

# ST. DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ELLSWORTH

## TID BITS FROM THE TABLE ~ NOVEMBER 25, 2022

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Dear ones,

Well, the Le Creuset pots are all 'soaking' in the sink (I'm too lazy to wash them at the end of the Thanksgiving feast, so let myself off the hook...), the Arthur is slumbering upstairs, the dog is sleeping with most of his body on top of me as I write, the Aaron is working away next to me on another book proposal, and the grandparents have recently retired to their Airbnb nearby.

Thank you to everyone who joined our Thanksgiving service this year. It was especially poignant (certainly for me and for Arthur), and we had about twice the number as last year, I think! Arthur and I agree, it's the best way to mark the holiday.

I've got a beautiful photo that Dave and Marian gave me as a gift; it's our church altar and nave in all their Christmas glory, decked out last year and with our Christmas crèche in front of our altar. I see it every day, and sometimes Arthur and I set it in front of us like an icon when we pray Morning Prayer or Compline together.

This Sunday we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. My hope for all of us is that this Advent will be a chance for us to reflect, to pray, and to relish in the holiness and wonder of the Advent season. I know we all are grateful we can come to church as and when we like, and we can plan for an Advent and Christmas when we can be physically together in the church space if we wish and feel comfortable!

We'll all enjoy Morning Prayer this Sunday, and I know we give thanks for our rich tradition in St Dunstan's of lay leadership. From 11am til 12 noon, please do join us for prayerful contemplation of our art (freshly hung up in church today!) on the topic of 'Taking Care' and Lectio Divina, a traditional monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer meant to promote communion with God and to increase knowledge of God's word. Our passages this Advent will speak to the theme of 'Taking Care' to align with the art on our walls for the Advent season. Traditionally, Lectio Divina has four separate parts: read; meditate, pray, contemplate. I'll guide us through our passage on Sunday and we'll go from there!

With love,  
Carolyn+

# OFFERTORY!

*"Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His name; bring offerings and come into his courts." Psalm 96:8*

Now that we are in church, your pledges or offerings need not be sent in. You have been so wonderful in sending them in and can continue to do so if it best for you. At this time we do not feel that passing the offertory plate would be wise. We have placed an offertory plate on the back table for your convenience to place your offering, requests for prayers and flower envelopes. Thank you for your support.

*"Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord."*

## Affirmation Prayer

God Calls me out of darkness to live in light,  
God calls me out of falsehood to live in truth,  
God calls me out of despair to live in hope,  
God calls me out of fear to live in trust,  
God calls me out of hate to live in love,  
God calls out of war to live in peace,  
I am called by God to fill my heart, my world,  
my universe, with peace, peace, peace. Amen.



### **Be in the Know – Enroll in *The Dio Log* Today!**

- *From Deacon Tracy*

Please remember that the bi-monthly electronic newsletter of our Episcopal Diocese of Maine, *The Dio Log*, can be as close as your email in box! To enroll, go to the diocesan website, <https://episcopalmaine.org>, select “Connect” on the top of the site and then

“Newsletter” in the drop down. The enrollment area is directly below. Here is the link to take you to the newsletter section directly so you can enroll even faster:

<https://episcopalmaine.org/newsletter/>.

This is the best way to keep up with all of the events and opportunities for engagement and learning being offered beyond our own parish. The staff also offers select Province 1 news and church wide information and opportunities as well through *The Dio Log*.

## United Thank Offering – Blessings in Progress

- From Deacon Tracy

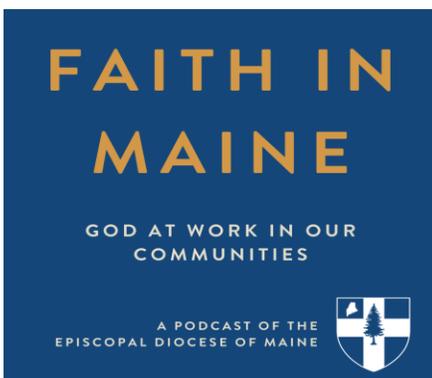
May we be blessed as we remember blessings each day via our United Thank Offering boxes as we follow this practice up through intake Sunday, November 27. Having trouble doing this each day? No worries – I sense that our loving God understands. The point is to find some time during this time of year to reflect on God’s presence and provision in our lives. Don’t let this become a burden. Let it be a blessing!

Here is a quick prayer offering from our UTO Book of Prayers 2021-2024, p. 98: “As we go about the remainder of our day, O God, our work be a conscious prayer to you, our actions a witness to the love of Christ, and our hearts mindful that your Spirit is with us, this day and always. Amen”

*Let us always remember that we are living on the traditional homelands of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot peoples and of the Wabanaki confederacy of Maine. We recognize the native peoples throughout this land.*

### **Prayer For Peace**

Oh Great Spirit who dwells in the sky,  
lead us to the path of peace and understanding,  
let all of us live together as brothers and sisters.  
Our lives are so short here, walking upon Mother Earth's surface,  
let our eyes be opened to all the blessings you have given us.  
Please hear our prayers, Oh Great Spirit.  
- Native American Prayer



### **Faith in Maine:**

This is a podcast produced by our Episcopal Diocese with various members of the clergy giving their thoughts and prayers. The podcast changes each week. Feel free to call and listen.

You can call 207-223-6402 at any time. They usually last approximately 4-5 minutes.

**Happy Anniversary to  
Carol Mason & Mark Harris!**



Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Trinity, Lewiston and St. Augustine's, Dover Foxcroft. We pray especially for our Committee on Indian Relations.

We Pray Especially For: Carol Yancy, Charles Joy, Fay Joy, Caiden, Gage and Briana Chattin, and Beryl Kirkpatrick for healing, strength, and comfort.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or continue a name on the list, please let us know at [stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com) or leave a message at the church (667-5495). Prayer requests will remain for three weeks.

It is important to us that the list be up-to-date and accurate.  
To everyone, please stay well and safe. Blessings to you all.

Almighty and merciful God, we ask in our prayers that the conflict in Ukraine and the others around the world can be resolved peacefully. Bless the people that have been affected by the unrest and grant them peace and justice. We also ask for the people in our own country that have been impacted by the hurricanes, violence and lose of loved ones as they grieve, pick up their lives. Grant them strength, comfort, and healing. All this we ask with the power of your love to all through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## ~ UPCOMING WORSHIP / EVENTS SCHEDULE ~

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*At this time the Sunday services will be both in church following safe practices and via Zoom. Compline is every Thursday at 7:00p.m via Zoom*

*The sanctuary is open for quiet reflection and prayer on Mondays 2-4.*

**November 27 ~ Morning Prayer: 9:30 with Mimi & Dave**

**November 27 ~ Beginning of Advent**

**November 29 ~ Vestry Meeting: 6:00 pm**

**December 4 ~ Holy Eucharist: 9:30**

**December 11 ~ Holy Eucharist: 9:30**

**December 18 ~ Morning Prayer: 9:30 with Liz Graves**

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*The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the Greater Glory of God by Carol Mason in celebration and thanksgiving for 20 years of marriage and their family.*

## *From the Music Director*

It's hard to believe I've been with you for almost four years now! And of those four years, a pandemic has made nearly three of them an 'interesting' time. It's been a challenge for all of us, but through it all this congregation remains a supportive and loving community, and I've been privileged to be a recipient of that support.

But now things are moving toward something like normal, and one of the things that means is the return of choral singing. So... let's plan on getting a choir together for the Christmas season! Stay tuned for announcements regarding specific rehearsal times, but we welcome anyone who has an interest in being a part of a choir. Please let me know if you might want to be a part of it – I can do a better job of choosing music if I know who might be in the choir.

I'd also like to ask your help with something – the choice of hymns that we sing during worship. I try to choose hymns that people know and love, with the occasional 'repertoire stretcher', that is, something that isn't so well known but fits with the scriptures and sermon on a given Sunday. The problem is, I can only guess at what your favorites are. So please let me know what you like. Are there hymns that you like that I've never chosen? Are there some I repeatedly choose that no one can stand?

I welcome your input on the subject of hymns or anything else related to the St. Dunstan's music ministry. So talk to me on Sunday morning, or give me a call at 266-6643, or send me an e-mail at [p\\_dickson@roadrunner.com](mailto:p_dickson@roadrunner.com).

I look forward to a blessed Advent with you!

### **History of Our Beloved Hymns**

*From time-to-time Herbert Beckwith will write about the history of a hymn that we have sung in our services. Keep your eyes open for this wonderful addition.*

#### **LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE, 324**

Tune: Picardy

The text of this hymn was used in the fifth century in the Liturgy of St. James of Jerusalem for the presentation of the communion elements at the offertory. It was translated by John Mason Neale and again by Gerald Moultrie. The text with this tune has been in our hymnal since 1916. The tune "Picardy" is probably based on an early 18th century French folk tune, and was published in 1860. Ralph Vaughan Williams matched it with this text in the English Hymnal, which he edited. The Hymnal 1982 Companion calls this matching "a touch of genius" in that it adds a dimension of awe and mystery to the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

# Family News

We would love to hear about your news and for what you are thankful during this year

## St. Dunstan's 2022 Emmaus Adopt-a-Family

As in past years St. Dunstan's will participate in the Emmaus Homeless Shelter's Adopt-a-Family Program this Christmas season. This year we have pledged to provide gifts (valued at \*\$35 for each child) for **thirty children**.

*\*[The Elves advise that, since St. D's first participated in this program nearly twenty years ago, the per-child contribution has been \$30; this is the first inflationary adjustment they've requested]*

For everyone's safety and convenience, **the Elves will again be doing all of the shopping for us this year!** All you need to do to participate:

1. Let Elf Whisperer Jaci Hancock know that you wish to participate, and advise of the number of children you want to provide gifts for by:

- a. email: to [jshancock27@gmail.com](mailto:jshancock27@gmail.com);
- b. phone or text to: 207-907-9002; or
- c. by mail to: 1 West Highland Trail, Dedham, ME 04429-4584.

2. Send payment (\$35 for each adoptee) by check made payable to Jaci Hancock, mailed to: 1 West Highland Trail, Dedham, ME 04429-4584, **please write "2022 Adopt-a-Family" in the memo line.**

To assure that the Elves have plenty of time to shop, please let Jaci know you are participating and make your payment **as soon as you can, but not later than November 30<sup>th</sup>**.

The Elves thank you for help in assuring that area children have a Happy Christmas morning! Any questions, please reach out to Jaci Hancock.



Priest - Rev. Dr. Carolyn Rosen  
Deacon - Rev. Tracy Shaffer  
Senior Warden - Dianne Kelley  
Deputy Senior Warden - Liz Graves  
Junior Warden - Kim Peterson

[www.saintdunstansellsworth.org](http://www.saintdunstansellsworth.org)

You can contact us by leaving a message by telephone or email:

Phone: [667-5495](tel:667-5495) Email: [stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com)

Fred Beyer and Muffet Stewart: [stdunstanstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstanstreasurer@gmail.com)

Rain is in the church office Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 8 – 9 am