

# The Canticle

Christ the King Episcopal Church, 6490 Carr Street, Arvada, CO 80004 December 2020



## A Different Advent and Christmas Season

This Christmas will look different from any we have experienced. As you know, we have managed to continue worshipping God and keeping the faith through online worship, snail mail, email and phone calls. I encourage you to keep up the good work in these areas! Your efforts to reach out to friends and neighbors while maintaining social distancing is helping.

We wanted to let you know some of our plans for Advent and Christmas this year.

We will continue to worship online, via Zoom, throughout December given the recent spike in Covid cases and the Governor's orders. We also want to make this a special time of year as best we can.

Here is our schedule for Advent and Christmas:

- **Sundays in Advent** (Dec. 6, 13, 20), Zoom worship at 9:30am.
- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 5pm via Zoom** A short Christmas hymn-sing begins at 5pm (with a brief intermission) and the service will begin at 5:20pm.
- **Sunday, Dec. 27, Lessons and Carols at 9:30am**--the First Sunday in Christmas we will have a shorter version of Lessons & Carols on Zoom this year for worship this Sunday.

Zoom links for each service can be found on our website: <https://www.ctkarvada.org/> and in the Weekly Update, our eNewsletter.

For Sundays and Advent, and especially for Christmas Eve, you are invited to bring a candle with you to worship. You're encouraged to light the candle (even if it's a battery-operated one!) and join in worshipping with others across our area. For Christmas Eve, we will have a special candle lighting moment as we sing "Silent Night". We hope you will enjoy.

More to come on these services. As our Book of Common Prayer invites us into Advent (on page 80), we can keep these words before us this season: *Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.*

## In this Issue

Clergy Letter	2
Worship & Music	3
Faith Formation	4
Caring Connections	4
Core Communities	5
Beyond our Walls	7
Readings	7
December Calendar	9

## 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.*

**Worship Services**

Sunday, December 6  
Morning Prayer  
9:30am - via Zoom

Sunday, December 13  
Morning Prayer  
9:30am - via Zoom

Sunday, December 20  
Morning Prayer  
9:30am - via Zoom

Thursday, December 24  
5:00pm - via Zoom

Sunday, December 27  
9:30 am - Lessons & Carols  
via Zoom

**Clergy**

**The Rev. Margaret Peel-  
Shakespeare  
Interim Priest**  
rector@ctkarvada.org  
303-424-5288

**Staff**

**Jessica Starbird  
Parish Administrator**  
303-424-5288  
office@ctkarvada.org

**Ros Patterson  
Bookkeeper**  
303-424-5288  
finance@ctkarvada.org

**Andi Smith  
Music Director**  
303-430-0611  
pianomama64@gmail.com

**Bob Mickelson  
Sr. Warden**  
303-466-6222  
bmickel5@msn.com

**Barbara Jennings  
Jr. Warden**  
720-841-5635

**Cathie Craig, Prayer Chain**  
ctkprayerchain@yahoo.com

**Michelle Bredine,  
Canticle Editor**  
mbredine@gmail.com

**Deadline:**

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

**Time to Consider Your Financial Pledge for 2021**

Thank you for your generous outpouring of time, talent, and treasure during 2020 despite the challenges the year has presented. We have been able to continue to reach out with the love of Christ to our community during this time of pandemic.

Letters were mailed out mid-November inviting you to prayerfully consider making a pledge to Christ the King for the 2021 year. Even though, the building may be closed for worship, we still have expenses and fixed costs to maintain the building and staff salaries. We would also like to take on some other projects in 2021 such as the Kemp-sell Hall floor project and some building repairs.

If you did not receive a card in the mail and would like to make a pledge, please contact the CTK office. We request that pledge cards be returned by December 15th so that we can help plan our budget for 2021.

## Clergy Letter

Dear Christ the King,

I write to give you an update on the most recent news about Covid19 cases in our area and how that may affect our parish in the coming weeks. As you know, we have experienced a record increase in Covid cases in the state of Colorado placing our county and surrounding area in "Level Red: Severe Risk" for the next month. The Governor is urging people to only interact with their family members and limit contact with those outside your household.

Given that status and the precautions in place from the Diocese, we will be implementing some protocols for the next few weeks in hopes of *preventing the spread of the virus in our area and our community*.

1. We recommend that you stay home and stay safe. Please communicate with clergy, staff and other church members via phone, email, snail mail, zoom or other virtual means. If it is absolutely necessary to be in person you must maintain a six-foot distance and wear masks at all times, no exceptions.
2. If you decide, you need to visit the church for reasons that cannot be handled via phone, email or snail mail, then you will need to contact the church office for an appointment. This is to ensure that we maintain the minimum number of people in the church building at all times and to make sure that there is enough room to socially distance given the people working in the offices.
3. If you come into the parish, for any reason, even if for a quick minute, you are required to sign-in on the log that we have posted by the church office. This is for the purpose of contact tracing so that if anyone in our community or even someone drop-

ping off a package becomes sick, then we can notify those people who may have been exposed to the virus.

4. Given the above protocols, this means that staff hours may vary so that we can practice proper social distancing and maintain the best environment (e.g. air quality) for those who need to work in the church office. Our goal is to be able to keep the church functioning as best as we can under these conditions. This is why it's important that if you must meet with a staff member in-person, please contact the church office first to make an appointment.

We understand that many of us would like to get back to normal. We completely agree. However, at this time, we will be keeping these protocols in place until Dec. 18 when the Governor will re-evaluate the metrics and status for our counties.

For now, we encourage you to reach out to us through phone, email, snail mail, zoom and virtual means. We hope that by maintaining these protocols for the next few weeks we can do our part to curve the spread of Covid19 and to care for ourselves and others in this way. Let's remember: this is not forever and we will get through this.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Margaret +*

## Worship and Music

### Online Morning Prayer and Compline Services Available

**Compline - Wednesdays at 8:30pm**

**Morning Prayer - Fridays at 8:00am**

#### *Compline – Wednesdays, 8:30pm*

The service of Compline “completes” the day; it usually takes about 20 minutes. Merri Crawford will begin leading this service each week; others are welcome to share leadership with her as you become familiar with this service.

#### *Morning Prayer – Fridays, 8:00am*

For at least 15 years, a small group of people has offered Morning Prayer at Christ the King. Sally Campbell initiated this service, and different people have participated and led since then. Now, you can join in from home. Ros Patterson and Jean Thayer will lead the service; others are welcome to lead as you are comfortable.

### Online Worship Continues Sunday Morning Prayer, 9:30 a.m.

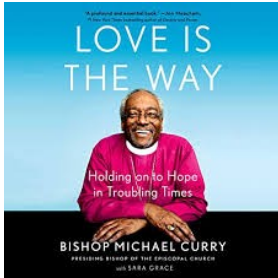
We will continue to offer Morning Prayer through Zoom on Sundays. Links to services can be found on our website and in the Weekly Update sent out on Thursdays.

Many thanks to Andi and Jeff Smith, Michelle Bredine, Barbara Jennings, who have provided music for the online service, which has added so much to our worship experience. And remember, if you miss a service, we post these each week on YouTube, glitches and all.

### Handbell and Vocal Choir Zoom Meetings

Keeping in touch with one another is hard during these times—and so is planning for what might come next! Members of our choirs are meeting every other week; please check the calendar on page 7 for dates and times.

## Faith Formation

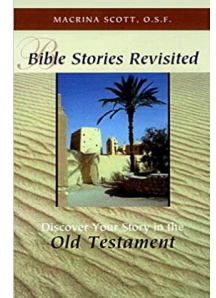


### Book Study Group Thursdays, December 3, 10, and 17 2:00pm on Zoom

Our next book will be *Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, by the Right Rev. Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop. We will continue discussing the book. We will not be meeting on Christmas Eve.

### Men's Bible Study Wednesdays, December 2 and December 16 8:00—10:00am, on Zoom

We will be discussing *Bible Stories Revisited: Discovering Your Story in the Old Testament*, by Macrina Scott. The Zoom session will begin at 7:30am so you can get it set up if you have not used it before. Tom Scholle has copies available; please contact Tom if you need to purchase a copy.



### Bible Study Group Tuesdays, 2:00pm on Zoom

We are currently reading and discussing the book of Ezekiel. Please join us every Tuesday at 2:00pm, as we read and reflect on these passages of scripture.

## Caring Connections

### Open Offering for December

The Severe Weather Shelter Network provides the emergency shelter for this part of the county during the winter months. They are in desperate need of funds, particularly with the reality of providing such shelter in a pandemic.

- ◆ \$60 - sponsors 1 night of transportation to shelter
- ◆ \$70 sponsors 1 night of shelter for 1 guest
- ◆ \$350 provides 1 night of PPE cleaner and sanitizer for 120 people or 1 shelter region

They are also asking for funds for bedrolls, fleece blankets, towels, backpacks, boots, wool socks or winter gloves.

### Conversations on Racism Tuesdays, December 8 and 22, 7:00pm on Zoom

This group, which first started meeting in June, continues to explore the effects of racism on us as individuals, as a church, and on the wider community, using a variety of resources. We will continue to look for ways to extend this conversation and bring others into the work of dismantling a system that has destroyed so many lives. We will continue to explore ways to learn about and respond as Christians to the challenges of systemic racism.

**Climate Care Group**  
**Thursday, December 3, 6:30pm on Zoom**

The Climate Care Group will be meeting with our Senior Warden, Bob Mickelson, to discuss what can be done inside the building during the winter to help reduce our carbon footprint. Look for tips in the Weekly Update from the Climate Care Group on keeping your holidays environmentally friendly.

**Crafters of the King**  
**Mondays, December 7 and December 21, 10:00am - 12:00noon**

The Crafters of the King meet each month to share a time of supportive fellowship, while working on their individual projects. These may be a personal project or something to be shared, such as prayer shawls for the church, or hats and scarves for the folks who come to The Rising Day Center.

Our meetings will be held by Zoom until further notice; please contact the [church office](#) if you need the link.

**St. Clare's Table**  
**Tuesday, December 8, 1:00 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. In December, we will again be preparing food at CTK, putting it in plastic bags, and taking it to St. Clare's for distribution. To help, please contact [Mark Molello](#).

**Breakfast at the Rising Day Center and the Neighborhood Dinner**

During the ongoing health crisis, we will not be serving breakfast at the Rising or offering the Neighborhood Dinner.

**Warm Clothing, Blankets and Sleeping Bags for The Rising**

Although we're unable to prepare breakfast at this time, we can collect warm clothing, blankets and sleeping bags. As in the past, you can bring your donations to Christ the King and folks will take them to The Rising, where they will be distributed.

## Core Communities

### Vestry Updates

In 2021, we will have three open positions on the Vestry as Linda Palmer and Daniel Ohamaka will be finishing their Vestry terms. We will elect their replacements, as well as a vacant position, during the Annual meeting, January 31, 2021. We'd like to take the opportunity to thank them both for their service and commitment to serving on the Vestry. Both Linda and Daniel have shared some thoughts on becoming a Vestry member below:

#### **A Letter from Outgoing Vestry Members—Linda**

Dear Church Family,

Being a member of the Vestry has been a wonderful experience for me. It has taught me more about what goes on in the church; I have been very pleased to be involved with decisions about what happens within the church and to be involved with the church family.

I have become closer to the people on the Vestry and many people within the church family. At the end of January my term on the Vestry will be finished, I will miss not formally being involved but plan to still be very active within the church in whatever way I can. I have always felt a dedication to be active in whatever church I belong to.

It is a privilege to have been involved with making decisions for the church family and the church. A Vestry member just needs to be willing to attend a monthly meeting, attending church services, support the church financially, make decisions about finances for the church and supporting the rector and church family in whatever is needed. With having Mother Margaret as the new interim priest, it will be a time for learning and possible new challenges for us all. We can depend on God and Mother Margaret to lead us in the direction we need to go.

Thank you for having been able to be involved in the decisions made for the church and the church family. If you are willing to be involved in the role of the church and its members, please talk to Bob Mickelson, Daniel Ohamaka or myself.

Thank you,  
Linda Palmer

#### **A Letter from Outgoing Vestry Member—Daniel**

“If any of you want to be the greatest, he must become the servant of all...” It is both a privilege and an honor to be a vestry member. Jesus tells us that if we really want to be great, we must first learn to serve others. This takes commitment, humility and dedication. Being a vestry member has every advantage, and in my opinion, no disadvantage.

This is because God will give you all the tools you need to serve. All you have to do is say, “here I am Lord, send me. “ Or in this case “use me.” We can all give a thousand excuses why we can’t serve in the vestry, but we should also remember that “the will of God cannot take you, where His grace cannot keep you.”

The psalmist said, “O taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who puts his trust in Him.” So, you may want to try serving in the vestry for a one, two, or three-year term. Just taste and see.

Needless to say that God’s blessings follow and over-take those who serve Him. I am a living testimony to this. I remember my mother telling over the phone always from Africa, “Son, whatever you do, stay close to God.” I listened to my mother’s advice and have never regretted one moment of it. I started from nothing eighteen years ago here in Colorado, but I can look back today and say, indeed, the Lord is good.

I am sure the Lord is calling someone to His service today. Will you answer His call, or will you ignore Him? I believe that as you answer, you will be laying up for yourself treasures in heaven, in addition to the numerous blessings God is ready to pour upon you here on earth. Not just on you, but on your children and children’s children. God bless you as you answer His clarion call today!!

Shalom,  
Daniel Ohamaka

#### **So What Does the Vestry Do?**

- The vestry is a representative body for the parish. This year the vestry will be involved in directing the search process for a new priest at Christ the King.

- We regularly attend worship.
- We have a personal practice of prayer and study.
- We make regular financial contributions to the church. We develop and maintain awareness of the concerns facing the congregation.

Our tasks include:

- Attending monthly Vestry meetings and annual Vestry retreat.
- Developing and maintaining relationships with 9-10 households within the church community.
- Hearing reports regarding finances, property concerns, and program updates.
- Handling routine business items, such as annual appointments to committees, reviewing policy documents, reviewing and approving the annual budget.
- Working on one of the tasks identified/assigned for the year at the Vestry retreat.
- Overseeing the work of others carrying out Vestry business, such as the stewardship and endowment committees.
- Deliberating and deciding how to address the challenges we have as a congregation.
- Recommending changes and raising concerns that may need resolution.
- Supporting the Rector of the parish.

Please contact a current member of the vestry for more information. This year we have three openings on the vestry who will be elected by the parish at our annual meeting on January 31, 2021.

### Property (Fixers and Tenders) Saturday, December 12, 9:00am

Fixers and Tenders provide basic maintenance and repair to our building and grounds; extensive experience or expertise is not a prerequisite! Please be sure to wear your mask! Your help is very much appreciated. The fixers and tenders are looking for volunteers to help in the raking of the leaves, please contact Bob Mickelson if you are able to join in.

## Beyond Our Walls

### The Advent Journey

In Advents past, we have relied on CTK to provide us with resources to help us walk the path of Advent to the birth of the Christ child. This year is different. If you are looking for resources to help you with your Advent journey, you might find some of the free resources from Building Faith helpful. They offer a variety of options for all age ranges and family levels. Follow the link to access their Advent resources: <https://buildfaith.org/free-resources-for-advent/>.

Episcopal Relief & Development is working with One Thousand Days of Love to provide Advent resources as well from crafts to Advent calendars, videos to prayers and reflections. You can access them at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/1000daysoflove/2020advent/>.



### Readings for December

December 6 – The Second Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 40:1-11      Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a      Mark 1:1-8

December 13 – The Third Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11      Canticle 15  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24      John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16      Canticle 15  
Romans 16:25-27      Luke 1:26-38

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

December 25 – Christmas Day  
Isaiah 52:7-10      Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)      John 1:1-14

December 27 – Lessons & Carols  
TBD

## 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.

Rev. Margaret Peel-Shakespeare	December 3
Karen Barritt	December 8
Kay Simpson	December 9
John Roberts	December 13
Beth Hester	December 14
Marilyn Savage	December 16
Robert Matter	December 21
Elaine Ciccone	December 23
Barbara Jean Winant	December 25
Kay Seiler	December 28

For those celebrating Anniversaries this month:

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.

## 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, or Safeway, 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 any 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.kingsooperscommunityrewards.com](http://www.kingsooperscommunityrewards.com), 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.



## Yes, You Can Buy Gift Cards!

Even though we are not gathering, you can still order gift cards from Scrip and help the church. There are several ways to do this:

1. Open your own account by enrolling online; the process is simple. You can order cards and pay for them either with a charge card or a direct withdrawal from your bank. E-cards go directly to your email; physical cards can be picked up at the church. [Here's the link](#); use enrollment code 23D7D74L55288 to create an account and get started.
2. Cards can be ordered the "usual" way, an order form will be made available on [ctkarvada.org](http://ctkarvada.org), print out a copy, fill it out and mail it with your check to the church.

## Curious about what is happening around the Episcopal Church?

You can get a complete list of special learning opportunities at <https://episcopalcolorado.org/connect-with-us/diocesan-digest/>. You can also sign up for weekly updates or check out the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalCO/>. For information about the wider church, go to <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/>.







Christ the King Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 6

Arvada, CO 80001