

Holy Trinity Riverbend Anglican Church

LIFE TOGETHER - HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

November 21, 2021 – Last Sunday Of Pentecost – The Reign of Christ

A **Message from Rebecca:** Another church year has ended, and we now begin the season of Advent. A time of carols, holiday decorations, eggnog, and gatherings. But most of all, a time to think of others. To remember those who have been devastated by the catastrophic flooding in BC and have lost their homes, their possessions, and even their livelihoods. And it's a time to remember the children here in Edmonton who go to school hungry, and to think about our seniors who are terribly lonely and would love a visit, flowers, or some Christmas baking. There are many ways to keep Advent in our lives. Shovel your neighbor's driveway, draw someone a picture, or sing them a song using facetime. **Be creative and be God's love in the world.**

At Sunday school this morning our children drew

'mood' pictures as they tried to illustrate how Jesus might have felt as he faced Pilate. Was he scared? Did he feel alone? Was his heart still filled with love? They did a great job with a difficult subject.

And before I close, I had the opportunity to show **Bishop Steve** our little corner of the world on Saturday as we toured the neighborhoods in the southwest. I think he was quite surprised at the number of people living in this area. On Monday he and I will visit Providence Renewal Centre as a potential place to hold our services. Check in with me next week for an update!



A **dvent:** Can you believe it? **Advent, the start of our church year, starts**

next Sunday. With this in mind, we have included at the end of this newsletter an interesting discussion entitled '**What is Advent**'.

R **everse Advent Calendar:** Rev. Dr. Elizabeth shared a wonderful idea her medical practise has been doing – a Reverse Advent Calendar. We have included a sample of the calendar and some information on how it works at the end of this newsletter. You can easily transpose the information onto your own Advent calendar and use it as a way of contributing to those in need at the Edmonton Food Bank. **Thanks for sharing Elizabeth!**



Preparing the Way –
An Advent Evening:
 Spend an evening of prayer and reflection in Providence Centre’s sacred spaces as we begin Advent, preparing our hearts for the Christmas season. Detailed information is included at the end of our newsletter.



HTR Virtual Coffee Session.
 Our HTR Virtual Coffee Hour, takes place **every Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.** via Zoom. The link is sent to all parishioners on Friday’s and is also noted on the church website. If you would like to bookmark it the link is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89937764015?pwd=UCtYbTlwWE5tMldSWkZFSHVzQWZNZz09>
 If asked, the Passcode is: 087498. We hope you can join us as it is a great way to stay connected!



Sermon: A copy of the Sunday Sermon, and the Prayers of the People, are emailed to our parishioners every Sunday morning. Presiding at today’s service was Rev. Rebecca, and the Prayers of the People were also from Rebecca.



This Week’s Bible Quote -- *“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” ... Hebrews 10:19-23*



Inspirational Thoughts:
“A truly rich person is one whose children run into their arms when their hands are empty.” ... Unknown

And

“It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings.” ... Ann Landers



Payer For This Week:
 Lord God, Creator of all, source of all being; From the beginning you have called us ever

deeper into your creation and into your heart. Open our eyes and our ears this day, we pray; that we might see and hear the opportunities you give to each and all of us to love, to care, and to act as you do, through the love of your son, Jesus Christ.
Amen

(from the Church of England)

Upcoming for Sunday, November 28, 2021 – First Sunday of Advent.

Officiating will be **Rev. Rebecca** and Prayers of the People will also be offered by Rebecca.

Readings:

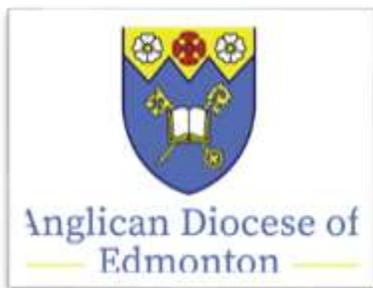
Jeremiah 33:14-16;

Psalms 25:1-9; 1

Thessalonians 3:9-13;

Luke 21:25-36

More Anglican News: If you are looking for more news about 'happenings' in our Diocese and beyond, this can be done by accessing the diocesan website link: <https://edmonton.anglican.ca/>



Virtual Sunday School: Just a reminder that along with the worship bulletin which is distributed each Friday, we also enclose a supplementary children's lesson/activities. If you would be interested in volunteering for this important ministry, please let Rebecca know. All lesson plans are provided. Our Sunday School runs from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.



HTR Online Worship: We offer a live virtual worship service each Sunday using ZOOM. The **link to the service, as well as the Worship Bulletin is distributed each Friday**, along with the HTR Virtual Coffee Hour link. You do not need to have ZOOM on your computer to be able to view the service. (Note: If you cannot make the live worship service, **we post the video recording of the service on our Facebook page shortly after the live service.** The link to our Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/htrchurch/>

To access the live virtual service, simply click on the link on Sunday (**the service starts at 10:00 a.m.**). **If you would like to bookmark it, the specific link to the Virtual Worship Service is:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8443386844?pwd=aXZxMmZYa0tjNDZQNpDUE1UaE5aQT09>

Note: From time-to-time we have experienced some technical difficulties with Zoom due to system upgrades, etc. on Zoom's part. With this in mind, we test the link to the service early every Sunday (prior to the service). If for any reason, the above noted link is not operational, we will send out an alternative link to the service by 9:45 a.m. on Sunday.

As an informational item, the Virtual Worship Service and our Virtual Coffee Hour each have their own unique Zoom links.

Vestry –
Steve Johnson
Rector's Warden
Carol Graham –
People's Warden
Vince Tejada - Treasurer
Sarah Alexander – Music Director
Members-at-large: Maureen Bantle; Grant Kvemshagen; Marx K. Maragua

Clergy:
Rev. Rebecca Harris
Priest-in-Charge
rebecca.harris@telus.net
Ph: 780-431-1817

Rev. Dr. Elisabeth
Thompson – Honorary
Assistant

www.Holytrinityriverbend.com

(Note: **A copy of our Newsletter is posted each Sunday on our website).**

Church Details: Holy
Trinity Riverbend
Website:

What Is Advent?

Advent is the first season of the Church year. It lasts for four weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

Why is it called “Advent”?

“Advent” comes from the Latin ‘adventus’, meaning “coming or arrival.” Used by the Church, the word refers to:

- The “arrival” of Jesus Christ when he was born on the original Christmas Day
- The upcoming “arrival” of Jesus Christ when, as Christians believe, he will return to judge the living and the dead.

So, the season of Advent is a season of preparation and waiting:

- First, for Christ’s second coming to judge the living and the dead (2 Pet 3:11-14; 1 John 3:2-3), but also
- Secondly, to celebrate Christ’s first arrival at Christmas.

Just as the Israelites awaited a Messiah to fulfill God’s promises from Genesis 3:15 to Jeremiah 31:31-34 and beyond, so Christians await the return of Jesus the Messiah to make all things new (Revelation 21).

How do you celebrate Advent? What are some common practices during Advent?

- Keep an Advent calendar
- Light an Advent wreath
- Daily prayer

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is usually a circle of greenery with five candles rising from it. There are four candles on the outside that are purple (sometimes one is pink) and the candle in the middle is white. The candles are lit in the same order each week so that by the fourth week, the candles have burnt down by different amounts. (The pink candle can be lit on the third Sunday, known as Gaudete or ‘Rose Sunday’.) The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love and the fifth candle (the middle one) is sometimes called the Christ Candle, which is lit on Christmas to remind Christians of the light Jesus brings to the world.

What’s the difference between Advent music and Christmas music?

Perhaps the classic piece of Advent music is “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” because it reflects Advent’s emphasis on waiting and expectation. So, as much as I would like to start singing Christmas carols early, the reason we don’t is Advent is all about building up our anticipation

leading up to Christ's birth. Having said that, by tradition at our church, we have sung Christmas carols at our Christmas Eve service.

Christmas music, on the other hand, emphasizes the joyful celebration of Christ's arrival at the Incarnation. Think of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" or 'Silent Night' as typical Christmas songs.

Edited from the article: 'Advent: A Rookie Anglican Guide' (published in Anglican Compass). Additional explanatory notes have been added.

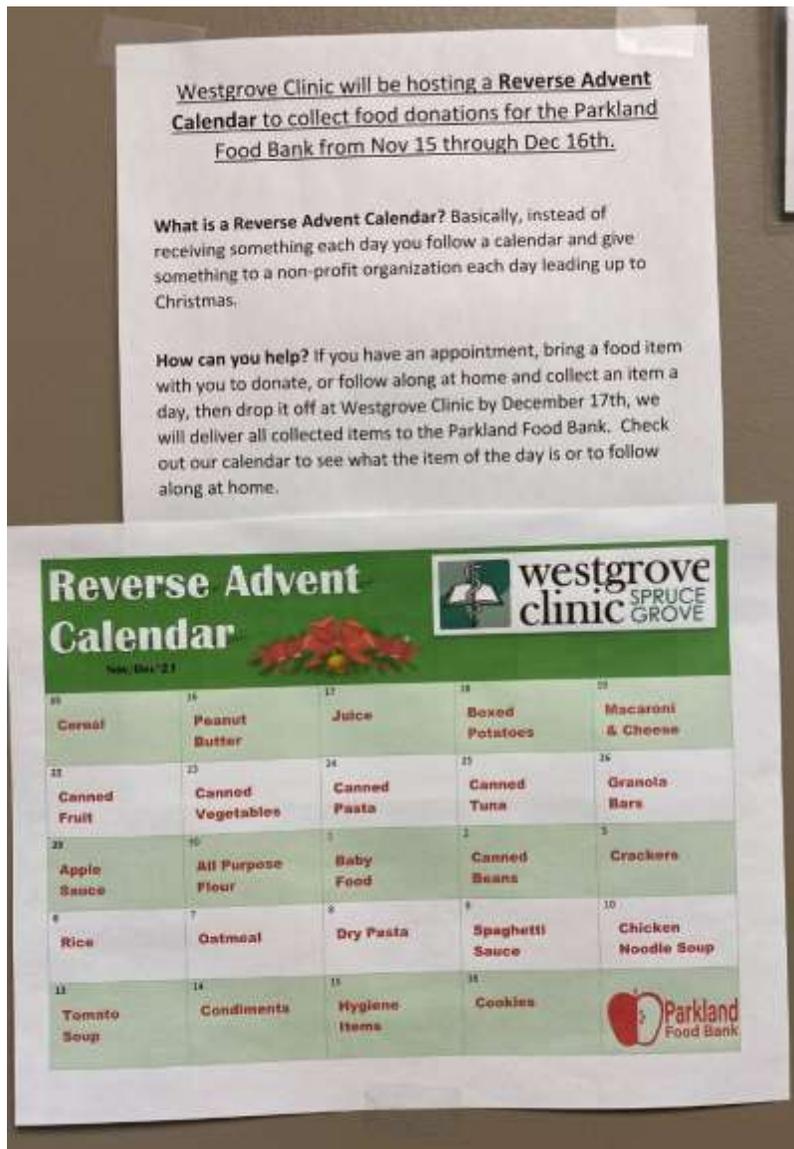
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Reverse Advent Calendar Example

Westgrove Clinic will be hosting a **Reverse Advent Calendar** to collect food donations for the Parkland Food Bank from Nov 15 through Dec 16th.

What is a Reverse Advent Calendar? Basically, instead of receiving something each day you follow a calendar and give something to a non-profit organization each day leading up to Christmas.

How can you help? If you have an appointment, bring a food item with you to donate, or follow along at home and collect an item a day, then drop it off at Westgrove Clinic by December 17th, we will deliver all collected items to the Parkland Food Bank. Check out our calendar to see what the item of the day is or to follow along at home.



Reverse Advent Calendar				
Nov, Dec '21				
15 Cereal	16 Peanut Butter	17 Juice	18 Boxed Potatoes	19 Macaroni & Cheese
20 Canned Fruit	21 Canned Vegetables	22 Canned Pasta	23 Canned Tuna	24 Granola Bars
25 Apple Sauce	26 All Purpose Flour	27 Baby Food	28 Canned Beans	29 Crackers
30 Rice	31 Oatmeal	1 Dry Pasta	2 Spaghetti Sauce	3 Chicken Noodle Soup
4 Tomato Soup	5 Condiments	6 Hygiene Items	7 Cookies	8 Parkland Food Bank

PREPARING THE WAY- AN ADVENT EVENING

Quiet Reflection offered in Collaboration with the Edmonton and District Council of Churches

Spend an evening of prayer and reflection in our sacred spaces as we begin Advent, preparing our hearts for the Christmas season. You will be welcome to walk and pray the indoor labyrinth by candlelight, and to spend quiet prayer time in our chapel. Prayer reflections offered in collaboration with members of the EDCC will alternate with silent reflection time in the chapel throughout the evening, until 8:30 pm. Come when you can, for as long as you can, whether that may be a short prayer break on your way home from work, or to spend a full evening in silence and retreat time. Doors open at 5:30 pm to welcome you into our sanctuary spaces. (Light refreshments available but no meal provided.)

Tuesday November 30 (Available 5:30- 8:30 pm)
No charge but pre-registration required by November 24
Event # 14414 Covid restrictions apply

Providence Renewal Centre
3005-119 St NW Edmonton, AB T6J5R5
Register online at www.providencerenewal.ca or call 780-701-1854