



Emmanuel Newsletter
Sunday, November 29, 2020

Dear Friends,

I woke up one hour later than usual today, Monday, November 23, 2020. The reason? It looked like nighttime outside. Rain pouring down, with clouds and thick darkness. You might feel like me and wonder when we will not be tortured by doom and gloom and talk of death and sickness.

As you know, we are beginning the season of Advent this coming Sunday. With that shift, we change from the gospel of Matthew (Year A) that we have been reading for most of this liturgical year to Mark (Year B). It is no coincidence that Advent begins with the darkest season of our year, the hours just before the Winter solstice, the darkest time of year outside. Many of you may already know that the liturgical year has always been determined by the moon, stars and physical seasons. The birth of Christ was calculated in error as December 25. It should have been December 21, the Winter Solstice when light begins to increase each day.

Mark's gospel calls us to be *ready, awake, alert*. What for? And that is what I want to talk about. This week in our dialogue, we are going to focus on endings and beginnings. This has been a banner year for death, disruption, and hardship. We have borne it well (most of us). But we were not prepared for *this*. Perhaps we have been too comfortable in our 'bubbles' of social interaction (pre-pandemic). Perhaps we are called to focus on a future where the focus is more outward. Is the Pandemic a wake-up call to all of us?

Is God shouting at us to get going! Our lives are too small. Our parishes are too isolated. Our souls are too insular. Be awake! It says in our gospel. We are asked to wake up to the call to change our ways and become better Christians. Now is the time to re-think who we are so that we can be ready to respond with wisdom and thoughtfulness, post-pandemic.

One interesting point about the gospel of Mark; it is the shortest gospel and the word most often used in this writing is 'immediately'. Mark seems to be an impatient follower. Maybe like many of us as we wait for the vaccine to put our lives back together.

I look forward to joining with you in conversation on **Saturday, November 28 at 5:00 pm by Zoom!**

God Bless you,

The Rev. Joyce Caggiano, PhD

(See page 2 for the live Service Zoom link)



NOTE: LIVE ZOOM SERVICE IS AT 5:00 PM this Saturday, November 28, 2020.

Zoom Service Link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95366848359?pwd=YVM4ZGxtREI2UDdTcUphbkIXRFNKdz09>

Meeting ID: 953 6684 8359

Passcode: 715591

After 7:00 pm on Saturday, view the TAPED service anytime via our YouTube site:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA

Have a comment? Email us at: info@emmanuelwr.org



We have surpassed our goal of \$500 for Rose's Bounty Food Pantry!!!

We have surpassed our goal! Thank you, parishioners, and friends of Emmanuel Church for your generosity. We will let you know what the final tally is, as we continue to collect donations.

Again, a huge thank you, to those who have given so far.



Hymns for the Saturday, November 28, Virtual Coffee Hour

We will be singing again at our Virtual Coffee Hour this week, following our live Saturday Zoom service. It is not recorded. Hymns for Saturday, November 28 coffee hour:

Hymn # 56 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Verses #1 and #2 only)

Hymn #66 Come, thou long expected Jesus



A link to an easy Pumpkin Bread recipe from King Arthur Baking Company:

<https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/easy-pumpkin-bread-recipe>

Have any easy, yummy recipe to share? Email it to us: info@emmanuelwr.org

Terri Halliday is happily consumed in early Christmas cheer:





Suggestions for “Alternative giving” for the holidays and Your Christmas Tree Needs

The Neponset River Deanery, of which Emmanuel Church is a member, met on Nov. 18. Amidst the discussion of some of our blessings during this challenging time, a few members have shared a list of alternative giving opportunities for those who would like to gift to others who are in need. Below is a list of some of the projects and organizations in the Diocese and in the Boston community:

Rev. Mary Eaton of Ecclesia (Common Cathedral) reports there is a particular need for **long underwear** right now for those experiencing homelessness in Boston. You can purchase long underwear (L, XL, 2XL needed most, but other sizes good, too!) here:

- <https://www.campmor.com/collections/base-layer/mens>
- <https://www.sierra.com/mens-base-layer-pants~d~11328/>

If Emmanuel wants to participate as a parish, we can gather up these donations and deliver them to St. John’s Westwood before December 17, and St. John’s will take them downtown to Common Cathedral for distribution.

OR, parishioners can go to the *common cathedral* website, and scroll down to *Covid19 Update* and find the “wish list”:

<http://commoncathedral.org/>

OR, donate to your local food pantry in honor of someone you love for an alternative Christmas gift! Our local Food Pantry up the block from Emmanuel is, as we know, Rose’s Bounty:

<https://www.stratfordstreetunitedchurch.org/how-to-help.html>

OR, shop in person and deliver to Grace Episcopal Church, 150 Chapel St, Norwood, 02062 (Deliver Sunday – Thursday, behind the church, in front of garage. There is a large donation box.)

<https://www.norwoodpantry.org/donate-food>

Other helpful websites:

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>

<https://www.gbfb.org/> (The Greater Boston Food Bank)

And finally, another cartoon from Rev. Joyce:

