

# The Canticle



## December

### Clergy Letter

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

With Christ the King Sunday and our festive potluck to commemorate our Feast Day behind us this past Sunday, we've officially made it through the long green growing season after Pentecost, and will finally arrive at our Church New Year this coming Sunday!

December is a magical month both in the Church and in our secular world as the anticipation of coming celebrations and the return of snow and freezing temperatures draw us into a different mindset than any other time of the year. The main difference, of course, is that while the stores started celebrating Christmas on October 30th with the sharp waning of Halloween sales, and the radios started playing Christmas music on November 19th (at 6pm), we in the church get a whole extra season of preparation beginning this Sunday, as we are invited into contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation. In my family, it is a time of both secular and spiritual preparation as we bring home a tree and decorate it, make our home festive and warm, enjoy the seasonal music offerings on the radio, and yet also realize that Christmas doesn't end on December 25th, but only begins there! The joys of the secular preparations have become a part of the anticipation of our Advent season—drawing on the hope, joy, and love of the pre-seasonal festivities, we also seek out the moments of peace that give us pause to wonder in awe at the coming of messiah into the world (okay—at least that's what I'm doing!).

Each year as we enter into advent, we enjoy a season outside of (or at least along side of) the normal bustle of the commercial Christmas season. Advent is our time as a community and as individual families within our broader CTK Community to take a breath, make some space for quiet and prayer, to draw together and reconnect. It is our season of the hearth, the warmth of closeness of community that carries us through the winter season and from the darkness that culminates on December 21st, into the light and hope of the long ascent out of winter and back toward spring. It is the season of prophecies of the end times, as well as the season of prophecies of the coming of Messiah and the coming of the angel to Mary and Joseph proclaiming the imminence of Christ's arrival to those who will be his own parents.

As my two older children begin to age out of the childhood wonder of the magic surrounding them in our world, seeking opportunities to help them claim and live into the real magic of love, selflessness, and the joy of bringing that magic alive begins for us during this season of prophecies, anticipation, and mystery. The ways in which we look at the world through the eyes of faith and community brings the rich-

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

**December 2023**

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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](http://www.ctkarvada.org)

[Check us out on Facebook!](#)

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

**Worship Services**

Sunday, December 3

Holy Eucharist

9:30am - Church &amp; YouTube

Sunday, December 10

Holy Eucharist

9:30am - Church &amp; YouTube

Sunday, December 17

Holy Eucharist

9:30am - Church &amp; YouTube

Sunday, December 24

Holy Eucharist

9:30am - Church &amp; YouTube

Saturday, December 24

Holy Eucharist

5:00pm—Church &amp; YouTube

9:30pm—Carols &amp; YouTube

10:00pm—Church &amp; YouTube

Sunday, December 31

Holy Eucharist

9:30am—Church &amp; YouTube

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**Deadline:**Please submit articles by the  
15th of the prior month.

ness of Advent to life in ways that prepare our hearts and minds for the immensity of one of our greatest Christian mysteries—the Incarnation of God’s love, God’s Word, God’s own self in the babe whose birth we will celebrate at the end of this month.

Part of the enormity of this mystery taps into that place within each of us where God’s incarnation continues; where the story doesn’t end with Christ, but continues in our commission to live out God’s love in our own time and world.

May this be a season of blessing and hope for each of you as you prepare for Christmas, and may the weeks we spend together in preparation fill your hearts and minds with the anticipation and joy of the day that so rapidly approaches!

Blessings,



Austin

## Food For Thought



### Who is St. Nick? Customs Around the World

In many places St. Nicholas is the main gift giver. His feast day, St. Nicholas Day, is December 6, which falls early in the Advent season. Some places he arrives in the middle of November and moves about the countryside, visiting schools and homes to find out if children have been good. Other places he comes in the night and finds carrots and hay for his horse or donkey along with

children's wish lists. Small treats are left in shoes or stockings so the children will know he has come.

Where St. Nicholas is prominent, his day, not Christmas, is the primary gift giving day. Parties may be held on the eve, December 5th, and shoes or stockings left for St. Nicholas to fill during the night. Children will find treats of small gifts, fruit or nuts, and special Nicholas candies and cookies. St. Nicholas gifts are meant to be shared, not hoarded for oneself.

[Check out the full article](http://www.stnicholascenter.org) by www.stnicholascenter.org to see how 42 countries celebrate St. Nicholas.

## Worship and Music and Hospitality

### Online and In –person Services Available

**Sunday Worship, 9:30am** Our services are currently being held in the church with masks recommended with social distancing when possible and live streamed on [YouTube](#) along with the opportunity to participate via Zoom.

### 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.

*Continued on next page with holiday schedule*

## CTK Holiday Schedule

### CTK Annual Craft Sale

Saturday, December 2, 9a.m. to 3p.m.

Sunday, December 3, after service

Sunday, December 10, after service

The Crafters of the King will be hosting a craft sale with proceeds being donated to the general fund. We have some truly beautiful items this year, come see how talented your fellow congregation members are!

### A Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 2, 1p.m. to 3p.m.

CTK is hosting its annual Christmas Tea, participants will enjoy an amazing collection of toy soldiers while partaking in an English Tea.

### Carols & Cookies

Friday, December 8, 6p.m. to 8p.m.

Join us for an evening of singing classic carols and eating sugary treats. Cookie donations are welcome!

### Family Movie Night—Home Alone

Saturday, December 16, 5:45p.m.

Join us as we watch this classic movie and enjoy fresh popped popcorn. All are welcome.

### Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 21, 6:00p.m.

Blue Christmas is a contemplative worship service held on the longest night of the year, offering space for quiet reflection, prayer and solidarity for those experiencing grief or struggling with loss.

### Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24,

5:00p.m. Family Eucharist

9:30p.m. Carols & Eucharist

### Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25, 10:00a.m.

### Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 31, 9:30a.m.

## Caring Connections



### Outreach for December Arvada Community Table

Christ The King is again participating in the Arvada Community Table's 25x25 Food Drive through the month of December.

There are 5 Sundays in December this year so you have 5 opportunities to bring in non-perishable food items to place in boxes located in the narthex.

Here's a list of needed items:

- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Feminine Products (pads, tampons)
- Body lotion
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Bar Soap or Body wash
- Deodorant
- Infant and adult diapers
- Grocery bags (plastic and reusable)
- Canned meat and fish
- Pasta (dry)
- Spaghetti sauce
- Hearty soups, stews and chilis
- Boxed dry meals and sides
- Canned beans, including Refried beans
- Ensure (or similar adult drinks)
- Dry cereal (bags or boxes) & Instant Oatmeal
- Canned fruit & vegetables
- Rice (1-2 pound bags)
- Peanut butter, jams, jelly & honey
- Snack bars
- Baking supplies (flour, sugar, etc.)
- Common spices (salt, pepper, garlic powder, etc.)
- Cooking oil

### Open Offering for December

Christ The King will be collecting all open offerings in December for the general fund.

### Breakfast at The Rising Thursday, December 7, 8:00a.m.

Christ the King will be serving breakfast at The Rising in Olde Town Arvada on Thursday, December 7. All are welcome to help. Please contact Mary Beattie if interested.



### Climate Care Group Thursday, November 7 6:00p.m. on Zoom

Season's Greetings from Climate Care! We have a couple of happenings to share with you. First, please look for the Second Edition of the Climate Care Advent Calendar, with lots of new tips to environmentally clean up your 2023 season of Advent. You can access the calendar either on our Christ the King website, or a paper copy will be on one of the tables in the narthex, starting on December 3rd, the first Sunday in Advent.

Second, Climate Care will be hosting coffee hour on Sunday, December 17th, and we would like to encourage everyone to bring your favorite holiday treat, using reusable containers of some kind. We will also be using real plates and silver ware on that day.

Our Climate Care team wishes you and your family and friends a meaningful holiday season!

A special thank you to Jessica, who has done most of the work in creating and updating the Advent Calendar.

Please email [Cathy Atkinson](mailto:Cathy.Atkinson@christtheking.org) if you would like to join us.

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



### Crafters of the King

The Crafters of the King will be keeping busy with the Craft Fair on December 2nd, December 3rd and December 10th. Please plan on attending the Craft Fair in support of all our wonderful and talented crafters. All money raised from the Craft Fair sale

will go to the Christ the King General Fund.

We will resume our regular meetings in January 2024. The January Canticle will have meeting dates and times for Crafters of the King.

Contact Pat Barker, Kay Seiler, or Peggy Broderick for more information about the Crafters of the King group.



### Social Justice Conversations

*Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:  
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;  
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;  
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;  
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.  
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ~Author Unknown*

This group meets monthly on Zoom with a goal of fostering

## Caring Connections Continued

beloved community; a place where love, human dignity, equality, and compassion are offered to and shared by all God's children and where all people are honored, protected, and nurtured as beloved children of God. We will not be meeting in December but look forward to meeting again in January on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday - January 23, 2024, at 7:00. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE ZOOM CONVERSATION!

### Recommendations: Books in time for Christmas giving:

For the young adult (14-18) readers in your circle, *The Fire-keeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. A Native American teen who must root out the corruption in her community.

For daily meditation, *We Cry Justice*, 53 short meditations including scripture, reflection and a prayer written by supporters and members of the Poor People's Campaign.

For those who have loved, read, and studied James Baldwin, *The Gospel According to James Baldwin* by Greg Garrett, who presents the life and work of Baldwin in all his writing genres, on themes of equity, justice, and reconciliation.

For those seeking a deeper understanding of the term white privilege, *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, is as the author herself said, "the book we wish someone had handed us decades ago."

**Do you have a recommended book, movie, documentary, or other learning opportunity focused on social/racial justice and reconciliation you would like to share? We would love to hear from you and include your recommendation in the Canticle. We also welcome you to visit and lead a discussion. [Write to us here.](#)**

### St. Clare's Table Tuesday, December 12, 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 contact Mark with any questions.

### Ladies Bunco No Bunco in December

December LADIES' BUNCO is taking the month off, we will resume in January 2024. In October we played singles, the October Bunco Queen was Carol Johnson, Jo Ann Hamm was second place and third place was Jan (Mary Jo Ryan's neighbor). Thank you to all the ladies that attend Bunco.

If you have any questions contact Kay Seiler.

### Open House Craft Day

There will be no Open House Craft day in December due to the Holidays and the CTK Annual Craft Sale.

## Faith Formation

### Contemplative Prayer Tuesdays in December at 12:00p.m., hybrid

Rev. Austin leads the group in a twenty minute session of Contemplative Prayer. All are welcome to join in the parish hall or on Zoom. **NOTE:** On Tuesday, December 5 at 11:30a.m. Austin will be talking about the different forms of contemplative prayer.

### Bible Study Group Tuesdays in December @ 12:30p.m., hybrid

The Bible Study group, led by Rev. Austin, meets weekly on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm in the chapel and on Zoom. We are currently reading and discussing the Book of Ruth. All are welcome to come. Bring a Bible!



### CTK Book Club Thursdays @ 3:00p.m. on Zoom

The group will work on completing *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamant by the end of the month. Please contact Jean Thayer or Merri Crawford if you have any questions.

### Advent Adult Forum Sundays at 11:15a.m. in the Library

Advent is the season of waiting for Jesus to arrive – so this Advent season, as we prepare for Jesus to arrive, let's get to know Mary a little bit better, filling out her ordinary, extraordinary, inspiring portrait – all the while learning how we, too, can make our homes (and our hearts!) "houses of God." Jessica Starbird will lead the Advent Adult Forum on Sundays at 11:15am in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend.



## Beyond Our Walls

### 11th Annual National Memorial for the Victims of All Gun Violence

Wednesday, December 6 at 12:00p.m.

Arvada United Methodist Church  
6750 Carr Street, Arvada, CO 80004

We will be meeting in the parking lot of the Arvada United Methodist Church on December 6th at 12:00p.m. Short program including quiet reflection, prayer, and resources at 12:15p.m., staying until 12:45p.m.. If you have signs, please bring them. Everyone Welcome!

## 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!*

### Volunteers Needed

The Finance Committee is looking for volunteers. Responsibilities include reviewing church income and expenditures, evaluating and making recommendations to the vestry and rector regarding future expenses, and helping prepare the church's annual budget. Please contact Rev. Austin if interested or with any questions.

### A Call for Vestry Members

A couple of Vestry positions will be opening up in 2024. If you have any interest in joining the CTK Vestry or would like to nominate someone for Vestry, please contact Rev. Austin or Barbara Jennings.

### Photos Needed

Please email photos of all CTK members, families, and pets for a photo-mosaic of CTK as the Body of Christ to office@ctkarvada.org. The more photos we have the better.

### Readings for December

Dec 3 - The First Sunday in Advent  
Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Dec. 10 - The Second Sunday in Advent  
Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

Dec. 17 - The Third Sunday in Advent  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec. 21 - Blue Christmas  
Isaiah 40:1, 25-31 Psalm 121  
Matthew 11:28-30

Dec. 24 - The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Canticle 3  
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve  
Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day  
Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14

Dec. 31 - Festival of Lessons & Carols  
Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25 Isaiah 40:1-11  
Isaiah 7:10-15 Luke 1:26-58  
Luke 2:21-36 John 1:1-18



### Thank you...

...many thanks, from Junior Warden, Mike Paugh, to all those who helped during Parish Clean Up Day.

From our Tree of Gratitude...

Thank you Cathy Atkinson and Jean Thayer for the work on CTK's Land Acknowledgement.

I am so thankful for this congregation.

### Fixers & Tenders

Will meet December 9. Contact Mike Paugh with any questions.

# Vestry Corner

## Vestry Update

The financials for November still show a deficit to date. The open plate offering in December will be for the General fund hoping we can get closer to balancing our financials. Please keep paying your pledges and more if you can. What we do is because of your support. The Stewardship Committee has mailed the Pledge request letters and they are asking for \$275000 for the 2024 budget. Pledges can still be turned in this month.

Mike Paugh reported on some of the things that were completed. We have new Chapel Doors that are metal and close well. A day of cleanup on November 11 was held. The Fixers & Tenders will look at filters in the heaters and prepare for winter.

Austin reported that Mad Science has asked to use our building for two weeks in the summer of 2024. We will work with the YMCA to facilitate this request as well as the YMCA summer camp. Austin would like to see some services and activities that can be called “Fun Church” or maybe Episcopal “out of the box”. Hopefully this might encourage youth and children to attend CTK. Our new bookkeeper Bethany Pedersen will start the process of changing our accounting software to QuickBooks Online. She will work with Ros starting December 11 to begin the transition.

Believe Out Loud is transitioning to a Welcoming Taskforce to continue the process a becoming a Welcoming Congregation per Believe Out Loud. They will be meeting twice a month and will be commissioned on the Sunday of the Annual Meeting in January. The Vestry and Austin will participate in a Mutual Ministry Review with the Diocese in February. The Christmas Tea and Craft Sale will be December 2 and Craft sale continue December 3 & 10.

Barbara Jennings, Senior Warden

### Treasurer’s Report

Income/Expense Report

#### October 2023

Total Income =	\$28,202.50
Total Expenses =	\$40,792.42
Net Income =	<b>(\$12,589.92)</b>

#### Year to Date as of October 31, 2023

YTD total Income	\$243,196.01
YTD total Expenses	\$258,030.82
YTD net income	<b>(\$14,834.81)</b>



### 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, use enrollment code 23D7D74L55288 to set up an account. 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 last Monday of the Month. Have questions about the RaiseRight Program contact [Barbara Jennings](#)

**Place your RaiseRight order by  
Sunday, December 31st!**

### 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](http://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	
					1 8:00am Morning Prayer	2 9:00a.m - 3:00p.m. CTK Annual Craft Sale 1:00pm A Christmas Tea	
3 9:30am Holy Eucharist  CTK Craft Sale before and after service  11:15am Adult Forum	4  4:00pm BOL Mtg.  7:00pm Chi Rho Bell Choir	5 11:30am What is Contemplative Prayer 12:00pm Contemplative Prayer 12:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Exec. CMMTE Mtg.	6 10:30am Worship Committee  8:30pm Compline	7 8:00am Breakfast at the Rising  3:00pm Book Club 6:00pm Climate Care Meeting 7:00pm Worshipping Voices	8 8:00am Morning Prayer  6:00pm, Carols & Cookies	9 9:00am Fixers & Tenders	
10 9:30am Holy Eucharist  CTK Craft Sale before and after service  11:15am Adult Forum	11  7:00pm Chi Rho Bell Choir	12 12:00pm Contemplative Prayer 12:30pm Bible Study 3:30pm pm St. Clare's	13 6:45pm Finance Meeting  8:30pm Compline	14 3:00pm Book Club  7:00pm Worshipping Voices	15 8:00am Morning Prayer	16  5:45pm Movie Night – Home Alone (1990) PG	
17 9:30am Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour hosted by the Climate Care Team 11:15am Adult Forum	18  4:00pm BOL Mtg 7:00pm Chi Rho Bell Choir	19 12:00pm Contemplative Prayer 12:30pm Bible Study	20 6:00pm Vestry Mtg 8:30pm Compline	21 3:00pm Book Club  6:00pm Blue Xmas 7:00pm Worshipping Voices	22 8:00am Morning Prayer	23	
24 9:30am Holy Eucharist 11:15am Adult Forum Christmas Eve Services: 5:00p.m. 9:30p.m.	25 Merry Christmas! 10:00am Holy Eucharist.	Office Closed! Happy Holidays!				29 8:00am Morning Prayer	30
31 9:30am Holy Eucharist Lessons & Carols 11:15am Adult Forum							