

The Canticle

Christ the King Episcopal Church, 6490 Carr Street, Arvada, CO 80004



Clergy Letter

Happy December, Happy Advent, and an early Merry Christmas, CTK Family!

Here at the beginning of Advent, our family halls are already decked with a Fraser Fir Christmas Tree, and the full complement of lights and ornaments. As much as I have waited over the years to at least *decorate* the tree only in the last days of Advent, the past couple Covid Christmases have convinced me of the need for some brightness, joy, and celebration amidst this time of preparation. We'll of course continue to expand our repertoire to include mantle decorations, outdoor lights, wrapped gifts, candles, and other festive expressions of the joyful season to come, but waiting to play holiday music and light the tree is not part of this year's Advent for us! The final holdout is the Creche—which will only finally include Jesus on Christmas Eve night.

Advent, as a season of preparation, is a time each year when we delve into the mystery of the incarnation—Christ's birth as a human baby, bringing God's love very physically alive in our world in a way that had never occurred before. The readings of the season are characterized by prophetic messages of hope, peace, joy, and love; hauntingly familiar apocalyptic prophecies, songs of thanksgiving and jubilation, exhortations for repentance, and joyous angelic visitations exhorting trust, hope, and auspicious births. The complicated overlapping of themes throughout this season is quite nearly as complicated as our own overlapping experiences of mixed emotions of concern, hope, excitement, anticipation, and uncertainty; all mixed with apocalyptic news stories, as we scramble, pray, work, worry, and pine through these weeks in parallel with our lectionary readings. The popular song "We need a little Christmas NOW" dances on the edge of my consciousness while I'm writing all of this, and it brings me back to the reality of this year in our lives where anticipation has been such a familiar companion!

And yet...

Advent this year draws us into a different kind of anticipation and contemplation of what is to come. Light is being born into the world. We kicked off the new church year last Sunday with the reminder that what we do "while we wait" is of daily and moment to moment importance. We continue to adapt to the fast-pace of changes of our 2022 world. And yet, we are invited to take a step back during this season of Advent—to watch and wait as we lean into the hope and promise of God's incarnate word born into the world. Gathering together, that same light is reflected back to us in the faces of our own community of extended family. God's light is with us, amongst us, within us, and shining on us! The Christmas miracle toward which we

December 2022

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CTK Vision Statement:

We believe that God is calling Christ the King to create a spiritual home where

- * *We center ourselves in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,*
- * *We build connections among our members and our neighbors, and*
- * *We join with our neighbors in caring for our community and God's world.*

Website:

www.ctkarvada.org

[Check us out on Facebook!](#)

[We're also on YouTube!](#)

Worship Services

Sunday, December 4
Holy Eucharist
9:30am - Church & YouTube

Sunday, December 11
Holy Eucharist
9:30am - Church & YouTube

Sunday, December 18
Holy Eucharist
9:30am - Church & YouTube

Saturday, December 24
Holy Eucharist
5:00pm—Church
9:30pm—Church
10:00pm—Church

Sunday, December 25
Holy Eucharist
10:00am - Church & YouTube

Clergy

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Deadline:

Please submit articles by the 15th of the prior month.

stretch in this season of anticipation is the miracle that pulls down the curtain that separates us from God and shows us God's own light dwelling amongst us in the face of the Christ Child. The invitation of the Advent season is to bid our hearts to prepare for the great mystery of just what God's light being born amongst us meant two-thousand twenty-two years ago, as well as what it means to us right here, right now, in our own lives and hearts and families in 2022. Beyond Advent, the Christmas Season bids our hearts to *participate* in the celebration of that light as we too have been born into and invited to carry God's light into our world. Further still, the season of Epiphany will nuance that invitation and calling as we seek God's light in unexpected places and listen for the new things God is calling us to in the new calendar year.

And so we find ourselves listening to the voices of the prophets, foretelling the coming of the One long promised, who would bring about God's shalom as a pervasive and deep abiding peace. We find ourselves listening to prophetic voices speak of familiar experiences of global confusion, uncertainty, and concern. We find ourselves listening to exhortations of repentance. And we listen to the prophets again calling for the high paces to be brought low and the low places to be raised up to make level ground for all people to see the coming of God's light and love into the world. Above all, we hear time and again that through it all, God is with us, loving us, and seeking every possible way to reach out to us—even to the point of walking amongst us as one of us.

My hope for each of us is that we find in this season renewed cause for hope, joy, peace, and love as we wait and pine in a different spirit of anticipation—one that captures all the excitement and celebration of watching and waiting for God's light to be born in the fragile infant flesh of the Christ Child.

Happy Advent, beloved!



Austin

Worship and Music

Online and In-person Services Available

[Sunday Worship, 9:30am](#) Our services are now being held in the church with masks recommended and social distancing when possible and live streamed on [YouTube](#). Please check your email for invites to register for this service or call the office to reserve your place.

Weekday Services

[Compline – Wednesdays, 8:30pm](#)

The service of Compline “completes” the day; it usually takes about 20 minutes. Merri Crawford will be leading this service each week; others are welcome to share leadership with her as you become familiar with this service. Compline is currently held on Zoom. Contact the office for a Zoom invite or see the Weekly Update for a link.

[Morning Prayer – Fridays, 8:00am](#)

Now, you can join in from home through Zoom. Ros Patterson, Jean Thayer and Jessica Starbird will lead the service; others are welcome to lead as you are comfortable.

Handbell and Vocal Choir Meetings

The Chi Rho Handbell Choir and Worshiping Voices Choir are practicing regularly now. Chi Rho Handbell Choir meets on Monday evenings and Worshiping Voices choir practices on Thursday evenings. Please contact Andi if you're interested in joining one or both of the choirs and for more information.



A Musical Note - by Andi Smith

Here we are, on Monday before Thanksgiving, and under normal circumstances, I would have all the music for all our Christmas season all figured out and ready to turn in to the office. But I don't . . . yet. This past year with my mom's health issues and her coming to live with us put a definite kibosh on all that organization and planning that I've always been on top of. While I am focusing on getting all this together (in a much shorter period of time) I've realized how important it has always been for me to put together a service of music that I hope people find meaningful. Yes, we sing the same Christmas hymns every year but, in some cases, we only get to sing them once (twice if we're lucky to have 2 Sundays during the Christmas season). Whether we sing those hymns once or twice, I hope you find blessings and peace and joy in any or all of them. Lift your hearts and voices when we welcome the birth of Jesus.

My Wish For You

*I wish you many blessings in this season of great love;
I wish you peace and harmony, which comes from God above.*

*I wish you calm and quietness on this most Holy night;
To celebrate Almighty God's most gracious gift of Light.*

*It started with a baby boy God wanted us to see,
To show His love for everyone, for you as well as me.*

*I wish you all the happiness this season always gives,
To share the news of Jesus Christ, who now within us lives.*

*I wish you hope and faith that will grow stronger with each day,
To continue on your journey and in God to guide your way.*

*I wish you joy to keep within your heart the whole year through,
God's great gift of Life and Light, Jesus, given just for you.*

Andi Smith
12/21/09

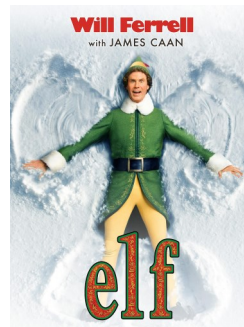
Hospitality



**Christmas Carols & Cookies
Tuesday, December 20 6:00p.m.—8:00p.m.
Open House**

Community Event—Please join us for an evening of singing, snacking and fellowship.

Volunteers Needed: Please contact Jeri Burry if you can help serve, set up/clean up, make/donate cookies, or watch over the hot cocoa.



**Indoor Movie Night,
Saturday, December 17, 7:00pm,
Parish Hall**

All are welcome to join us in the free viewing of "Elf" (2003 PG). Fresh popped popcorn, snacks and beverages provided.

2022 Christmas Schedule

Saturday, December 24

✚ 5:00PM Holy Eucharist

✚ 9:30PM Carols & Eucharist

Sunday, December 25

✚ 10:00AM Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 1,

✚ 9:30AM Lessons & Carols



Caring Connections

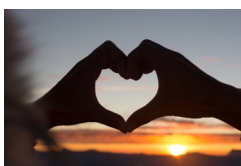


Open Offering and Outreach for December

This month's open offering will go to the General Fund as we continue to work against our budgeted deficit.

St. Clare's Table Tuesday, December 6, 3:30 p.m.

Each month, the Church of Christ the King prepares and serves dinner for about 80 people at St. Clare's Table, located at the Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary in Denver. Carpooling is available, please contact Mark Molello for more information.



Climate Care Team Thursday, December 1 6:00pm on Zoom

The Climate Care Team helped with the creation of the environmental Advent Calendar, but it has been primarily produced and completed by our own Jessica Starbird. We thank her for all of her hard work at coming up with so many meaningful tips for a greener Advent season!

In addition to the Advent Calendar, we have another Climate Care gift in December, and, of course, it is very green! May your 2022 Advent be contemplative and green!

Anyone is welcome to our meetings, please email [Cathy Atkinson](mailto:CathyAtkinson) if you would like to join us!

[Click here for the CTK Climate Care Team Advent Calendar](#)

Crafters of the King No Meetings in December

The Crafters for the King wish to thank everyone for their outstanding support of the 2022 Craft Fair. Their hard work and the contributions of their time, talents, and treasure helped us to raise a grand total of \$1,823.50 for the CTK General Fund! We especially thank the 16 crafters who donated a variety of beautiful and useful handmade items. We also assisted in the sale of the "Tea of Thanks" centerpieces for an additional \$335 (not included in the total above). We're happy to report that Paul Guarneros won the drawing for the quilt made and donated by Jessica Starbird!

The CTK Crafters are taking a break from their regular meetings during December 2022 and plan to resume the

twice monthly meetings on the first and third Monday of each month. Due to the New Year's holiday, the first meeting will be held on Tuesday (not Monday), January 3, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Kempshell Hall and on Zoom. The second meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 16 at the same time and location.

New members are always welcome to join us as we work on prayer shawls for those going through difficult times, warm hats and scarves for The Rising, creative items for the Craft Fair, or on their own individual projects! We have lots of fun together and have developed deep supportive friendships through this group.

**Thank you for the
successful CTK
Craft Sale.**

We raised **\$1,823.50** for the
general fund!

Breakfast at The Rising Thursday, December 1, 8:00am

Christ the King will be serving breakfast at The Rising in Olde Town Arvada on Thursday, December 1st. All are welcome to help. Please contact Mary Beattie if interested.

Conversations on Racial Justice and Reconciliation Tuesday December 13 & December 27 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Activism Then and Now

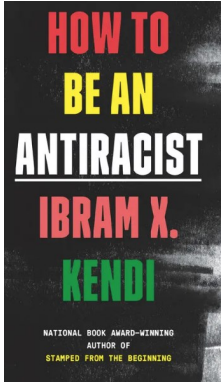
"The function of racism ... is distraction. It keeps you from doing your work. It keeps you explaining, over and over again, your reason for being. Somebody says you have no language and so you spend 20 years proving that you do. ... None of that is necessary. There will always be one more thing." (1975) —Toni Morrison, novelist

"Racism is not merely a simplistic hatred. It is, more often, broad sympathy toward some and broader skepticism toward others. Black America ever lives under that skeptical eye." (2017) —Ta-Nehisi Coates, essayist, novelist

In a continually shifting national and world landscape, we believe these conversations are more important than ever. Please join us as we continue our journey to expand our knowledge of history, enhance our awareness of situations and policies that stand in the way of racial justice in our

Caring Connections Continued

community and nation today, and explore avenues of action that bring needed change.



In December, we will continue our in-depth study of Ibram X Kendi’s work entitled How to Be an Anti-Racist. According to one reviewer, “Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and fair society.” Rev.

Austin Leininger is leading this study and we encourage everyone interested to join in. The book is available on Amazon and at your favorite library. The group meets on Zoom and the link can be found in the CTK weekly email update. On December 13th, we will discuss Chapters Three and Four. On December 27th, while Rev. Leininger is on vacation, we will have an open discussion on current items of interest. We will also discuss ideas, topics, books, etc. of interest for the coming year, 2023. This will be an excellent date for you to visit the group. All are welcome and we look forward to having you ZOOM in.

Did You Know on Election Day, Louisiana voters chose to keep language in the state constitution that permits slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for crime? Unlike Louisiana, voters in Alabama, Oregon, Tennessee, and Vermont voted Tuesday (Nov. 8) to adjust the language in their state constitutions that could curtail the use of prison labor, which civil rights advocates say is tantamount to slavery. The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified by Congress on Dec. 6, 1865, states: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” Similar language in several state constitutions include a loophole that advocates say permits authorities to exploit inmates, typically paying them pennies for their work. (Associated Press),

Recommended: Learn more about [Christian Nationalism](#) and the threat it poses to American democracy and Christianity itself.

Fixers & Tenders

Saturday, December 10, 9:00 a.m.

Contact Mike Paugh with any questions.

Parish Life

December Birthdays

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of life. And we thank you especially for bestowing this gift upon these, your people. Guard them, protect them, uphold them and strengthen them for your service. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Karen Barritt | 08 |
| Kay Simpson | 09 |
| Steve Roberts | 13 |
| Beth Hester | 14 |
| Marilyn Savage | 16 |
| Bob Matter | 21 |
| Barb Winant | 25 |
| Kay Seiler | 28 |



December Anniversaries

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the gift of love, especially the love that is shared between two people in marriage. Pour your grace upon them, O Lord, that they may be strengthened and sustained in the covenant they share. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Mazza, Joe & Carol | 31 |
|--------------------|----|

Happy Anniversary!

Readings for December

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Second Sunday of Advent - December 4 | |
| Isaiah 11:1-10 | Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 |
| Romans 15:4-13 | Matthew 3:1-12 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Third Sunday of Advent - December 11 | |
| Isaiah 35:1-10 | Psalms 146:4-9 |
| James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18 | |
| Isaiah 7:10-16 | Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18 |
| Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Christmas Eve - December 24 | |
| Isaiah 9:2-7 | Psalms 96 |
| Titus 2:11-14 | Luke 2:1-14(15-20) |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Christmas Day - December 25 | |
| Isaiah 62:6-12 | Psalms 97 |
| Titus 3:4-7 | Luke 2:(1-7)8-20 |

Stewardship Update



Together Giving the Gifts of our Hearts

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

The annual stewardship campaign for CTK officially came to an end on November 20, 2022, as we celebrated the in-gathering of pledges for 2023. Thank you to everyone who made a pledge to CTK during the campaign. It is only with your commitment that we will be able maintain our spiritual home where we meet, center ourselves in God and care for each other, our community, and our bigger world. The stewardship team set a big goal and as a loving, giving congregation you are stepping out in faith to see that CTK remains a center for hope and love. Your pledge offerings (as of November 21) for 2023 now total **\$154, 840**.

It is never too late to turn in your pledge card. You can drop your card in the offering any Sunday or mail to P.O. Box 6, Arvada, Co. 80001. You can also make or change a pledge on our website at <https://www.ctkarvada.org/giving-to-christ-the-king>. The giving page is a secure site, and your pledge will be handled with complete confidentiality. If you are a regular giver to CTK but have not pledged, will you consider making a pledge for 2023? It is our pledges that enable the Finance Team to prepare a realistic budget for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.

Faith Formation

Bible Study Group

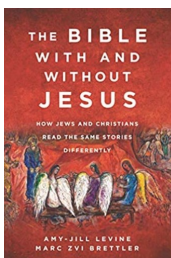
Tuesdays in December @ 2:00pm

The Bible Study group, led by Rev. Austin, meets weekly on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm in Kempsell Hall. All are welcome to come. Bring a Bible! The group will not be meeting on the 27th.

CTK Book Club

Mondays at 3:00 on Zoom

We are currently reading *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*, by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. We hope to finish discussing this book before Christmas. any questions please call either Merri or Jean.



Food For Thought

Feast Day of St. Thomas Wednesday, December 21, 2022



The Apostle Thomas (Hebrew or Aramaic for "twin") was also called "Didymus" (Greek for "twin"). He was absent when the Risen Lord appeared to the other apostles on the evening of Easter Day, and refused to believe that Christ had indeed risen until he had seen him for himself, but when he had seen Him, he said to

Him, "My Lord and My God." (John 20:19-29) Because of this episode, he has been known ever since as "Doubting Thomas." But we ought also to remember his earlier words, when Jesus announced His intention of going to the Jerusalem area, brushing aside the protests of His disciples that His life was in danger there, at which Thomas said to the others: "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:7,8,16) If Thomas was pessimistic, he was also sturdily loyal.

[Click here for full article](#) by James Kiefer.

Everliving God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with sure and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Beyond Our Walls

Pilgrimage Opportunities in the Coming Year

Have you dreamed of making a pilgrimage? The spiritual practice of pilgrimage invites pilgrims to explore their faith deeply and experience renewal and transformation through the centuries-old journeys of faith. The Episcopal Church in Colorado is pleased to offer three inspiring pilgrimages for 2023. Registration is now open on our Pilgrimage Ministries web page, and we will be hosting information sessions beginning December 1. For more information, contact the Rev. Canon Greg Foraker at Greg@EpiscopalColorado.org.

- A Celtic Journey of Faith (Dalmally, Scotland, to the Isle of Iona), May 13-27; Information session: December 1, 6:30-7:00 pm
- Walking the Camino Portugués (Matasinos, Portugal, to Santiago de Compostela, Spain), October 18-31; Information Session: December 8, 6:30-7:00 pm
- Following the Footsteps of Jesus (Holy Land and Rome), October 16-29; Information Session: December 15, 6:30-7:00 pm

Vestry Corner

Vestry Update

In November Open plate was collected for the Community Table. We collected about \$700.00 for the Community Table. In December we will again ask for the Open Offering to be given to our General Fund. We thank you for your generous support. On Dec 2nd and 3rd we will have a Book Sale in the Chapel. In December we will host an indoor movie on Dec 17 and a Christmas Hymn sing on Dec 20 with cookies and hot chocolate. Stewardship Committee Karen Barritt, Molly Foley-Healy, and Mary Beatty completed their annual pledge drive, but will continue to promote stewardship throughout the year. We have received over \$150000 in pledges. We thank everyone who made a pledge for 2023 and remind all that we will continue to receive pledges as you can provide them.

A Clean up day was held on November 19 concentrating on Inside work because of weather conditions Mike Paugh and Larry Healy are researching the price of filters to replace the furnace filters. In Worship we will continue to use small cups for communion wine and we have added speakers to improve the sound throughout the Nave.

The results of the Visioning meetings have given lists of people and possible project directions. The Vestry will use this as a basis for a Visioning Retreat after the Annual Meeting in 2023.

The Vestry will continue to Recommend but not Mandate masking in the building. We have had suggestions to remove the Blue Xs from the seats but we will continue to recommend spacing and masks until spring after the yearly flu/virus season. Please remember we want to provide a safe environment for all visitors to worship and that visiting during Coffee Hour is a personal choice.

Barbara Jennings, Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report

Income/Expense Report - October 2022

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Ordinary Revenue | \$ 20,373.57 |
| Total Expense. . | \$ 22,782.48 |
| Net Ordinary Income | (\$ 2,408.91) |
| | |
| Total YTD Revenue | \$177,227.36 |
| Total YTD Expenses | \$222,610.20 |
| Net Ordinary Income | (\$ 45,382.84) |

YTD = Year to Date



Gift Cards - Not just for giving!

Gift cards bought through the RaiseRight program can be a gift for yourself and the church. Buy cards to your favorite places; Walmart, amazon.com, Arby's, Wendy's ([full list](#)) and use them yourself at any time. With the Scrip [mobile app](#) it's even easier to purchase and use e-gift cards or you can print an [order form](#) and mail it to the church with your check or hand it in Sunday to receive a physical card. RaiseRight orders are placed on the first and third Monday of the Month. Have questions about the Scrip Program contact [Barbara Jennings](#)

Place your RaiseRight order by
Sunday, December 18th!

Gift Cards Help Support Our Parish!


It's true! Every time you use a gift card purchased here at the church—through Shop with Scrip, Safeway or King Soopers, you help support the ministry of Christ the King. And it's easy to start!

- **Safeway** offers reloadable cards (\$20), available through the [church office](#) (303-424-5288); or Sunday morning. We receive a rebate of 4% every time you reload your card.
- **Shop with Scrip** offers gift cards from hundreds of familiar retailers, in amounts that vary from \$10 to \$500. Rebates to the church range from 1.5% to 18%, depending on the retailer.
- For **King Soopers**, you'll need to designate Christ the King as the organization you would like to support by linking your loyalty card at www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards, using code **LM 737**.



The money from these gift cards programs is directed to our operating budget and it is a really easy way to help support our church.

December Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Advent Calendar | | | | 1 8:00 Breakfast at the Rising 6:00pm Climate Care 7:00pm Wor-shiping Voices Choir | 2 8:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am – 4pm Used Book/ DVD Sale in the Chapel | 3 10:00am – 4pm Used Book/DVD Sale |
| 4 9:30am Holy Eucharist | 5 3:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Chi Rho Bell Choir | 6 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Executive Com-mittee Meeting | 7 10:30am Wor-ship Committee Mtg. 8:30pm Compline | 8 7:00pm Wor-shiping Voices Choir | 9 8:00am Morning Prayer | 10 9:00am Fixers & Tenders |
| 11 9:30am Holy Eucharist | 12 3:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Chi Rho Bell Choir | 13 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30 pm St. Clare's 7:00pm Conv. On Racial J&R | 14 6:45pm Finance Mtg 8:30pm Compline | 15 7:00pm Wor-shiping Voices Choir | 16 8:00am Morning Prayer | 17 7:00pm Free Movie Night "Elf" PG13 |
| 18 9:30am Holy Eucharist – Potluck – hosted by the Climate Care Team | 19 3:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Chi Rho Bell Choir | 20 2:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm -8:00pm Community Carols & Cookies | 21 6:00pm Vestry Mtg 8:30pm Compline | 22 7:00pm Wor-shiping Voices | 23 8:00am Morning Prayer | 24 Christmas Eve 5:00pm Christmas Pageant 9:30pm – Carols 10:00pm - Liturgy |
| 25 Merry Christmas! 10:00am Holy Eucharist  | 26 Office Closed 3:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Chi Rho Bell Choir | 27 Office Closed 7:00pm Conv. On Racial J&R | 28 Office Closed 8:30pm Compline | 29 Office Closed 7:00pm Wor-shiping Voices Choir | 30 8:00am Morning Prayer | 31 |