



TIDINGS

ADVENT 2025

News from Trinity Episcopal Church
Shelburne, VT | 802-985-2269 | trinityshelburne.org

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Amen

Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles



First Week

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Second Week

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Third Week

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Fourth Week

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent's Prayer

Dear One,
This season is waiting for you –
to welcome you in to the warmth
to settle your soul, to light a fire within you.

You, too, are waiting –
for healing and wholeness
for compassion among neighbors
for understanding in differences.

Take your time this Advent to savor the
sounds of the season –
the crackle of a fire
dough being mixed and kneaded
well-worn pages of your bible turning.

Take your time to see the gifts of the season –
lights twinkling, rays of hope
songs and stories shared over the computer
the words of the bible in the early morning.

Take your time to touch this season –
the warmth of your children's hands
fresh baked bread
candles being lifted into the night.

Take your time to taste this season –
cookies and bread
hot cider and hot chocolate
a meal delivered by a friend.

Take your time to feel this season –
hope tinged with doubt
uncertainty laced with belief
joy intermingled with sadness.

The season is waiting for you –
brimming with God's goodness
for us
for the world
given in peace.

Amen.



Written by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller,
"Episcopal Cafe," December 8, 2020

The 2025 Giving Tree



The Giving Tree is Up!

The tree is hanging in the McClure Room and is covered with tags with the needs and wants of the families residing at Lund.

Select a Tag (or tags). Print your name and phone number next to the tag number on the spreadsheets near the tree.

Purchase the gifts (**do not spend more than \$50**).

Place the gift in a new gift bag (please don't wrap the gift) and tie the tag to the handles. If you purchase clothing/shoes, please request a gift receipt to add to the bag.

All gifts must be returned to church by Sunday, December 14.



Strengthening families. Helping children thrive.

The Lund offers hope and opportunity to families through education, treatment, family support, and adoption.

The overarching goal of Lund's programs is that every child grows up in a safe, secure, and loving family. Our programs wrap around families to meet them where they are and stay with them during their whole parenting journey.

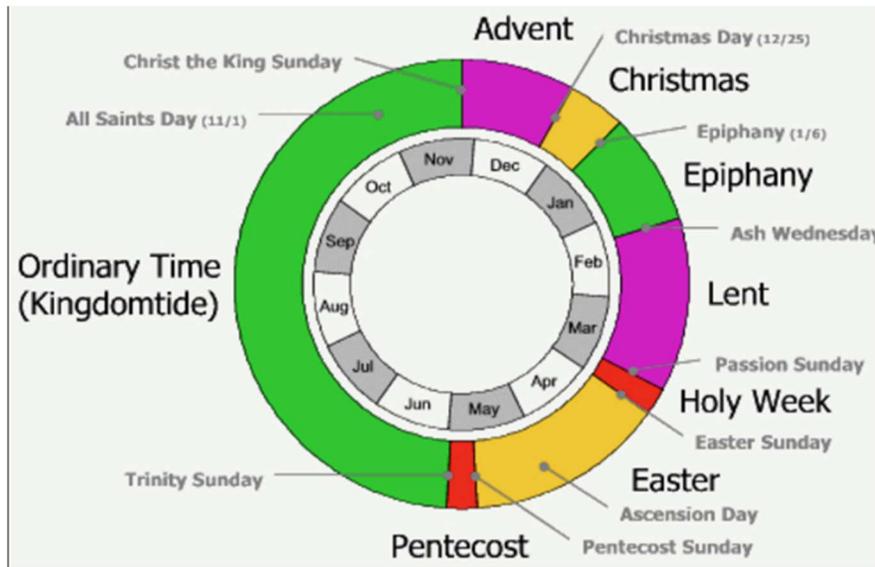
Lund has been **helping Vermonters** since 1890, and we are committed to being a welcoming, supportive, and helpful environment for children and families when they need us most. Our programs help approximately 5,400 people each year across Vermont.

[Our programs](#)

Traveling from the Old to the New

Many years ago, in Sunday School at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Advent in Connecticut, I learned about the Christian liturgical year as observed in our Episcopal Church. It is one of my earliest memories about church; it has always been with me. Like the different seasons of nature that we so much appreciate in New England, the seasons of the liturgical year each offer their own particular invitation into our life with God.

The liturgical year is often depicted as a circle or wheel, emphasizing the cyclical nature of liturgical spirituality:



At this time of year we conclude the series of Sundays of “Ordinary Time” following Pentecost with the Feast of the Reign of Christ, traditionally known as the feast of “Christ the King,” and we enter the season of Advent. In Advent the yearly cycle begins all over again. But, it is never simply a repeat of the prior year, because we, and the world, and maybe even God are both older than we were and new again, as we begin a year that has never before existed. In a sense, Advent is the church’s “New Year’s.” We start a new year at

Advent, a new season; we look up, and look ahead. We look for nothing less than the coming of God in Jesus Christ to our hearts and lives.

We know that ancient people, at least in northern hemisphere climates, understood the world and their lives as beginning anew at this time of year, even in pre-Christian times. This was the time when, though the ground was often frozen, the skies darker, and much of the world seemed to have died or fallen asleep, people understood that the seeds from which the new year’s harvest would come were already being nurtured beneath the soil, silently and out of sight, but safe and warm as if in a kind of womb of nature. And so, as Christian spirituality took hold, the promise of new and larger life emerging beyond the tomb of Jesus made deep and lasting sense.

“Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light...,” we pray on the First Sunday of Advent. It’s a new year; look up, look ahead! You have known this season of new beginnings before, it is as if the prayer is enjoining us. But God is calling you anew, not to the same-old-same-old, but once again to a new time. Step into this new season with enthusiasm; be hopeful, be expectant, even be surprised! Let the spirituality of Advent speak richly to your life, to your community’s, and to your world’s. Trust that even what had grown old is even now all being made new, all over again! For both Trinity Church and me, this Advent will mark at once the conclusion of one phase of life and ministry and the beginning of a new one, one that has never been before. On November 30, the First Sunday of Advent this year, our collaboration in Christ’s ministry as parish and priest will have continued for nine years and three-hundred-sixty-five days. I thank God for each of those days, and for this entire season of ministry. Now it is time to step into the new. I hope you may be able to be with us on this First Sunday of Advent. As part of our liturgy we will have a special rite with which to offer God thanks and praise for our time together, and to greet the new time that will be before us. In the wonderful words of one of our hymns, may God be with us “traveling from the old to the new;” May God bless us with grace; and may God sustain us in all our adventures yet to come!

In Christ, Fred Moser



My daughter Beth made this tablecloth when she was 12. It shows Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem and the Wise Men. Traditionally we use this table covering every year.
-Betty Ann Lockart



Betty Ann's lovely amaryllis.

**Our annual Holiday Bazaar is Saturday, December 6!
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Please tell your friends and neighbors and post it on your local Front Porch Forum!

If you are going to bring baked goods, etc., please include a label listing the ingredients. Thanks!



The Children's Christmas Pageant will take place
Sunday, December 21, after the 9:30 Service.



Christmas Eve Service
4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 24

