



The In Touch

Volume 56, Issue 12

Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation

Ramblings from the Rev.....

When I get up in the morning now, it's dark. When I leave work in the evening, it's dark. I'm at peace with that. I love the long summer days. I love the dappled morning light peeking past the curtain edges and the sun's leisurely crawl to the horizon followed by twilight's steadily deepening hues. I love it. But as the days trend shorter, and I draw layers closer around me against the cold, and the temptation to climb into bed and hibernate under a down comforter grows, I notice the fleeting clear blue patches between clouds with renewed joy and my spirit soars to the heavens on a clear, cold night shining with crystalline stars.

Thinking about what needed to be said at this time, in this world, on this missive, my mind wandered through the shadows. It was drawn inexorably to COVID - the deaths, the fears, the toll on families and jobs and health and relationships. I thought also about the political maelstrom that assaults us at every turn. I thought about the inequity woven into the warp of our society. I thought about the growing struggle for those who live with addiction or mental illness. I thought about our besieged Earth. I thought about the multifaceted darkness that surrounds us. I thought about the layers of denial and repudiation we draw around ourselves for protection against that cold shadows of the world. I thought about the temptation to withdraw from the anger and the hurt and the disconnect - to snuggle into such personal coziness as we have available, hibernating until the wearying grey chill recedes.

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)

In the weariness, in the cold, in the darkness, the light of Christ shines. Shines in simple acts of kindness. Shines in people frantically working for that which is good and right and just and restorative. Shines in the givers, the peacemakers, the compassionate souls. Shines in the bright blue patches and the crystalline stars. Shines in your heart and mine - if we let it.

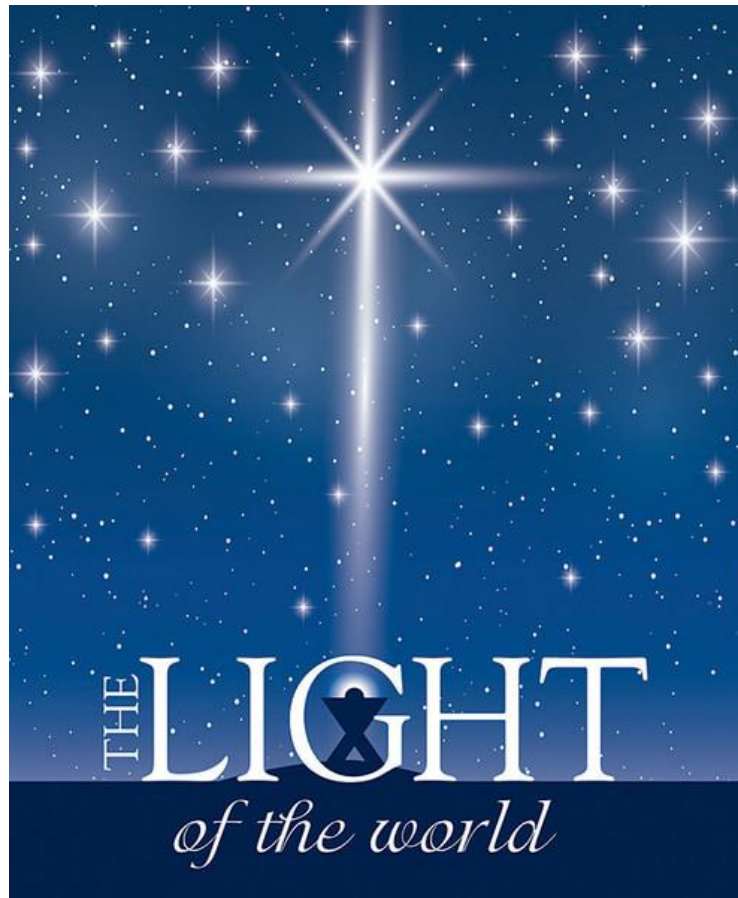
Bishop Steven Charleston offered these words, and I offer them now to you:

Receive the light. When the darkness gathers around you, when you grow weary, when your soul aches for the peace of years gone by, when you are afraid we have lost the trail and are walking deeper into the woods: that is exactly the time you need to receive the light. Don't hesitate. Don't doubt that it is there for you. Don't convince yourself that this darkness will be an endless night. It will not.

Remember a lesson you learned in your own experience: It is when things are darkest that light shines most brightly. Even an ember at midnight holds the promise of the dawn to come. Receive the light. It will restore you. It will heal you. It will empower you to welcome a new day. And even if that day has its own struggles and tests, it will be lived in the light, where we can see one another, trust one another, and do what must be done to reconcile this moment to the history we are making. Do not be afraid. Receive the light.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley





12/19 ~ Alan Wright
12/20 ~ Nora Karlstad
12/20 ~ Byrne Johnson
12/28 ~ Sara Kennedy
12/31 ~ Ladd Corrin

12/2 ~ Brent Schlieff
12/7 ~ Charlie Klatt
12/13 ~ Alexander Kennedy
12/15 ~ Bill Bertram
12/15 ~ Jim Davison



12/14 ~ Dixie Juel (Day)
12/30 ~ Mark Grim

Notice

*We Need volunteers
Readers & Greeters for Sunday's
& Altar Guild Members*

Community Café

*Holy Trinity Volunteers
Tuesday ~ Dec 28th*

*Watch Holy Trinity Services Livestream
Service bulletin is on our website: www.ifhtec.org
On Facebook: Sundays @ 10:00 am*

December'21 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
<p>5</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 2nd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	
<p>12</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 3rd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	
<p>19</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	
<p>24</p>  <p>Holy Eucharist 4:00 pm Christmas Eve</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	
<p>26</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 1st Sunday after Christmas</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	



December 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Altar Guild
						Donna & Karen
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.			Vestry 7:30 pm Advent Service 7:00 pm			Georgeann
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.			Advent Service 7:00 pm			Georgeann
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline (Mel)		Advent Service 7:00 pm		Christmas Eve Service 4:00 	Carolyn & Molly 
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.		Holy Trinity Community Café Volunteers 5:00 pm	Advent Service 7:00 pm			