

The Arimathean

Inside this issue:

Bishop's Christmas Message	2-3
Sunday School Gems	4
Save the Date	5
Prayer List	5
Glad Tidings!	back

As you know Christmas is full of traditions from so many places. Every family has its own. And when people are alone at this time of year, it's those family traditions they think about. They wish they were back home again, doing the Christmas things they used to do, the things they used to get so excited about when they were little. Or maybe they never had any of those things and just wish they had. No matter; they long for them just the same. We all do. People have always longed for home at this time of year.

The most popular Christmas story in the mid-nineteenth century was the same one we all love today: A Christmas Carol. When Charles Dickens came to America on a literary tour in the 1850, people wouldn't let him read anything else. We have not changed; we all know deep in our souls that we need redemption. Like Scrooge, we have turned our backs to good things. We have beheld need and suffering and done nothing, too, and we long for the power to change ourselves, to change the suffering around us. This is not a Christian story, but Christians who read it cannot help recognizing longing for Christ. The whole creation groans with longing, St. Paul said, and those of us who have been around for a while know it's the truth.

Faithfully,
Horace+



Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message 2011

"Jesus comes among us to remind us of a world living together in peace, to reclaim and make real that vision of creation for all humanity and all God's creatures," Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori says in the Christmas message for 2011.

The following is the text of the Presiding Bishop's message:

Christmas message 2011

*See, your salvation comes –
Isaiah 62:11*

The great prophets before Jesus proclaimed a vision of a nation and a people redeemed. We continue to share that yearning – as the Christmas hymn puts it, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." We've seen abundant hopes spring up in the past year across the Arab world and Eastern Europe, and in the global Occupy movement. Those voices seek a world of greater justice, communities in which decisions and the gifts of creation are more available to all. Our understanding of salvation is most profoundly about justice in community, and as Christians we believe that help and healing for all are grounded in the incarnate presence of God – among us and within us.

We look for salvation to the one who came among us in the most humble way, a helpless child born in a scandalous way to a poor peasant couple. The Incarnation, God with us, changed the

world in ways that we insist are leading to the ultimate healing of all creation. "See, your salvation comes," says the prophet in every age, yet it is not yet fully come upon us. We live in hope for its fullness. May hope be nourished within us, in each and every human being and community, for the journey toward God's healed and holy future.

That proclamation of coming salvation is a part of Isaiah (Isa 62:6-12) that will be read in some congregations at Christmas, but if you don't hear it, go and read the whole of it. Its centerpiece speaks of what that salvation looks like:

The Lord has sworn...

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Isa 62:8-9

That is not a vision of pristine isolation, but a vision of comfort and healing to a people frequently at war, occupied, or exploited by superior forces. The fear of powerful others taking and using for themselves the produce of the poor is healed and transformed into a society in which the gifts God provides will be shared by all.

Christmas Message cont.

(Continued from page 2)

For when *salvation comes*, that society will

be called, 'the Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.' Isa 62:12

Jesus comes among us to remind us of a world living together in peace, to reclaim and make real that vision of creation for all humanity and all God's creatures. That world is put right as rela-

tionships between God and humanity are set right. The relationship between God and human being cannot be set right without equal healing of relationships between us mortals. See, your salvation comes! Will we welcome that healing?

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Presiding Bishop and Primate

The Episcopal Church

The Vast Expanse of Space and Time

The vast expanse of space and time
 Appears to me in moonlight skies
 And in the sands of deserts deep
 And in the bright Sun's morning rise.
 In ending and beginning times
 Of endless light from stars
 Unknown
 Whose pulses through the void
 Of space
 Reach destinations to be shown.
 Lord, I am yours, entire and whole.
 You made me, love me, flesh and soul.
 In vast expanse of power and might
 From darkness, brought me to
 The Light.
 -(c) Sandra Davis

Gems from the Sunday School Crowd

The Pilot

A Sunday school teacher was speaking to a group of four-year-olds about Jesus, Joseph, and Mary. After the lesson, the kids were asked to draw a picture depicting their favorite part of the story. The teacher then shared the pictures the children drew with the entire

class. She got pictures of the Baby Jesus in the manger with animals, she got pictures of the three wise men. Then she got to a picture from Jimmy, a picture of an airplane with four people on it. She called Jimmy up to explain his picture. She told Jimmy that she could see Mary, Joseph, and

the Baby Jesus, obviously in their "flight" to Egypt. She didn't understand why there was another man on the plane. Jimmy quickly explained, "That's Pontius, the pilot."

Save the Dates!

Prayer List

Alla Borzova's father **Alexander**, BillieAnn Grant's friend **Brenda** Lefford, Louis Grant's father **Lloyd**, **The Carpenter's Kids**, Paige Lockwood's friend **Jack** Demaers, **Connie** Barrett, the **Udogwu Family**, Charles White's niece **Shelia**, Mary Carol Miller's friends **Jane** Dunne & **Carol** Vanecek, Jennifer Larrow's friend **Elizabeth** Graves, Barbara Brown's friend **Dottie** Cunningham, Carol Rohl's sister-in-law **Joan** Hanley, Althea Serrant's daughter **Grace** Anderson-Smith, Marion Hellthaler's friend **Janet** Aurrigemma, Warren Stramiello's grandmother **Shirley** Wurst, **Robert** Ewen, **Mairead** Kelleher, the Reverend **Addie** Clark, **Avery** Lessing, **Paige** Lockwood family, **Noelle** Anderson, Althea Serrant's sister, **Holly** Angelino



Pray for the Departed

In remembrance of Professor Adeboye Babalola,
father of Dayo Babalola

Ring Out the Old

Ring out the old,
Ring in the new,

Ring, happy bells,
Across the snow:

The year is going,
Let him go;

Ring out the false,
Ring in the true.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson-1850

“If in your heart you
make a manger for
his birth, then God
will once again be-
come a child on
earth.”

-A. Sibelius

ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

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(Dec 2011 - Feb 2012)

A loving heart is the
truest wisdom.
~Charles Dickens

The Rev. Horace Choate, Rector
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Vestry: Ben Alexander, Suzette Atkins, Karen Barnaby, Barbara Brown, Clive Brown,
Donna Rosengren, Katie Saliba, Althea Serrant, Prospero Udogwu
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Glad Tidings!

Happy Birthday to:

December

12/6 DeSean Hooshing
12/6 Zack Marryshow
12/12 Christopher
Larrow
12/14 Alexandra Haus
12/18 Megan Caley
12/21 Mary- Carol
Miller
12/22 Leo DiBenedetto
12/23 Martine Sayers
12/25 Billie-Ann Grant
12/25 Tracey Tuttle
Lunenburg
12/26 Stephanie Tuttle
12/28 Katherine Caley
12/30 Eunice Riblinger
12/30 Wren Stramiello

January

1/1 Russell Twiss
1/3 Anne E. Harmon
1/4 Dakota Scandiffio
1/8 John Verrastro
1/10 Anthony Haus
1/11 Jan Farfalla
1/15 Avery Tuttle
1/17 Celia DiBenedetta
1/21 Garrett Peterson
1/22 Kendric Atkins
1/30 Vera Watts

February

2/1 Arthur Hackett
2/2 Nicholas Ewen
2/5 Rob Lockwood
2/9 Cynthia Billings
2/9 Robert Pentz
2/11 Kevin Caley
2/13 Jane Sheridan
2/16 Tim Caley
Louis Grant
2/17 Naomi Fortune
2/20 Adam
Wisniewski-Jensen
2/23 Alex Dmitriev