

FORT WASHINGTON
COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Make Your Annual Pledge

As our new year begins, **we want to invite you to partner with us** in the good work that God has called us to in Upper Manhattan. Your financial commitment ensures that FWCC can continue to offer a variety of dynamic programs for children, youth, and adults as a source of hope and healing for our community.

Please prayerfully consider what you and your family can pledge to give in the upcoming calendar year (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 2017) and commit to our Capital Campaign (active through Dec. 2018). Your pledge plays an important role helping to guide our church's planning and budgeting in the new year.

Why pledge?

While FWCC is blessed with a generous endowment as our foundation, our ministry programming and outreach is completely dependent on your tithes and offerings. No matter what the amount of your weekly or monthly commitment, your response helps us to plan and budget for 2017 – our children and youth programs, our music ministry, small-groups, outreach, and more! We encourage you to pledge today! We understand financial circumstances sometimes change, and if at any time you need to make an adjustment to increase or decrease your pledge, simply let us know. Thank you for making a commitment to the Fort Washington Collegiate Church family.

How to pledge

Online: www.fortwashingtonchurch.org/pledge

At church: Fill out a pledge card found at the front entrance (vestibule) and place it in the offering plate.

Fort Washington Collegiate Church

December 11th, 2016 | 11:00 AM | Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Be patient!

The time is coming when
we will celebrate the birth of Jesus,

**when we will sing and rejoice,
dancing with everlasting joy.**

But for now, be patient,
as we wait in this time called Advent,
when God speaks through dreams and visions,

**and we are invited to dance
down the holy way into the kingdom.**

For this is Advent, as we prepare to join the world
in celebrating the Creator of goodness and hope,

**when those who limp will teach new dance steps,
when the voiceless sing, 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming.'**

HYMN: Toda La Tierra /All Earth is Waiting
Green Hymnal #93

Taulé

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

There are some blessings that are only revealed to us when the day is darkest.

There are some mercies that only shine when the shadows are deepest.

There are some graces that are only glimpsed when the night is the longest.

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus

it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

In Advent, we remember the darkest days

and await the brilliant light of joy. (The candle of Joy is lit.)

SONGS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Red Hymnal #133

Neale

Emmanuel

Badham

Verse 1

**Together in this place of worship
Your greatness we proclaim
We stand as one in giving You
All glory and acclaim
To You our hearts are open
To You our hands we raise
Come take the place of honor in our lives**

Chorus

**Emmanuel
Our God is with us
Prince of Peace Mighty One
The ever-living God**

Verse 2

**See the praises of our Savior
Rise to open skies
With the dawning of redemption
Your glory will arise
For You alone are worthy
Here in Zion You are praised
Our Lord and King forever You will reign**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

There is no need to wait in long lines. God is always willing to listen – to our hearts as well as our voices, as we admit how we have not cared as we could, have not shared as we should. Let us join, as we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This season is supposed to be so holy, God of Christmas, yet the din of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps. As we drive down the streets, the decorations on all the buildings keep us from seeing the loneliness of the widower, the strained faces of those who fear the future. We are so determined to find just the right gift or card which speaks of joy, we forget that you came so long ago to offer justice to those who have none.

Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless, to walk with those who have lost their way, to let go of our certainty of what really happened to long ago, and listen to the songs of children which speak of that peace which really can bring reconciliation, of that grace which really can offer hope, of that love which really came to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior.

Silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do not be afraid, but believe. Our God is here, opening our eyes to see that salvation which is ours approaching us in this season of Advent.

We join our voices in rejoicing in God who is our Savior. The One who calls us blessed, is the God who forgives us. Amen.

ANTHEM: Mary, Did You Know?

Green/Lowry

Featuring the FWCC Dance Ministry, Victoria Dillard & Margot Faught, Directors

CHILDREN'S TIME

PASSING OF THE PEACE*

Please greet one another with the words – **The peace of Christ is with you!** Response – **And also with you!** (Children will join their teachers for worship and learning activities.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:46-56

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “*Sing a New Song*”

Bridget Kelso Anthony

HYMN: Over My Head

Spiritual

**1. Over my head I see trouble in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere!**

2. Over my head I hear music in the air...

3. Over my head I hear singing in the air...

4. Over my head I see glory in the air...

RECOGNITION/THANKSGIVING FOR SERVICE TO CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Elders Scott Simpson & Yvonne Henry

LITANY OF THANSKGIVING FOR WORKERS IN THE CHURCH:

Loving God, you have called us into community as followers of Jesus in this place, and you have blessed us and enriched our lives through Word and Sacraments and service to others. You strengthen us and inspire us with your Spirit to live lives of mutual love and service in the world. For all this we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who lead and those who follow; for officers and councils and committees and boards:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For ushers and greeters and readers, for acolytes and servers, for musicians and choirs:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For prophets and seers, for teachers and preachers, for those who visit and for those who call:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For cleaners and dusters, for maintainers and fixers, for those who cook and those who eat:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For administrators and helpers, for counters and record keepers, for bulletin folders and envelope stuffers:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who give and those who pray, for those who plan and those who guide; for those with wisdom and those with inspiration:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For youth workers and youth, for parents and grandparents, for sisters and brothers, for mentors and guardians:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For our past and for our future, for mission and ministry, and for our inclusive, diverse community:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

Bind us to your love, and through that love, to one another, through the example of your love:
We dedicate our lives to your service.

Make us one in spirit and vision that we may acknowledge with gratefulness the importance of all our members and all our gifts for the mission that you give us.
We dedicate our lives to your service. Amen

INVITATION TO SHARE (*Give online at: www.fortwashingtonchurch.org/give/*)

OFFERTORY: Glory to God

Brown/Butler

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

In thanksgiving for what has been shared, we sing as one body:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, all heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray that with our gifts, as well as our lives, we will tell of those who are given voice, those who are put back on their feet, those who show us the way, and those who offer us grace and hope, as well. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(from the Book of Common Prayer)*

**Our [God] in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. AMEN.**

HYMN: Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child
Green Hymnal #108

Allison

SENDING

Let us journey into the world with our God,
to rebuild shattered hearts with hope.
Let us spend each day with Jesus,
mending brokenness with love.
Let us share our hearts with the Spirit,
so we may be with those who are waiting for peace.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Advent/Christmas Worship/Event Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 17th, WHCO Christmas Jazz Fundraiser, 3:00 pm (Sanctuary) visit: whco.nyc

Sunday, Dec. 18th, Children's Christmas Pageant, 11 am

Tuesday, December 20th, Blue Christmas/The Longest Night Service, 7:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve Worship (Lessons & Carols), 5:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 25th, *Carol Sing & Communion*, 11 am
(No Evensong on December 25th or January 1)

Sunday, January 1st/New Year's Day, *Reflection & Communion*, 11 am

Welcome to Fort Washington Collegiate Church; a place of diversity, hospitality and grace. We open our doors to everyone! We welcome all people regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, social or economic status. As a church family we celebrate our diversity and our connection to God. We seek to follow Christ's example and exemplify the love of Christ; therefore, as a faith community, we value grace over judgment. Although we represent many cultures and points of view, our diversity does not drive us apart, but gives us the opportunity to be enriched by the gifts and leadership of all. Together, by word and deed, we proclaim the good news that there is new life in Christ.

CHILDREN & WORSHIP AT FORT WASHINGTON CHURCH

Nursery Care: The nursery is open and care is available for infants and toddlers between ages 0-3 with Hilda McCrillis in the nursery just behind the Sanctuary. Care is available before and during worship (10:30am - 12:15pm)

Godly Play®: After the Children's Time and during the Passing of the Peace, children 4 years of age through 4th grad are invited to the Second Floor for Godly Play® in Classroom #208. **Caregivers and parents are invited to pick up their children after service.**

Children's Choir: All children who love to sing are invited to rehearse with Eric Alderfer in the Second Floor Meeting Room #205 from 10am-10:45am.

Sunday School: All youth (grades 5th - High School) are invited to join the Associate Minister Bridget Kelso Anthony upstairs in Room #209 after the Passing of the Peace.

Fall Playgroup: All children and caregivers are welcome free of charge on Wednesdays from 9:30am to 11:30 for songs, games and time to play in Fellowship Hall or in the yard (weather permitting). Crawlers are invited to a time of free play on the jigsaw mat set up in the atrium as Mr. Eric accompanies on the keyboard.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Sonia Alston

Anna Svahn

Faught Family

Brenda Jon

Alexis Agliano Sanborn

Sonia Ashmeade

Sandra Catena

Louise Tatum

Rosalyn Cuzco

Evelyn Day

Sylvia Rodriguez

Joe Tigner

Margarita Vince- Allen

Whittaker Family

Barbara Marin

Alderfer Famliy

Angela Espinal

Gwen Wood

Jane Wai

Violetta Proano

Mesina Family

Branco Family

Vaughn Family

Jorge Mantorell

Marco Antonio & Marilyn Calderon

Joan Bovers

Our prayer partner today is: a member of the Congregational Care Team
If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or have a prayer concern please contact Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake at skenefake@fortwashingtonchurch.org or Bridget Anthony at banthony@fortwashingtonchurch.org or call (212) 568-4014

INFORMATION & PRAYER CARDS IN PEWS

If you would like to share your information with us or share a prayer request; please fill out the white information card or the green prayer cards.

Single Parent Support Group

The next meeting will be on Sunday, December 11th, at 12:30 pm, in the Worship Arts Room

GOD TALK

Join us Wednesday nights for dinner and a lively discussion. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm, followed by a Scripture reading and discussion at 7:00pm. The full schedule for 2016-2017 is on our website. Next meeting is on December 21st.

NOON PRAYER

Noon prayer will meet on Wednesdays in the North Room, led by Devora Jones

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need nursery volunteers willing to help with childcare in both the morning and evening service.

STARBUCKS COFFEE BEFORE CHURCH

Join us for coffee and conversation **in the Glass Pavilion** before the morning worship service from 10:30 to 10:59 am.

EVENSONG SPEAKER (REFLECTORS)

Needed for January 8, 15, 22, & 29

CONSISTORY MINUTES ONLINE

Minutes of monthly Fort Washington **Consistory Minutes* and bi-monthly ***Collegiate Church Consistory Minutes* can be found on our website: www.fortwashingtonchurch.org

About Advent

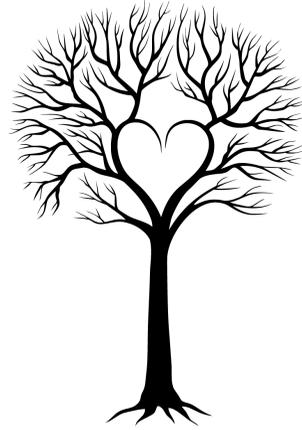
Things look different in church this time of year. We use blue or purple cloth and candles, and we have evergreen wreathes and garland. This time of year, when we start getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, is called Advent. Advent is a time of expectation. "Expectation" means "looking forward to something," and during Advent, we are looking forward to Jesus being born.

Feasting on the Word: Advent Companion, David L. Bartlett, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Kimberly Bracken Long, Editors



FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Pledges for 2017 are now being received. Have we received yours? Electronic Pledge Cards and **on-line giving** can be found on our website at: www.fortwashingchurch.org/pledge/
Paper copies are available in the entrance to the sanctuary (vestibule).



HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER!

We need your volunteer and financial support to keep all of our excellent community, fellowship, and educational programs healthy and strong.

If you have any questions regarding volunteering or making a financial gift, please speak with Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake, or Associate Minister Bridget Anthony. We thank you for your support!

Blue Christmas/ The Longest Night Service Tuesday, December 20th, 7pm

The Blue Christmas service is a way to acknowledge the sadness some feel due to loss during a season in which the emphasis is on celebration, joy and gathering with family and friends. Typically this service is held on the eve of the Winter Equinox, the longest night of the year. Fort Washing Collegiate Church will be opening its doors to invite those from the community who might be seeking comfort and solace on this dark night.

Local Consistory Meeting
Monday, December 12th, 6:00 pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 11th/Third Sunday of Advent, 11am

Luke 1:47-55; “Sing a New Song” by Bridget Kelso Anthony, Preaching

Recognition/Reception for Elders Scott Simpson & Yvonne Henry/Dance Ministry

5:30 pm, Evensong & Communion, Devora Jones, Reflector

December 18th/Fourth Sunday of Advent, 11am

Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25,

“Immanuel: God With Us” -- Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake, Preaching

Theme: What kind of Messiah is this?

Children’s Christmas Pageant

5:30 pm, Evensong & Communion, Johanna Garcia, Reflector

December 20th, Blue Christmas/The Longest Night Service, 7:00 pm

December 24th/Christmas Eve, 5:30pm

A Service of Lessons & Carols

December 25th/Christmas Day, 11am

Carols & Communion

January 1st/New Year’s Day, 11 am

Reflection & Communion

No Evensong on December 25th & January 1st

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake, Interim Senior Pastor • **Bridget Kelso Anthony**, Associate Minister • **Eric Alderfer**, Director of Children’s Ministry • **Chris Whittaker**, Director of Music • **Laurrinda Hatcher**, Treasurer • **Diana Morales**, Administrative and Operations Manager • **Lazaro Rodríguez**, Sexton • **Amable Morales**, Evening Receptionist • **Wilfredo Serrano**, Sexton

CONSISTORY

Elders: • Victoria Dillard • Jamie Cacciola-Price • Beverley Sheares

Deacons: • Lorenzo M. Alsberry • Brian Plane • Zoe Reyes

Intersections Ministry Deacons: Jay Godfrey • Anna Svahn

MEDIA UPDATES: www.FortWashingtonChurch.org

www.Facebook.com/FortWashingtonChurch

Creating Community | Connecting to God | Committed to the City

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