

January 2022

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ;

What a gift it was to be able to worship together in our beautiful Church on Christmas Eve! I'm sure you'll recall that we were on Zoom last year and this was my first year as your Priest celebrating this Holy Day with you in person! It was so beautiful. Thanks to Jeff and Shirley and the crew for making things so pretty. Thanks to Vincent and the choir for the beautiful music. Thanks to Cathy for the great work on the bulletin, and thanks to everyone that participated in one way or another. For that I say a hearty 'Thanks be to God!'

I'm still getting lovely feedback from our 'Longest Night' service. After the year we've had, I can say that it was particularly needed. I want to thank my wife, Andrea, and our dear friends, Alex Becerra and Jimmy Cox for their exquisite musicianship. That service could not be what it is without the music. And thanks to those who read as well. We will be doing this service every year, Lord Willing.

As most of you know, I received a positive test result for Covid this past week. My symptoms have run from very mild to non-existent. I've been in touch with the Health Departments of both Cayuga and Onondaga counties. Based on my conversation with the Cayuga Health Dept., there is no need for contact tracing. Largely because of our mask wearing protocol. I've have been quarantining at home and hope to be back to work next week.

There is a lesson here – this thing is still very much active. We can not let our guard down. If you have not been vaccinated, please do so and get boosted as well. And continue to be diligent about mask wearing. Doing these things is how we show love for our neighbor.

I look forward to the great things that we'll be able to do in 2022! To God be the Glory!

Grace and Peace,

John +

Father John ☩

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Sundays - 9am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMk13U1JaaGNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 982 7706 2680

Passcode: 435902

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Other Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers

Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSncyQkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Wednesdays – 12pm Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95528786615?pwd=Z01DVGdvcG5XeVBIUVRMKzFFVVBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 2878 6615

Passcode: 634665

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Thursdays – 10am Coffee and Conversation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97366952412?pwd=WUtQVFMyWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6695 2412

Passcode: 120228

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/john.rohde.16/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92662278952>

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac4XCk34Dn>

The Birth of Christ in Us Is What Matters – Richard Rohr

*Make ready for the Christ, Whose smile, like lightning,
Sets free the song of everlasting glory
That now sleeps, in your paper flesh, like dynamite.*
—Thomas Merton, “The Victory”

Anglican mystic and author Evelyn Underhill (1875–1941) shares her perspective on the importance of Jesus’ incarnation and this season in the church’s life:

The Christmas Mystery has two parts: the Nativity and the Epiphany. A deep instinct made the Church separate these two feasts. In the first we commemorate God’s humble entrance into human life, the emergence and birth of the Holy, and in the second its manifestation to the world, the revelation of the Supernatural made in that life. And the two phases concern our inner lives very closely too. The first only happens in order that the second may happen, and the second cannot happen without the first. Christ is a Light to lighten the Gentiles as well as the Glory of His people Israel. Think of what the Gentile was when these words were written—an absolute outsider. All cosy religious exclusiveness falls before that thought. The Light of the world is not the sanctuary lamp in your favourite church. . . .

Underhill continues by exploring what it means for Christ to be born in our lives and souls:

Beholding His Glory is only half our job. In our souls too the mysteries must be brought forth; we are not really Christians till that has been done. “The Eternal Birth,” says [Meister] Eckhart, “must take place in *you*.” [1] And another mystic says human nature is like a stable inhabited by the ox of passion and the ass of prejudice; animals which take up a lot of room and which I suppose most of us are feeding on the quiet. And it is there between them, pushing them out, that Christ must be born and in their very manger He must be laid—and they will be the first to fall on their knees before Him. Sometimes Christians seem far nearer to those animals than to Christ in His simple poverty, self-abandoned to God.

The birth of Christ in our souls is for a purpose beyond ourselves: it is because His manifestation in the world must be through us. Every Christian is, as it were, part of the dust-laden air which shall radiate the glowing Epiphany of God, catch and reflect His golden Light. *Ye are the light of the world*—but only because you are enkindled, made radiant by the One Light of the World. And being kindled, we have got to get on with it, be useful. As Christ said in one of His ironical flashes, “Do not light a candle in order to stick it under the bed!” [Mark 4:21] . . .

When you don’t see any startling marks of your own religious condition or your usefulness to God, think of the Baby in the stable and the little Boy in the streets of Nazareth. The very life was there which was to change the whole history of the human race.

[1] Meister Eckhart, *Dum Medium Silentium Tenerent Omnia (When Silence Encompassed All Things)*, Sermon on Wisdom 18:14. This apocryphal book is included in Catholic but not in Protestant Bibles.

Evelyn Underhill, "Incarnation and Childhood," in *Light of Christ: Addresses Given at the House of Retreat, Pleshey, in May, 1932* (Wipf and Stock: 2004), 40, 41–42, 45.

Vestry Voice

The December Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The November minutes and financials were approved.

At Convention it was suggested that a 3.6% increase in wages be given. Motion made, seconded, with all in favor, to accept this wage increase for 2022.

We received the Diocesan assessment for 2022. Terry Beyor will contact Kathy Hobart to discuss as the amount does not seem correct.

A motion was made, seconded, with all in favor, to keep Father John's housing allowance the same for 2022.

Our insurance premiums for next year will increase by 10%.

Terry Beyor is working on the budget for next year. He needs our projections for Building Use and Pledges to finish.

Deadbolt locks are being installed on the kitchen door per the request of the Soup Kitchen.

We have received word that our grant proposal for equipment to do live streaming of our worship services has been approved. As soon as the funds are received, purchasing of the equipment needed can begin.

The mixing boards for the sound system will need to be relocated from the basement to the upstairs for easier access. An estimate on moving these boards needs to be obtained. This needs to be done before we install any new equipment for live streaming.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 16, 2022 between the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services. It will be held in the church so we can observe safe distancing. There will be no 9:00 am on-line service on this Sunday. We will need to elect 3 new vestry members.

Vincent Johns-Lee would like to attend a weekend learning retreat in Hanover, PA on January 15-16, 2022 and is asking the church to reimburse him for this retreat. Motion was made, seconded, with all in favor, to reimburse him with the stipulation that if his car is fixed, we will not reimburse for a rental car.

The meeting closed with prayer. Next Vestry meeting January 12, 2022.

Fundraising

We are looking for new ideas for fundraisers. If you have an idea, please speak to a vestry member or Father John. We are continuing to accept sneakers for our latest fundraiser.

Clothes Closet

We are looking for volunteers to work at the clothes closet. As of now, the clothes closet is closed as we have no one to run it. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in taking over the duties of the clothes closet, please let Father John know or call the parish office at (315) 252-5721,

Ordination to the Priesthood

February 5, 2022, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

God willing and the people consenting, the Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop of Central New York, will ordain Meredith Kadet Sanderson to the Sacred Order of Priests.

Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

**The Episcopal Church of Saints Peter & John
169 Genesee Street, Auburn, New York**

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy: Red stoles

Due to COVID-19, masks will be required and social distancing is encouraged.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 9:00 am. It will be held in the church so as to allow for social distancing. As usual, masks will be required.

Reports are needed from buildings and grounds, music, soup kitchen and the rector's report. These reports should be into the parish secretary no later than January 11, 2022 to allow enough time for copying.

Please plan in attending this meeting. This is your parish and if you want to have your voice heard, then you need to be in attendance.

New Years Eve by Parker Palmer

New Year's Eve is a curious fiction, isn't it? As the "old" year flows unimpeded into the "new," the hoopla we make at midnight seems just a tad over the top for one more tick of the clock.

But we are meaning-making creatures, even in times of global calamity. Marking this moment gives us a chance to reflect on the past and imagine that we're on the threshold of something new and better. And depending on what we do, some of our imaginings might just come true. That's how humankind has made it this far...

Here's a beautiful Anne Hillman poem that offers wise guidance for threshold-crossing—for collaborating with the life-force that is forever "making all things new." Over the next few days, I'll be asking myself some questions that flow from the poem:

- What does it mean for me to dare to be human?
- ...to be vulnerable to the beauty of existence?
- ...to learn to love, and never stop learning?
- How can I embrace answers that are as supple as life itself, and might yield new life?

If we can "live the questions" at the heart of this poem, the "something new and better" we hope for is more likely to be born. In that spirit, Happy New Year, friends! May 2022 be a year of simple graces for you and yours...



We look with uncertainty...

We look with uncertainty
beyond the old choices for
clear-cut answers
to a softer, more permeable aliveness
which is every moment
at the brink of death;
for something new is being born in us
if we but let it.
We stand at a new doorway,
awaiting that which comes...
daring to be human creatures,
vulnerable to the beauty of existence.
Learning to love.

—Anne Hillman