



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

THE *Eagle* NEWSLETTER

St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Indiana | December 2022



ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

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Parish Staff & Leadership

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop

Bradley Pace, Rector

Jason Fortner, Curate

Teresa Lohrman, Parish Administrator

Michael Bennett, Director of Music

Becky Dick, Senior Warden

Bruce Johnson, Junior Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.

From the Rector

On All Saints Sunday, we read a very strange lesson from the book of Daniel. Some of my clergy colleagues and I were wondering what this passage had to do with the Feast of All Saints. The passage isn't one of those stories you might remember from Sunday School like Daniel in the Lions Den (although I suppose it would make for an interesting flannelgraph or a *VeggieTales* adaptation). In the lesson, Daniel has a dream of four monsters coming up out of the sea — one like a lion with eagles' wings, one like a bear with tusks, one like a leopard with wings and four heads, and the last one, terrifying and dreadful, with 10 horns and a mouth that spews arrogant threats. These four chaos monsters threaten to destroy God's people and to undo God's plan for creation.

Of course, if you know me, you know I love these weird, apocalyptic texts. (For instance, I think if you learn to read the Book of Daniel, it makes Revelation make more sense. But I digress.) And if we read this passage in historical context, we can make some sense of what's going on — of who these chaos monsters represent and what it might be

saying to us. Daniel was probably written during the Greek — or Seleucid — occupation of Judea in the 2nd Century BC/BCE. And the beasts probably represent the succession of kingdoms that had invaded Judah over the past 400 years or so — the Babylonians, the Medes, the Persians, and the Seleucid Greeks. But most of the book is written *as if* it had been written during the Babylonian Exile several centuries earlier. That makes the book's stories look like predictions. And that means that the people reading the book in the 2nd century BCE can see that — since they survived the Exile, since they survived the Medes, since they survived the Persians — they can survive their current conflict as well. All this despite the arrogant threats of that little horn that speaks arrogantly — probably a reference to the Seleucid leader Antiochus IV Epiphanes — whose name literally meant “God incarnate.” How's that for an arrogant little horn?

I think this stuff is fascinating and all, but what does this have to do with All Saints? Maybe more to the point, what does this have to do with Advent, the season of the Church year we are now entering? What does a reading like this say to you, to me, to the Church today? Where is God in this and what is God calling us to do?

In the lesson, we skipped over the verses that talk of the Ancient One coming to judge the kingdoms of the Earth and the one “like a Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven” to rule with an everlasting dominion. We do get that last verse, that assures “the holy ones” — the *qaddishe* in Hebrew, the *hagoi* in Greek, the saints — will be saved and will inherit the kingdom. The point, I take it, is that these holy ones are to have courage — to be encouraged — in the face of these chaos monsters. At the same time, these saints are to rule differently than the four beasts who came from the sea, from the four kingdoms who were monstrous parodies of God's good and gracious rule. They are to give up violence and war. They are to rule with justice. They are to reclaim their original vocation as stewards and caretakers of creation, rather

Daniel's dream

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So, he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: “As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the Earth. But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever — forever and ever.”

- Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

than arrogant blasphemers against the goodness of God's world. They are to be a royal priesthood, reflecting God's grace and love into the world. They are to be a sign of God's Kingdom. Note also that these holy ones — these real, human beings — are just the gathered people of God. They are just the people God has called to live together in a different kind of kingdom, a kingdom centered on God's justice and peace, centered on God's love, centered on loving the world that God loves. Of course, the stories in Daniel were written for a particular community, at a particular time, in the midst of a particular conflict. But since it's also written with an eye toward the future, it's not too much of a stretch to imagine that these stories are also for us. After all, our political communities do not often reflect the values of that different kingdom, that kingdom centered on God's justice and peace, that kingdom centered on God's love. But for us, this story calls us — it calls you and

me, here, now — to be that different kind of community.

Not only does this fit with the Feast of All Saints, but it also fits with Advent. Over the course of Advent, we will read other apocalyptic texts — beautiful texts from Isaiah that talk about the establishment of God’s reign of justice, puzzling texts from Matthew that exhort us to “be awake” for we do not know when the Son of Man will return, texts that are equal parts inspiring and terrifying telling us that “the kingdom of God is at hand” and that “the ax is lying at the root of the tree.” All of these texts unveil to us (that’s the meaning of the word “apocalypse,” it’s a lifting of the veil, a revelation) that God is at work in the world and that God is calling us, God’s

people, to be a different kind of community, a different kind of kingdom. Perhaps God is calling you to seek peace and quiet amidst the frenzied noise of the holidays. Perhaps God is calling you to limit your consumption while the rest of our culture engages in the Christmas “shopping season.” Perhaps God is calling you to advocate for someone in need, someone without a voice. Perhaps God is calling you to love your neighbors *and* your enemies. Perhaps God is speaking to you in the midst of your own grief or anxiety to tell you that the chaos monsters will not win, that God’s good and gracious kingdom is coming, indeed, it is at hand. – *Bradley Pace*, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org



From the Associate for Christian Education

Dear beloved of God at St. John's,

To paraphrase Paul, with a little rewording from me, Ephesians 1:15-18, "I know of your deep faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I will continue to remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and continue to reveal God's amazing love for you and the world as you grow in drawing closer to God, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened even more, you may know the hope to which God has called you and the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints."

I truly give thanks for each of you and for you as St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette. My family will continue to pray for you and give thanks for the beautiful ministry you all work in the world, seeing where God is already at work and joining in to create a better world and future. It has been a deep honor to serve in ministry with you for two months short of three years. It has been such a blessing for not only myself but my family as well. We love you and are so grateful to you. Thank you for blessing me and my family through your great love, support, prayer, and gifts, but most of all through being yourselves as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As many of you have heard, I completed my ministry as your Associate for Christian Formation the week before Thanksgiving. This was a difficult decision to make as it was multifaceted, but it was the decision best for my family. I will not be moving to pastor another congregation, but to be more available for my family. We are not moving away from West Lafayette, so you will still see us around. In fact, after a few months' time, you may even see us join in worship for a Sunday or you may see us out and about. We will continue to worship as a family at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, where we have been members for a few years.



I want to say THANK YOU for allowing me to serve in ministry with you, for being the Body of Christ to me when I really needed it, for being who you are and doing the ministry you do. I am grateful to have served in ministry with Bradley, Teresa, Michael, Mother Andrea, Jason, and each and every one of you.

With deep love and appreciation,

Your sister in Christ, *Gretchen M. Freese*,
gretchen@stjohns-laf.org

Thanking Gretchen Freese for Her Ministry

Our Associate for Christian Education Gretchen Freese left her position at St. John's in November. We are incredibly grateful for Gretchen's willingness to serve with us over the past two and half years. Gretchen has been a wonderful colleague, and we will miss her warmth and thoughtfulness.

On her last Sunday, Nov. 20, we presented her with a stole and other gifts. The inscription on the stole reads, "In appreciation for your ministry among us, 2020-2022 – the grateful people of St. John's, Lafayette."



All Saints Sunday & Celebrating Teresa Lohrman

On All Saints Sunday, we remembered that great cloud of witnesses with whom we are knit together into the mystical body of Christ. We also celebrated our Parish Administrator Teresa Lohrman and gave thanks for her 30 years of service and ministry with us. We had several special guests with us including a surprise visit from our Rector Emeritus, Ed Tourangeau.

Many thanks to Becky Dick for helping organize things and to everyone who contributed to brunch, helped set up, and helped with cleanup. Thanks to Clay Pace for the lovely icon of "St. Teresa of Delphi."

A Note of thanks from Teresa

It certainly doesn't seem like I have been shuffling papers, bookkeeping, recordkeeping, answering calls, and doing "other duties as needed" behind the scenes at St. John's for more than 30 years! It is very humbling to think of all the people who have come and gone through these doors over the years. Some may have only stayed for a short time due to their connection to Purdue, while others were here before I was fortunate enough to join the staff.

Fortunate indeed! My life has been enriched by the opportunity to serve alongside each of you. Even though I may not know all of you personally, you become more familiar to me each time I come across your name. So much so, that when we finally meet, I feel like I've known you forever.

I am so glad we were able to celebrate our 30 years together on November 6th. It was a day full of surprises, including a visit from Father Ed and Patty Tourangeau. The food was delicious, the flowers were beautiful, and it was especially nice to see everyone together again. Thank you!

"Thank you" doesn't seem adequate to express my gratitude for all the love and appreciation I received on November 6th, in emails, texts, phone calls, or cards. I truly couldn't have done it without all of you. So, THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart.

If you took pictures or videos on November 6th, I would appreciate if you would share them with me. I was so busy taking it all in that I didn't take any. – *Teresa Lohrman, teresa@stjohns-laf.org*.

Jubilee Christmas is almost here!

This year's Jubilee Christmas will be on Dec. 10 at St. John's. We will host 40 families in two shifts to minimize contact time and keep everyone as safe as possible.

We need cash donations, which can be made through the OnRealm app or on Sundays using the Jubilee Christmas envelopes. Also needed are stocking stuffer items and personal items that can be placed in the baskets in the Commons area.

Volunteers are especially needed to host families, and there also are other volunteer opportunities on the day of Jubilee. You can volunteer by using the links that were sent earlier, or by going to

www.stjohns-laf.org/jubileechristmas

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Kay McCauley, Jubilee Christmas Coordinator, at mccauley.mk3@gmail.com. - Mary Kay McCauley, mccauley.mk3@gmail.com

Advent & Christmas Worship at ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Second Sunday in Advent, December 4th

8:00, 9:00 *via Zoom*, & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
4:00 p.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

Third Sunday in Advent, December 11th

8:00, 9:00 *via Zoom*, & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18th

8:00, 9:00 *via Zoom*, & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
12:00 noon Greening of the Church

Thursday, December 20th

7:00 p.m. "Longest Night" Service

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
4:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service *via Zoom, hosted by Good Shepherd*
9:00 p.m. Carol Prelude & 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th

10:30 a.m. Carols & Holy Eucharist — *one service only*

1st Sunday after Christmas, January 1st

8:00, 9:00 *via Zoom*, & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

The Feast of the Epiphany (observed), Sunday, January 8th

10:30 a.m. Epiphany Pageant & Holy Eucharist— *one service only*



From the Curate

The Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement is grounded in the historic theological touchstones of Christianity. Over the course of the church's liturgical year from Advent through the last Sunday after Pentecost, when we celebrate Christ the King, Episcopalians who are careful to take in the themes laid out by the various collects and liturgies of each season will relive the whole history of our creation and salvation. They will be exposed to the rich theology and tradition of our faith. One of the most important concepts that surfaces many times throughout the year is the Incarnation of Jesus. The fact that God became a fully human man while remaining fully divine is at the core of our beliefs. Without the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ there is no Christian faith.

The Incarnation is a source of deepest hope for Christians. In addition to being the precipitating event for all that Jesus would do for our redemption, the Incarnation is a sign of God's desire to be with us and to love us. Pondering this miracle and remaining connected to it strengthens our faith and commitment to follow Jesus. Any time a simple spiritual practice and such a crucial aspect of our faith overlap, I am overjoyed. Hence my devotion to praying the Angelus.

This ancient prayer connects us with the Incarnation, celebrates the faithfulness of Jesus' blessed mother, and draws us toward transformation in Christ. The prayer is named the Angelus after the word for "angel" in Latin, the first word of the prayer in that language. As you can see in the text below, it incorporates the archangel Gabriel's declaration of God's plan to Mary, her assent to the plan, and the resulting Incarnation of Jesus. Between each section we pray the Hail Mary to honor Jesus' blessed mother and to ask for her to pray for us. I always welcome all the prayers on my behalf I can get!

Historically, the three Hail Marys seem to have evolved from the practices of various geographic regions of the Church involving offering that prayer in the morning, at noon, and at evening or before or after Compline. Those are now traditional times to

The Angelus Prayer

☩. The Angel of the LORD declared unto Mary,
℞. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary, full of grace; the LORD is with thee:
blessed art thou among women, and blessed is
the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother
of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour
of our death. Amen.

☩. Behold the handmaid of the LORD.
℞. Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Hail Mary ...

☩. And the Word was made flesh.
℞. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...
☩. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
℞. That we may be made worthy of the promises
of Christ.

Let us pray.

We beseech Thee, O LORD, pour Thy grace into
our hearts; that as we have known the
Incarnation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the
message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion
we may be brought unto the glory of His
Resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

*Source for historical information: The Marian
Library at the University of Dayton
[https://udayton.edu/imri/mary/a/angelus-origin-
of.php](https://udayton.edu/imri/mary/a/angelus-origin-of.php)*

pray the Angelus, often accompanied by the ringing of the Angelus bell in three sets of three rings. It has also become common to solemnly bow or genuflect during the prayer at the phrase “And the Word became flesh” in order to symbolize Jesus coming to earth as a human.

I personally love that the sets of versicles and responses give us the opportunity to ponder something holy and miraculous. The first evokes the Annunciation and the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit within Mary’s womb. The second reminds us of Mary’s resounding “Yes!” to God’s plan and encourages us to follow her faithful example. The third set presents the Incarnation itself with words borrowed from the beautiful and profound

prologue to John’s Gospel. Finally, the closing prayer connects these elements in a supplication that we might be transformed through Jesus’ work and share in his resurrection.

I find the peace and feeling of being grounded in faith that comes when I pray the Angelus to be very helpful, both in difficult times and on average days when I feel mostly at home in the world. I encourage you to explore praying the Angelus one or more times a day. Doing so provides us with the chance to deliberately pause and reflect with gratitude on what Jesus has done for us, how God loves us, and what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. – *Jason Fortner, jason@stjohns-laf.org*

A Celtic Journey Exploring Celtic Spirituality During Advent

Celtic Spirituality celebrates the essential sacredness of all things. It remembers John the Beloved as leaning against Jesus at the Last Supper. In the Celtic world, it was said of John that he heard the heartbeat of God and became a

“Come Lord, come down, come in, come among us.
Come as the wind to move us;
Come as the light to prove us;
Come as the night to rest us;
Come as the storm to test us;
Come as the sun to warm us;
Come as the stillness to calm us.
Come Lord, come down, come in, come among us.”
-Celtic Daily Prayer

symbol of the practice of listening deep within ourselves, deep within one another, and deep within the Earth.

Amy Paget will lead a series of four meditative times exploring Celtic Christianity during Advent. Sessions will be held in the Chapel on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 29 and December 6, 13, and 20. These sessions will last about an hour and will explore Celtic Christian practices, offer time for reflections, and close with Scripture and prayer. If you have any questions, contact Amy. – *Amy Paget, pagets@gmail.com*

Youth Group Lock-In Friday, December 2, at St. John’s

The Greater Lafayette Youth Group will have a lock-in beginning Friday, December 2, at St. John’s. Youth will meet at 6 p.m. at St. John’s and then travel to Sam’s Club and Wal-Mart for Jubilee Christmas shopping. We’ll head back to the church for dinner, games, worship, and more. All youth in grades six through 12 are welcome. The lock-in will end at 10 a.m. Saturday. For more information, contact Bradley Pace. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Advent Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday, December 4, 4 p.m., at St. John's

While you might be familiar with the Christmas service of Nine Lessons & Carols as sung by the St. John's Choir, Lafayette Master Chorale, or on WBAA from King's College, Cambridge, there is a similar service of Seven Lessons & Carols for Advent which is less familiar.

The Dean of King's College, Eric Milner-White, who began the Christmas service in 1918, created a Procession with Carols for Advent in 1934 based on the framework of the Christmas service. In the words of Milner-White, the main theme of the service is "the development of the loving purposes of God ..." seen "through the windows and words of the Bible. The purpose of the service is not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it."

The liturgy involves seven readings from scripture which form the heart of the service, and each is further illuminated by a hymn or anthem. Advent prayers and responses further reflect the anticipation of Christ's incarnation. St. John's choir invites you to this unique service - all are welcome. The service will be at 4 p.m. on December 4 at St. John's. – *Michael Bennett, Michael@stjohns-laf.org*



Hanging of the Greens & Chili Cook-off

Sunday, December 18, after 10:30 Service

Please stick around after the 10:30 service to help ready the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 18. If you have a favorite chili recipe, bring along a pot to share. For more information, contact the church office by email at teresa@stjohns-laf.org, or by phone at 765.742.4079. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

'Longest Night' Service

Tuesday, December 20, at 7 p.m.

The Christmas season can be a painful time. While the joyful sounds of the season are all around us — on the radio and television, in shopping malls, and in our churches — many of us are reminded of what we have lost or never had. Broken relationships, unemployment, ill health, the pain of isolation — all these can make us feel alone amid celebration. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

To honor and name the difficulty of this season, St. John's will host a "Longest Night" Service at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20. Let us join together, sharing and hearing prayers, Scripture, and music that acknowledge God's presence for those who struggle and for those who mourn. Hear the good news that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Epiphany Pageant Sunday, Jan. 8, at St. John's

St. John's will host an Epiphany Pageant of lessons and hymns on Sunday, Jan. 8, with our friends from the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. There will be only one service that Sunday at 10:30 a.m. All children ages 3 through the eighth grade are invited to participate. We will have a rehearsal at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7, at St. John's. Please contact Jason Fortner at jason@stjohns-laf.org with any questions. More information will be forthcoming. – Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org

End-of-Year Giving to St. John's

Each week throughout the year contributions that are delivered to the office, either in person or through the mail, are counted and then deposited with the any offerings received on the following Sunday.

December 25 will be the last opportunity to have your contributions counted and deposited for 2022. Hand delivered contributions should be delivered to the office by Dec. 23 as the office will be closed December 26 through December 30.

If you are mailing your contribution, please allow at least seven to 10 days for delivery. Mailed contributions should also reach the parish office by Dec. 23.

Sunday Drivers

We occasionally receive requests for church members who can give rides to other members on Sunday morning. If you are interested and available, please contact Bradley by email or at 765-742-4079, ext. 102. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

St. John's Financial Summary – October 2022

INCOME	Jan-Oct.	Budget	% of Budget
Operating Income	\$375,539.68	\$492,019.93	76.3%
Non-Operation Income	\$32,814.48	\$33,406.23	98.2%
Transfer Income	\$31,046.00	\$43,500.00	71.4%
TOTAL INCOME	\$439,400.16	\$568,926.16	71.2%
EXPENSES			
Outreach	\$59,695.35	\$85,796.00	69.6%
Program	\$12,913.58	\$21,600.00	59.8%
Administration	\$1,312.07	\$4,000.00	29.8%
Personnel	\$281,459.73	\$310,131.24	90.8%
Office	\$20,409.48	\$26,650.00	76.6%
Property	\$115,580.61	\$120,348.92	96.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$491,370	\$568,926.16	86.4%
Net Income (loss)	\$-51,970.66		



Annual Giving Campaign More than Enough

Our ministries are only possible because of God's generosity and the support of our members and friends. Each year, 70 percent of our worship, outreach, formation, and pastoral care ministries are funded through annual pledges. That is why we ask our members and friends to support these ministries. This year, as we continue to recover from the disruptions and grief of the past two and a half years, we are rebuilding and reorganizing many of our ministries. We are trying to find new ways to serve faithfully and to live out our call as a faith community. As such, we are asking you to contribute your time and talent as well as your treasure.

Pledge cards have been sent out to members on our mailing list. If you did not receive one and would like to make a financial pledge, you can pledge online at www.stjohns-laf.org/pledge or contact the church office at teresa@stjohns-laf.org or 765.742.4079. Thank you in advance for all you do and all you offer. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org on behalf of the parish leadership*

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Save the Date

- Youth Group Lock-In – Friday, Dec. 2
- Advent Lessons & Carols Service – Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 p.m.
- Jubilee Christmas – Saturday, Dec. 10
- Hanging of the Greens & Chili Cook-off – Sunday, Dec. 18, after 10:30 Service
- Longest Night' Service – Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.
- Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24th
 - 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 - 4:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service via Zoom
 - 9:00 p.m. Carol Prelude & 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25th
 - 10:30 a.m. Carols & Holy Eucharist — one service only