November 17, 2019       10:30 AM
THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 28
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II                             BCP 355

The Rev. Leslie J. Hague is the celebrant and
Deacon Jon Owens is the preacher today.

VOLUNTARY         Elegy                  C. Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 392   Come, we that love the Lord       Vineyard Haven

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant    Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People        And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen
Celebrant    Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you
no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A SONG OF PRAISE     Glory to God

  Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
  Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
  we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
  Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
  you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
  you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
  For you alone are the Holy One,
  you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
  Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.
Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A READING FROM MALACHI 4:1-2a
See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.
Reader The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

1 Sing to the LORD a new song,*
   for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
   has he won for himself the victory.

3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
   his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,*
   and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the LORD all you lands; *
   lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the LORD with the harp,*
   with the harp and the voice of song.
PSALM 98 (cont.)

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
    shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
    the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands,*
    and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
    when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
    — and the peoples with equity.

A READING FROM 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13
Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 632 O Christ, the Word Incarnate Munich

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO LUKE
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.
When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."
They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, `I am he!' and, `The time is near!' Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON Deacon Jon Owens

A quiet time for reflection follows the sermon.

THE NICENE CREED BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Leader For the Church of God, that we may be filled with love, generosity and truth so to transform our communities and our world;

People May your light guide us and shine through us.

Leader For the leaders of our nation, and the leaders of all nations;

People May your light instill in them compassion and good judgment, and guide them in the ways of justice and peace.

Leader For all who hold authority in your Church, that they may shine your light brightly;

People May your Spirit inspire them with creativity, renew their energy, and give them wisdom and love.

Leader For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, and for blessings on all of our human endeavors, and for the just and proper use of the beauty and abundance of creation;

People May each of us love and serve you in ways that shine your light in our communities and beyond to free your world from poverty, famine and oppression.

Leader For the sick in body, mind or spirit, especially those on our All Saints prayer list, for those who will receive communion at home this week, and for those we now name in our hearts;

People May your light bring hope and healing to all who suffer.

Leader For all who have died, and for those who grieve, and for those we now name in our hearts;

People May your perpetual light shine on all the saints who have gone before us.
Oh God, in your infinite generosity you have created a world with resources to sustain all of your children with abundance of food, work and recreation. Help us to let our light shine so brightly the whole world can witness your glory. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

CONFESSION OF SIN
The Officiant says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept. The congregation may stand or kneel.
Minister and People
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.
A Priest, stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION
The Holy Eucharist, Prayer A

OFFERTORY ANTHEM And I Saw a New Heaven Edgar L. Bainton (1880-1956)
And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

OFFERTORY HYMN 296 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more Engelberg
The people remain standing.
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

(The Proper Preface is read here.)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People sing

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.
He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.
On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation.
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Prayer Partners during Communion
Prayer Partners are available near the pulpit during Communion. All wishing to have special supportive prayers for yourself or others are encouraged to approach the prayer partner during communion time.

COMMUNION HYMN 615 “Thy kingdom come!” on bended knee
COMMUNION MOTET       I Heard a Voice from Heaven       John Goss (1800-1880)

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,
Write, from henceforth, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord:
Even so, saith the Spirit: for they rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER
Celebrant      Let us pray.

Celebrant and People
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH OF THE LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Priest      N. (and N.) we send you out to share Communion this week with N. N. (and N.N.)

People    May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ’s presence.

Priest    May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN       Love divine, all loves excelling       Blaenwern

(Music on next page)

Deacon    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!!

People    Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

VOLUNTARY      Grand Chœur Triumphant,  Op. 56       Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in Neaverson Chapel to say farewell to Deacon Jon and to celebrate the Ingathering of our Stewardship Drive.
1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
   Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.
   Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art;
   Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive;
   Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave.
   Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,
   Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
   Let us see thy great salvation, Perfectly restored in thee,
   Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,
   Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.
WEDNESDAY HEALING PRAYER WITH EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20        12:05 p.m. in St. Luke’s Chapel
(Please enter by the door in the Jensen Courtyard)

Many are asked to remember others, especially for healing, in our prayers. All are
invited to join together at this service for a healing laying-on-of-hands, anointing,
and prayer for others or our selves. These prayers become our Eucharistic offering
as we celebrate together in our beautiful St. Luke’s Chapel.

THIS WEEK IS THE COMMEMORATION OF EDMUND
KING OF EAST ANGLIA (855 –869)

VESPERS (EVENING PRAYERS – RITE II) AT ALL SAINTS

Thursday evening at 6:30 pm, Vespers will be in St. Luke’s Chapel

Vespers is a wonderful and deeply spiritual liturgy of prayer which is the
penultimate of the ancient daily Christian “Prayer Hours.” Vespers offers us an
opportunity for thanksgiving for the good in the day, to let go of the stresses of
work and life; and to turn all things earthly, over to God near the end of the day.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21
THIS WEEK IS THE COMMEMORATION OF ST. CECILIA
MARTYR AT ROME

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ALL SAINTS

All Saints Episcopal Church        Phone: 954-467-6496
333 Tarpon Drive                   Fax: 954-467-2668
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301          Email: office@allsaintsfl.org
                                      Website: allsaintsfl.org

Clergy
The Rev. Leslie J. Hague, Rector, x1103, leslie@allsaintsfl.org

AdJunct Clergy
The Rev. Carl H. Beasley, Priest Associate, carl@allsaintsfl.org
The Very Rev. Clark Powers, Priest Associate, clark@allsaintsfl.org
The Rev. Jon Owens, Deacon, jon@allsaintsfl.org

Staff
Organist/Choirmaster – Daniel Copher, Ph.D., daniel@allsaintsfl.org
Administrator – Michael Lee, x1102, michael@allsaintsfl.org
Assistant to the Rector – Lou Strennen, x1104, lou@allsaintsfl.org
Sexton – Richard Fraser
The Altar Flowers this week are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert Castle on what would have been the 59th year of our anniversary by Chuck Zilly.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministry and friendship of the Reverend Jon Owens by Bob Adams.

CELEBRATIONS  Nov. 17 – 23
Birthdays  Les Taylor, Susan Goodrich, Marcelline Hutton, Rick Vaughan, Crellin Byrd, Joan Koether, Shirley Riester, Betty Bahlke

Anniversaries  Leslie Hague and Katie Casteel

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT ALL SAINTS

| Mon. – Fri. | Easier Softer Way (AA Meeting) | 8:00 am | Neaverson |
| Mon. 11/18 | EFM | 6:30 pm | Parish House |
| Tues. 11/19 | Stewardship Meeting | 6:30 pm | Neaverson |
| Tues. 11/19 | All Saints Vestry Meeting | 6:30 pm | Neaverson |
| Wed. 11/20 | Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers | 12:05 pm | St. Luke’s |
| Thurs. 11/21 | Vespers | 6:30 pm | St. Luke’s |
| Thurs. 11/21 | ASEC Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 pm |

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) MEETING FOR NOVEMBER
Is next Sunday, November 24th in the River Room after the 10:30 AM service. Please plan to join the ECW meeting.

The All Saints Nursery is OPEN!!!!

Our adorable nursery is now open at 9 AM for infants and children through 3 years of age. We are staffed for those with little ones to be part of our All Saints Family. Please share this with family and friends so that they can plan to worship with
The time of the year when we celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday is upon us. Jubilee makes baskets for families with children, and our concern is that many children will not have a Thanksgiving meal this year.

Please look over the below wish list of items needed and decide what you could donate. **Bring your donations in by Wednesday, Nov. 20.** The food collection items will help Jubilee Center fill baskets for families this Thanksgiving Holiday.

- Box of Stove Top Dressing
- Can of Yams (sweet potatoes)
- Box of Brown Sugar
- Box of Mashed Potatoes
- 4 cans of corn and/or carrots
- Corn Muffin Mix
- Dessert – Box of brownie, cookie or cake mix
- Gift Card to purchase the turkey
- Sturdy foil pan for roasting turkey

**Thank you in advance for your generous support for this project and to the many All Saints Outreach ministries.** If you would be available for volunteering to assemble the baskets, please call Brenda at 954-920-0106.

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**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS ~ Save the dates!**

**Nov. 28 1:00 pm**  All Saints Thanksgiving Day Feast

Advent begins Dec. 1st — Each Sunday of Advent at 9:00 am, we will have a special series about the meaning and hope of Advent

- Dec. 1  4:00 pm   Riversounds: New Direction  Chamber Winds Concert
- Dec. 5  5:30 pm   ECW Fundraiser — Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
- Dec. 7  8:00 pm   Riversounds: Ft. Lauderdale Gay Men’s Chorus
- Dec. 8  5:00 pm   Riversounds: Girl Choir of South Florida Concert
- Dec. 10 5:00 pm   Laundry Love — Hollywood Laudromart
- Dec. 14 5:00 pm   Boat Parade Festival
- Dec. 15 7:00 pm   Riversounds: Seraphic Fire Christmas Concert
- Dec. 18 1:00 pm   Senior Christmas Luncheon
- Dec. 21 9:00 am   Parish workday
- Dec. 22 12:00 noon Greening of the Church
- Dec. 24 4:00 pm  Christmas Eve Family Eucharist
- 10:30 pm   Anthems and Carols
- 11:00 pm   Choral Nativity Mass
- Dec. 25 10:30 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
- Dec. 29 10:30 am Christmas Lessons and Carols
Our second Laundry Love event was held Tuesday November 12, 2019 at The Laundromart, Rt. 1 from 5 - 8 p.m. in Hollywood where we washed and dried over 1500 lbs. (over 75 loads) of laundry for 36 very appreciative guests and their families. This exceeded 3 times the amount of laundry we cleaned last month! There was a tremendous amount of appreciation and gratitude from the guests who attended and it was certainly a rewarding experience for the 9 volunteers who assisted. So much love was in the room tonight!

This ministry would not be possible without the overwhelming generosity of so many of you: our All Saints family. You have contributed in so many ways, whether volunteering, donating money, detergents, fabric softeners, laundry baskets, children’s books, pizza, bottled water, cookies, pretzels, clothing items and a myriad of other miscellaneous items. We (and our guests) thank each one of you from the bottom of our hearts.

Our next event will be held Tuesday, December 10. If you are able to help us fund future monthly events, tax-deductible contributions may be made via our All Saints website or by check (marked Laundry Love) placed in the church basket or sent via mail to the church office. Cash may also be placed in an envelope marked “Laundry Love”.

If you have any questions, please reach out to either
Rich Markiewicz @ richardjmarkiewicz@gmail.com (774-239-1668) or
Alex McCroson @ mccroson@gmail.com (305-900-8508).

TODAY IS TRUE FUND SUNDAY
The 3rd Sunday of each month is the day that we collect for T.R.U.E. Fund.

TRUE (Toward Relief of Urgent Emergencies)
The TRUE Fund (Towards the Relief of Urgent Emergencies), provides emergency grants of up to $100 for utility bills, emergency housing, children’s clothing, medicine, medical and dental bills, etc. Recipients are screened by various local charitable agencies. Financial donations may be made by using the Special Offering envelopes in the pew racks and marking the envelope for the TRUE Fund. If you would like to donate by credit card, please call our Financial Administrator, Michael Lee, at 954-467-6496, ext. 1102 or simply use the Giving Online link on the home page of this website. For more information about the TRUE fund, contact Phyllis Barnes at phyllis@allsaintsfl.org.

The requests are vetted and the recipients are truly in need of help. Your donations are always appreciated! Please share generously.
Operating under the auspices of The University of the South (Sewanee), Education for Ministry (EfM) invites people into small groups that help us understand our lives and shape our actions as we examine and deepen our Christian faith. Through study, prayer and theological reflection EfM enables us to discover and exercise our God-given gifts for ministry in our everyday lives. It is not preparation for the priesthood.

An EfM seminar with six to 12 students and a trained mentor meets weekly for three hours over the course of a nine-month academic year. The All Saints group meets on Monday evenings from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. **A new class will begin on January 6, 2020.** While the full curriculum takes four years to complete participants are asked to commit to only one year at a time. Upon completion participants will receive a diploma from The University of the South. There is a tuition fee and some financial aid may be available.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting, life-changing program please speak to Frank Asterita either in person on most Sundays or by phone or email. You can reach Frank at 754-205-4989 or frankdon724@att.net. You may also visit the Sewanee EfM website at [http://efm.sewanee.edu](http://efm.sewanee.edu) for more information.

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**ALL SAINTS THANKSGIVING NEAVERSON CHAPEL**

If you don’t have other plans with family or friends, please join your All Saints’ family for Thanksgiving dinner.

**Thursday, November 28th at 1:00 p.m.**

We will provide the turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy; you can bring your choice of a side dish or dessert.

Please RSVP to Michael or Lou in the office if you will be attending.

michael@allsaintsfl.org  
lou@allsaintsfl.org  
954-467-6496

p.s. We are still looking for volunteers to help set-up, serve and cleanup.
ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PRESENTS

An AFTERNOON of CHAMBER MUSIC
QUINTETS for PIANO and WINDS
ELISABETH THOMASHOFF, PIANO

WITH MEMBERS OF
NEW DIRECTIONS
CHAMBER WINDS

Frank Molano, oboe
David A. Sucik, clarinet
Alan Parshley, horn
James Barber, bassoon

Mozart, Quintet in E-Flat Major, K. 452
Beethoven, Quintet in E-Flat Major Op. 16

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2019 4:00 PM
333 Tarpon Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

SUGGESTED DONATION $20 AT THE DOOR
STUDENTS $10
I don’t know about you, but I sometimes find hope a bit hard to come by. A 24-hour news cycle comes at me from multiple platforms all day long. And so often the problems and the pains revealed in these stories seem insurmountable. And I find myself wondering, “How do I move forward in this life in hope?”

In today’s Gospel passage from Luke, Jesus sounds as though he’s reading top headlines from just such a news cycle. War, violence, natural disaster, the spread of disease and food insecurity are among the “portents and signs” we are told to expect. As we prepare for the upcoming season of Advent, this story offers us an opportunity to remember that Jesus’s incarnation – his earthly ministry among us – allowed him to know what it is to live here. To really live here. Jesus knows what it is to hold onto hope amidst chaos and tragedy.
We human beings invest a great deal in attempts to manufacture hope amidst chaos and tragedy. We build towers and walls and weapons. We envelope ourselves in comfort and even luxury when we can, and we distract ourselves from the concerns of the real world with hours of screen-time on ubiquitous gadgets. We think these things will protect us from the “portents and signs” of the world around us. And yet, these are hollow attempts that leave us in that space of finding hope hard to come by. Jesus, who understands these struggles first-hand, shows us another way. Jesus shows us what it is to invest in true hope.

Jesus tells us that the tragedy and chaos that seem to surround us at times are never the end of the story. In fact, they are just the beginning. He tells his disciples that amidst their troubles and persecution they will have the “opportunity to testify.” They will be given “words and wisdom.” We are not to retreat into our own attempts at manufactured hope — our own temples “adorned with beautiful stones.” Rather, we are called to respond directly to the suffering we see in the world, to put our trust in God, and to invest in those things that shine the light of the coming Kingdom of God. This is how we move forward — not in passive waiting, but in active preparation and investment in the hope of God in Jesus Christ.

Kathleen Moore is communications manager at Canticle Communications, a strategic communications firm working primarily in the Episcopal Church. A recent graduate of Church Divinity School of the Pacific, she lives and works in Vermont.