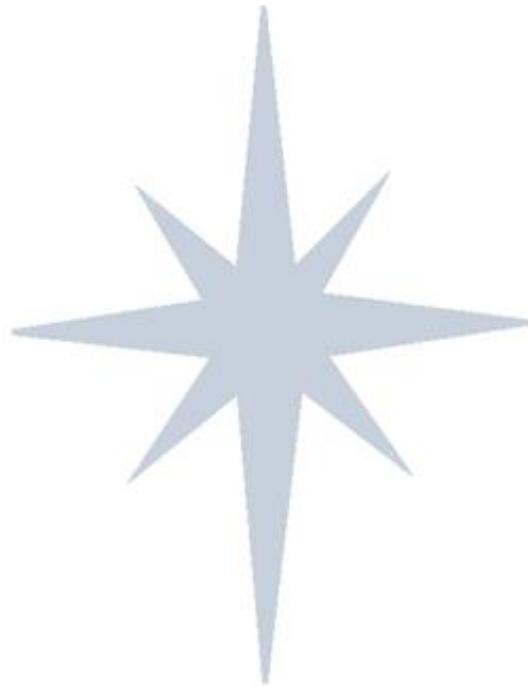
REVEREND JEFF O'HARE (INTERIM PRIEST IN CHARGE)

Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

In the great tradition of Kings' College, Cambridge

Sunday, December 23, 2018

10:30 a.m.



Darkness to Light

A Liturgy of Advent Lessons and Carols

Advent is, with Easter and Christmas, the season that most speaks to our contemporary human condition. It is a season that has long been symbolized by the lighting of the candles of an Advent wreath representing the four weeks of the Advent season and culminating in the lighting of the fifth principal candle at Christmas. This tradition reaches back into our Jewish past and the Feast of Lights at Hanukkah, and has been popular within Christian celebrations particularly in Germany and Scandinavian countries down the centuries. Today the Advent wreath has become a universal symbol, to be found in many households as well as in churches.

The lighting of a candle reminds us that though we live in a dark world at the heart of the Christian Gospel is a message of hope. Flickering and fragile though the light of a candle may be yet the flame of such a candle lights up a dark room. It represents that Light of the World which illuminates our world and our lives with its transforming radiance which guides us into all truth. It is in the belief that God is with us even in the darkness — as the story of Jesus will reveal as we travel the journey of his life from Advent to Pentecost — that many churches begin this Advent Season by lighting a single large candle in a dark church at the start of an Advent Procession. The candle recalls the hope incarnated in Jesus that shines in our dark world. And the procession reminds us that Christians are a pilgrim people, ever on the move for, as the Epistle to the Hebrews says: We have here no abiding city but we seek one to come.

Of course, Christmas awaits us at the end of this four-week season, and we will then be back in our comfort zone: back with the baby and hovering angels, the ox and the ass, the shepherds and their sheep, and the incense and the gold (let's forget myrrh for a moment with its darker implications!) Christmas, profound festival though it is, as we celebrate the Word made flesh and dwelling among us, often triggers our sentimentality and a superficial optimism. We forget that, much as we enjoy Christmas, often to excess, many in our world live without the necessities we take for granted, and for whom life is often difficult, brutish and short. It was among them that Jesus was born, and for them he died. Just as we cannot celebrate Easter without Good Friday, so we cannot celebrate Christmas without the sobering preparation of Advent.

Advent is rich in music and verse, including some of the finest poetry in scripture, dominated by the prophecies of Isaiah and the heroic stories of John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary.

For many of us Advent's rich texture is exemplified in the Advent hymns with their declamatory message and their thunderous melodies. But for all its plangent beauty Advent begins in darkness and silence, reminding us of the real world beyond the shrine, where God himself was content — indeed determined — to pitch his tent.

As well as preparing for Christmas Advent has traditionally focused on more sombre themes as well, reminding us not only of the first coming of Jesus, but also of his second coming when as the Creed rehearses ‘he will come again in glory to judge both the living and the dead’. This is a theme we hear in Thomas Cranmer’s Advent Collect where he talks of Jesus who ‘comes at the last day in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead’. Some of our Advent hymns like ‘Lo he comes with clouds descending’ focus on the Four Last Things — death, judgment heaven and hell — adding a penitential note to our Alleluias. The traditional Advent themes do concentrate on the ultimate things that confront us as human beings, and we need such opportunities as the Advent season provides to reflect on them. These themes reveal us — and indeed the whole of humanity — as we truly are.

Extraordinary though it may seem, it is in us, — frail, wayward, prodigal humanity that we are — that God sees himself reflected and longs to get his own back — that is to bring us back home. That is why God, in Jesus, gave himself (emptied himself and was obedient even unto death is how St Paul puts it) so that all who believe should not perish but have eternal life.

Our world is dark — despite our human ingenuity and inventiveness — and our lives are dark as well, but year by year we light a candle in a dark room, as a sacramental affirmation that God has already lit a candle in our dark world. That light of the world has a name – his name is Jesus. ‘That light was the true light that enlightens everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome it’. We will hear those words from St John’s Gospel again on Christmas Day.

That is the Christian good news, that though our world is dark, a light shines. Its meaning is this: God loves us and he will never leave us. That conviction gives hope to our world and to each one of us. That is the message of Advent.

Thanks Be to God!

— *The Rev’d Canon Jeremy Davies (All Saints, Wiltshire, UK)*

Each Lesson is made up of verses from the Old Testament and from the New Testament.

Each Lesson is preceded by the singing of one of the Great “O” Antiphons. They are referred to as the "O Antiphons" because the title of each one begins with the interjection "O". Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. They are:

O Sapientia (O Wisdom)	O Oriens (O Dayspring)
O Adonai (O Lord)	O Rex Gentium (O King of the nations)
O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)	O Emmanuel (O With Us is God)
O Clavis David (O Key of David)	

The “O Antiphons”, Matin Responsory and Vesper Responsory all come from the Monastic tradition.

Advent Lessons and Carols

December 2, 2018

Voluntary Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland - Savior of the Nations, Come Paul Seifert

Matin Responsory

Palestrina

Please stand.

Processional Hymn *Come, thou, Redeemer of the Earth*

Choir 1. Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.

5. From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds;
His course he runs to death and hell,
Returning on God's throne to dwell.

Choir 2. Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised fruit to man displayed.

6. O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

All join as the Procession begins:

3. The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honor all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.

7. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.

4. Forth from his chamber goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.

8. All laud eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost for evermore.

Words by St Ambrose, translated by J M Neale and others

Music: adapted by M. Praetorius; arranged by Willcocks (Puer nobis nascitur)

Bidding Prayer

Officiant:

Beloved in Christ:

In this season of Advent we come to worship the one who is our Judge, our Redeemer and our Guide. He is our loving God, who created our world and the far reaches of the galaxy; who said "Let there be light," and light shone forth, in order that all things might reflect the glory of his presence.

Let us pray:

Loving Father, the light of your glorious sunshine has too often been hidden by the clouds of our sin — your love we have turned to lust, your beauty to ugliness and what you had made possible we have rendered impossible. But in the disgrace we have made of your world, your grace still shines. With all its fragile beauty your light remains a constant in our lives for your love never fails, brightening our days, casting our shadows behind us and guiding us into the new life that you have prepared for us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are God's light in the world, and you have come among us to illuminate our path and show us the true and living way into the Father's presence. Once again your flickering light has been placed in our hands to cradle and care for, as once your Virgin Mother cradled you. May the light of the world shining in our hearts be our care and delight as we share your radiance with others. In Christ's light may we be blessed and may we bless others even in the darkest corners of the world

O Holy Spirit of God, kindle your fire of love in our hearts. That flame sees through us and reveals us as we are but may it also heal us so that renewed in love and joy and peace we may shine as Christ's light in the world, and serve his people in the Father's name, for you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are our God for ever and ever. Amen.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever and ever
AMEN**

Officiant:

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

Antiphon: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

The Blessing of the Light

Advent Litany:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We join with sisters and brothers around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey.

Today, we light the candle of Hope.

Even though the world seems dark and cold, we know that the light of Christ is coming. The face of our Lord will shine, and we shall be saved!

Testifying against all suffering and darkness, we kindle this light. Together, we proclaim to the world that, in Christ, we have hope.

Lesson I

Genesis 1:1–5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

John 1:1–5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks Be to God**

Carol: Splendours of Nature — Ancient Noel (arr Willan)

Antiphon: *O Adonai (O Lord)*

Lesson II

Isaiah 61:1–3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Luke 4:16–21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks Be to God**

Carol: **Comfort Ye My People — G. F. Handel**

Hymn 90 Hark, A Herald Voice Is Sounding

Merton

Antiphon: *O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)*

Lesson III

Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, what shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Matthew 3:1–7, 11

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks Be to God**

Carol: Comfort, Comfort, O My People – Genevan Psalter (arr Hopson)

Hymn 102 Prepare the Way, O Zion

(Bereden Vag For Herran)

Antiphon: *O Clavis David (O Key of David)*

Lesson IV

Isaiah 9:1–2, 6

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew 4:12–17

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks Be to God**

Hymn 91 People, Look East! The Time is Near (Besancon)

Antiphon: *O Oriens (O Dayspring)*

Lesson V

Isaiah 7:10–14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Matthew 1:20–23

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks Be to God**

Carol: Come, Dearest Lord — James Kirkby

Antiphon: *O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)*

Lesson VI

Isaiah 42:5–9

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Luke 2:25–32

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks Be to God**

Hymn 106 There’s a Voice in the Wilderness

Ascension

Antiphon: *O Emmanuel (O With Us is God)*

Lesson VII

Isaiah 35:1–6, 8a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Revelation 22:12, 16–17, 20

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks Be to God**

Carol: In The Stillness — **A. Clarke**

Offertory Hymn 114 *Lo, he comes with clouds descending* **Helmsley**

Vesper Responsory - Palestrina; arr Ledger

Cantor: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed

Response: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you

Cantor: Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord

Response: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost

Response: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you

Closing Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. You scatter the shadows before our path, and through your Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth. May we who have been baptized in the ocean of your love, also shine as lights in the world, become instruments of your peace, and ikons of your presence. For you are our God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Loving God, you have created us mortals - bearers of death - and yet you destine us for immortality. We give you thanks that we can face the end of our lives with hope and even joy. For our Lord Jesus has entered the valley of death before us, so that where he has gone, secure in the Father's constant love, we may follow after. If we go to heaven he is there; if we go to hell he is there also. Even there will his hand lead us and his right hand will hold us, for he, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is our God in time and in eternity.

Amen.

Judge Eternal throned in splendor, we come before you penitent for our wayward lives and contrite that we have marred your image in us. Yet we come before you without fear because your perfect love casts out fear and welcomes us home. Your love reveals us as we are with all our faults and failings exposed to your unwavering gaze. And yet, like St Peter in the courtyard on the night of your trial, we are both seen and healed in that moment of being judged. May we like all your wayward prodigals be enfolded in your love, hidden in your wounds and restored to your fold, for you, our Lord and Savior, Friend and Brother, are our God this day and always.

Amen.

Advent Blessing

Minister : May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came amongst us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

People: **Amen.**

Minister : May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People: **Amen.**

Minister : May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

People: **Amen.**

Minister : And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon: Go forth in the name of the Christ who is to come.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary Bereden vag for Herran

Paul Manz

Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and The Right Reverend Carlos Lozano.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Pray for St. Alban's, Stella, and The Rev. Don Bailey.

In our *Parish Cycle of Prayer:* Please pray for Melissa & Jeff Akey, Barbara & Ron Akey, Heather & Doug Allan, and their families.

Please pray for: Jeanie Oulton, Dorothy & Orval Thornton, Gwenda McBayne, Brenda Ryan, Marie, Ethan Tucker, Dawn Gill, Leonard McGuinness, Joy Sills, Doug Osborne, Ruth Ann Thomlinson, Gayle, Barbara Burnett, Mickey Lake and Kathleen Gardiner.

We celebrate with Betty Reid on her birthday this coming Saturday.

The flowers on our altar are in loving memory of Herb Ford.

Announcements

Propers for next week: The Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3: 1-4; Canticle 19: Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6a

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to assist with the Salvation Army kettle campaign. We have filled all of the time slots. Marlene Goodfellow, Rosalie Spargo, Shirley Dewey.

Soup's on, December 5th at noon. There is a list at the back of the church if you would like to donate any ingredients.

If you know of anyone who is housebound and would like to receive communion between now and Christmas, please let the office know.

Please join us for our annual Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon hosted by our Anglican Church Workers, on Tuesday December 11th, at 12:30. All are welcome, bring a friend, your favourite dish, your own utensils and dishes.

If you would like Christmas Memorial Flowers please contact the church office before Dec. 15.

Parish Meetings

Worship Committee,
ACW, Christmas pot luck, Dec. 11th at 12:30 p.m.
Parish Council, Wednesday, December 19th at 5 p.m.

Upcoming Services

Wednesday, December 15 – 10:15 a.m. (BCP)
Sunday, December 9 – The Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 am & 10:30 am (BCP)
Wednesday, December 12 – 10:15 a.m. (BCP)
Sunday, December 16 – The Third Sunday of Advent
8 & 10:30 am (BAS)
Wednesday December 19 – 10:15 a.m.
Sunday December 23 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent
8 a.m. BCP Communion
10:30 a.m. **Christmas Lessons & Carols**
Monday, December 24th **Christmas Eve**
4:30 & 10:00 p.m. BAS
Tuesday, December 25th – **Christmas Day**
10:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 30 – First Sunday after Christmas
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer BCP

Retirement & Nursing Home Services

Tuesday Dec. 4 - 2:00 p.m. Richmond Retirement
Thursday Dec. 6 -10:30 a.m. Belmont
Friday Dec. 14 - 10:30 p.m. Quinte Gardens