



The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. 16 In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Psalm 25:1-9

I offer my life to you, Lord.

My God, I trust you.

Please don't let me be put to shame!

Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!

For that matter,

don't let anyone who hopes in you

be put to shame;

instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame.

**Make your ways known to me, Lord;
teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—
because you are the God who saves me.

I put my hope in you all day long.

**Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love—
they are forever!**

But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing.

Remember me only according to your faithful love
for the sake of your goodness, Lord.

**The Lord is good and does the right thing;
he teaches sinners which way they should go.**

God guides the weak to justice,
teaching them his way.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you, given all the joy we have because of you before our God? Night and day, we pray more than ever to see all of you in person and to complete whatever you still need for your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus guide us on our way back to you. May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. The planets and other heavenly bodies will be

shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.

Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God’s kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

“Take care that your hearts aren’t dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don’t let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”



Thank you to all of our faithful parishioners who have made their 2025 Stewardship Campaign pledges. With your help, we will meet our goal of 75 pledges to our Church's operating budget and ministries. If you haven't already done so, you can make your pledge [online here](#) or complete a pledge form located at the church entrance. We ask that you prayerfully approach your financial commitment to the church and reflect on ways you can share your time and talents with Saint Georges during the upcoming year.

Walk in love,
The Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Pledges

Thank you to everyone who made their Stewardship pledge for 2025. We have received 54 pledges, as of November 20.

Denise Brown Allen
Leslie Armin (Hou)
Lisa and Peter Bellamy
Meredith Borrelli
Tony Bousanti
Dan Boylan household
Barry Bullis
Shawn Grain Carter
Susan Chrystal and Bob Freud
Clarence Clark and
Andrezj Limanowka
Aleeda Crawley and Ron Garner
Margaret Davis
Paul and Cathy Desjardins
Ulysses Dietz
Brigid Dwyer
Tilly-Jo Emerson

Catherine Hines
Glen Hoffs
Jane Jubilee
Chris Kelly and Neritan Xhaferi
Margaret (Bambi) Koeniger
Valyrie Laedlein
Grant Mansfield
Michael and Amy Martins
Bill and Lisa Mark
Ciara McElroy and Mark Graham
Lindsay and Jim McHugh
Dan Mitchell
Cheryl Notari and Sharon McSorley
Kirk Petersen and Nina Nicholson
Norman and Margaret Pickron
Alex and Betsy Pine
The Popham family

Laura Fernandes
Richard Franco and Meg Persichetti
Michael Francaviglia
Doug Franklin
Noreen and Victor Gomez
John and Jillian Hamer
Lenora Hartley
Lisa Heher
Nick Heller
Marymae Henley
Margo and Sebastian Hill

Elizabeth Redwine
Magaly Roman
Christopher Rowe
Tom Savoth
Neil Marks and Doak Sergent
Judith Stark
Douglas Sterner and Leonard Paolillo
Ann McKay Thoroman
Tanya Thornhill
Jane and Joe Ungaro
Anthony Zuco and Ricky Cortez

Important Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 1

- Advent Wreath making, after 10 am service
- “Fun”- Raising Brainstorm

Wednesdays in Advent

- Advent Small Group, 7.30 pm on zoom

Sunday, December 8

- JAM Forum, after 10 am service
- Second Sunday Supper Church with Carols & Cocoa, 4.30 pm

Sunday, December 15

- Lessons & Carols, 5 pm

Monthly Food Pantry Collection

In December, we will be collecting for Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry. We are asking for **granola bars and low sugar cereal (hot or cold)**. We always welcome non-perishable staples. Please drop off in the Narthex or inside the storage bins in the vestibule off the parking lot. Questions: contact Lindsay McHugh at mchugh.lindsay@gmail.com.
. Questions: Lindsay McHugh at mchugh.lindsay@gmail.com.

Sages of All Ages- a group for seniors and empty nesters

Our new Sages of All Ages ministry has a great schedule of upcoming gatherings including:

December 28 - Christmas Open House

Contact Tony Bousanti (abousanti@verizon.net) if you would like to know more!

The Lights of Hope Advent collection

Once again, this year we will be offering an opportunity to give to those who are less fortunate. The Lights of Hope collection will begin on Sunday, November 24th. There are several ways you can participate either by selecting a gift tag for purchasing individual items or participating in the Adopt a Family program. Pick up a gift tag from the wooden cross in the Sanctuary and bring the gift by December 15 **WITH TAG ATTACHED.**

We are collecting baby necessities for clients of North Porch Women & Infants' Centers; holiday toys for children at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, West Orange; and we are also collecting adult clothing basics for the Bridges homeless program. Bridges tackles homelessness through street outreach and intensive case management focusing on health, housing, and independence. If you have questions, find us after service or send an email to mchugh.lindsay@gmail.com, or pebigelow@yahoo.com

Adopt a Family Program:

This year, we are planning to adopt five to six families and provide holiday gifts for the whole family. Please contact Dominique Vines at vines.dominique@gmail.com to learn more details of the family gift program.

Advent Small Group with St. Andrew and Holy Communion

Join us this Advent season for a weekly small group as we journey through Do Not Be Afraid: The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear by

Rachel Mann. Through meditative readings, prayer, and thoughtful reflection, we'll explore how waiting—so often marked by anxiety or uncertainty—can become a source of joy and deeper faith.

Each week, we'll gather to reflect on God's presence in our own seasons of waiting, drawing closer to the peace and hope promised in the coming of Christ. Let's prepare our hearts together in anticipation of Christmas, discovering the gifts of patience, courage, and holy joy. All are welcome! You do not need to have read the book to participate!

When: Dec. 4, 11, 18 at 7:30pm

Where: Zoom, Meeting ID: 949 7106 4385

Passcode: 639903

You can purchase the book online.

Looking for Legos!

Do you have Legos and Lego figures at home that you aren't using? Our youth and children's programs will be incorporating legos in some of their lessons. We're hoping to collect them rather than buy them new. If you have some to donate, please drop them off outside the parish office in the box labeled Legos.

Make an Advent calendar

Join us on Sunday, December 1, after the 10am service to make Advent calendars.

Justice & Advocacy Ministry Forum

On **December 8th**, after 10 am service, we will explore how to pursue “voluntary simplicity” to reduce our environmental impact in our daily living – including our holiday celebrations.

Dining Club: December 22 brunch?????

It will be up to you: can we schedule a brunch before the year ends? If we can get as few as six, we will schedule a lovely brunch at Boulevard

572 in Cranford at 12:30 PM. Please RSVP by December 1 via email: mofun@stgeorges-maplewood.org

<https://www.boulevardfive72.com/menus/brunch>

‘Fun’-raising

If you missed our Saints Be Raised fundraiser, you missed a lovely event. Many things made it successful. Many things could make future events more successful. Now is the time for input. On Sunday **December 1, 12 PM** we will have a hybrid fun-raising meeting to debrief our 2024 fun-raising attempts this year, and talk about what we can do next year. (Another tasting? Karaoke? Broadway Revue? Dance party?) Meet us online or in person in the lounge. We will have coffee, tea, pastry, and fruit available. If you have any ideas, please come. This is not limited to adults; youth are welcome to tell us what they might like and are willing to work on!

Zoom Meeting ID: 432 484 0422

Passcode: 484042

Advent Tree of Angels

On December 1, 8 and 15 the Tree of Angels Marks the progress of Advent. Sunday December 1st will mark the first Sunday of Advent, and with it begins the annual Tree of Angels fundraiser! It’s a “short” Advent this year, because of where Christmas falls, and thus there will be only THREE Sundays following (December 1, 8, 15) on which we can raise funds for the Christmas flowers, trees and greens with which we decorate our sanctuary and nave for the holy day. For the modest amount of \$5 per name, you can buy an angel for the boughs of our community tree in the Parish Hall, either as a memorial or in thanksgiving. The Altar Guild will inscribe your loved ones’ names on the list of remembrance to be included at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at St. George’s.

This is the way St. George’s Altar Guild funds the holiday greens that fill the church, and makes sure that there are plenty of Christmas

flowers and greens, on the high altar and around the Lord's Table, and throughout the church to welcome parish and visitors alike for the Christmas Eve family and late services.

An Altar Guild representative will be present at coffee hour each of the three Sundays listed above, to get your names and inscribe them on angels. We will have receipts!

Coffee Hour: important: Kitchen construction begins soon!

NOTE: The anteroom and nursery will be used for staging and storage. For everyone's safety, it is VERY IMPORTANT that children do not play in the smaller room. We thank you for your cooperation, as we await our new kitchen! During kitchen construction (approximately mid-January) coffee hour will continue to be held in the parish hall with the following schedule:

Week 1: Birthday Cake and fruit

Week 2: Loaves & Fishes Coffee Hour (coffee/tea, and whatever parishioners bring to share!)

Week 3: Ministry Coffee Hour

Week 4: Family Hosted Coffee Hour

Week 5: Loaves & Fishes

Beginning November 26 until January 26 (stay tuned for exact reopening and PARTY!), coffee hour should be simple: no cutlery, no plates (can fit on a napkin), juice, tea, coffee. Suggestions are simple baked goods and fruit.

Nominating Committee & Annual Meeting

A Nominating Committee, chaired by Senior Warden Dan Mitchell with members Catherine Hines, Ciara McElroy, Sharon McSorley and Mark Popham, has been formed to begin developing a slate of candidates. The open positions are as follows:

Junior Warden, serving a 2-year term

Three Vestry members, each serving a 3-year term

Three 2025 Diocesan Convention delegates, 1-year term

Three 2025 Diocesan Convention alternates, 1-year term

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 9th following a single Eucharistic service**. In addition to these elections, we will have time for fun, food and fellowship at the Annual Meeting. Our budget and other selective ministry reports will be shared. It is a great opportunity to come together as a parish family to celebrate what we have done and to discuss where we are going.

If you are interested in learning more about these open candidate slots, are interested in running or would like to nominate someone (with their permission), please contact any of the Nominating Committee members. It is an exciting time to accept the invitation to get involved in boldly moving St. George's forward in living out her mission to becoming that diverse community of companions for life's journey to explore our faith, to seek justice, and to strive to be agents of transformation and healing.

All members of St. George's are invited to submit recommendations to any member of the Nominating Committee for nominees, including themselves, for Vestryperson prior to January 12, 2025. Other nominations, with the consent of the nominees, may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Qualified candidates must be baptized and confirmed, at least 16 years of age, of good moral character, adherents of the Protestant Episcopal Church, regular attendees at services for the past six months, and regular contributors to St. George's for the past six months.

Stay Connected with St. George's!

Are you new to the parish? Are you excited to learn about the amazing ministries and activities happening at St. George's? Be sure to sign up for our weekly online newsletter so you don't miss out! To sign up, please email our Parish Administrator, Ruth Deane, at parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org.

Stay Connected with the Diocese of Newark!

As a part of the Diocese of Newark, St. George's contributes to and participates in the larger mission of our diocese— *Join us in following Jesus Christ with bold acts of justice, peace, and love.* Sign up to receive The VOICE Online (our diocesan digital newsletter) and check out the amazing things going on in our Diocese!



In Our Prayers this week

Rich; Jerry Hudson & Christine; Richard & Bea Berggren; Clarence Clarke & Andrezj; Marlene Eubanks; Marianne Dwyer; James & Mary Ip; Orlando; Laticha; Nancy Storrs; Suzanne & Rev. Bob Morris; Mandy Robinson; Rita Paolillo; Andrea; Annette; Tilly-Jo Emerson; Shaunille McDonald; Jillian Hamer; Elizabeth Allen; Robert Oliphant & spouse Kathy Jo Blaske; AJ Hoffs-McCauley; Ed, Barry & the Bullis-Martinez family; Lauren; Chris Tietjen; Jo Hoffs; Susannah Chewing; Brenda Gayden; Matthew Finch; Arthur Lee Collins; Karen Leigh; John Hamer; the soul of Lisa Jubilee & her family; the soul of Michael & his family, especially Dwight, Courtney & Patricia; Josh Simmons; Jane Jubilee; Anna Mendez; Arlo; Sue; Annette Cammarata; the soul of Rosa & for her family; Meredith Borelli; Nathaniel Redwine and the students at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC; the soul of Teesha, and her family Brian, Jonah & River Hack; the soul of Lester Mitchell & for his family; the soul of Regina Lata Singh & for her family; the soul of Kaaren Pieressa Patterson & for her family; the soul of Martha Kitali and for her family; Dan Mitchell; Tony Persichetti and his family; Tanya Harper; the Hessman family; Sarah Harms; the soul of Nissa Whittle's father & for the family; Anne & for Bonnie, her siblings, & families; Jane Ungaro.

If you wish to request special prayers, please email your request to st-georges-healing@googlegroups.com. Include the name or names (preferably both first & last) and what we should be praying for. NOTE: After one month names are routinely removed from the list unless we receive a request to continue the prayer.