

**St. John's**  
**Episcopal Church**  
Oklahoma City, OK

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*We welcome all to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ*



**In case you missed this on Facebook, here is Father Nate's  
Diocesan meditation for the Season of Advent**

[Be Found in Him](#)

He went on to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

"Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.'

"But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. 'This is the heir,' they said. 'Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others."

When the people heard this, they said, "God forbid!"

Jesus looked directly at them and asked, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

"'The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone'?"

Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

-Luke 20:9-18 NRSV

## Be Found in Him

I love the Bible. I love the Bible's stories, its sacred message, its unembarrassed references to immortality. But more than that, I love its shocking singularity of Gospel message (amidst its great diversity of authorship and genre).

The Bible is especially fun when one author references another author. Today, Luke, quoting the *Son of David*, has that same Jesus, quoting *David himself* in Psalm 118. That stuff will preach, friends.

But first, let us listen to the man of the sixteenth century himself, Dr. Luther, reminding us of the purpose of the Old Testament:

They think of it as a book that was given to the Jewish people only and is now out of date, containing only stories of past times...But Christ says in John 5, “Search the Scriptures, for it is they that bear witness to me”....The Scriptures of the Old Testament are not to be despised but diligently read....Therefore dismiss your own opinions and feelings and think of the Scriptures as the loftiest and noblest of holy things, as the richest of mines which can never be sufficiently explored, in order that you may find that divine wisdom which God here lays before you in such simple guise as to quench all pride. Here you will find the swaddling cloths and the manger in which Christ lies...Simple and lowly are these swaddling cloths, but dear is the treasure, Christ, who lies in them.

“...the richest of mines which can never be sufficiently explored” OH, HOW I LOVE THIS: “Here you will find the swaddling cloths and the manger in which Christ lies”

If in fact that is true; if your Old Testament is, in fact, a more reliable guide to Jesus than *Time* magazine or the Interpreter's Bible Commentary; and in fact comes with a helpful little guide—the Holy Spirit's illuminating work—then let us sit awhile with the Psalms and the Prophets. And let us further suppose that its subject—Jesus Christ—is co-eternal with the Father, as suggested in the Creeds; then let's take a bath in the Bible already!

Either way, David's Psalm—a clear reminiscence of all that it took to get him this throne—is one steeped in love for God. Despair and victory both are detailed throughout, and Jesus' quote falls right out of the middle (humorously, everyone's favorite wedding verse is the one that follows in verse 23, and a key part of our weekly liturgy falls out of verse 26).

So, given David's clear devotion to expanding on the love of God a thousand years prior, how is love stirred afresh in Luke 20? And what has this to do with Advent—a season of present apocalypse?

Well, the passage is sandwiched between two challenges—one of Jesus' authority, and one of his homage to Caesar. Here we find our answer. If the world-system is your reference point, Jesus will never make sense. Take him out, beat him, and kill him in hopes of manipulating your inheritance already (like the evil tenants in the story).

But if instead we read the world as Blessed Mary did, for example, then we draw a very different conclusion: If God the Son is instead the one who first sides with the lowly handmaiden, the humble and meek, the hungry, and the poor; and if that same God the Son—the stone the builders rejected—is the one upon whom we break our

pride-dripping lives, so that we, too, are lowly of heart; we too are hungry and thirsty for a righteousness-not-of-our-own, and find ourselves identifying with the poor more than power; then the undulating love of God shall break fresh into our hearts.

I admit--Advent makes some immediate sense to my need for instant justice. I'm ready for white-horse Jesus to ride in with a sword in his teeth to restore Mary's vision immediately. My heart might even be ready to beat a few servants up in the process. Let's take no names and clean house. Stay awake, says Matthew 24! Let's do this!

But Jesus' first coming is remarkably shocking. Lord have mercy, let me not reject that precious stone.

The one who comes to judge WILL FIRST BE JUDGED. Be found in him.

The one who comes to rectify WILL FIRST BE REJECTED. Be found in him.

The one who comes on a white horse WILL FIRST BE TRAMPLED. Be found in him.

For me, the tenant. Be found in him.

Advent is the rock upon which my self-righteousness, impatience, and hatred of people will be dashed to pieces, and Jesus is the rock upon which the entire thing shall be rebuilt.

Praise God for the Old Testament.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate+" with a stylized, cursive script.

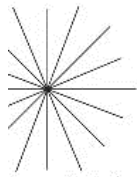
Nate+

## Evening Services and Events

St. John's Church now holds a service each Wednesday night, beginning with the First Wednesday Evening Eucharist on the first Wednesday of each month, and including Feast Days; and Evening Prayer on all other Wednesdays.

Please review the list below for all dates in December, with special attention to the dates/times for weekday services during Advent and Christmas.

**NOTE:** Please remember that all services and activities are listed on the St. John's OKC "Calendar" (under "Connect") at [Events Calendar | St. John's Oklahoma City \(stjohnsokc.org\)](http://stjohnsokc.org)

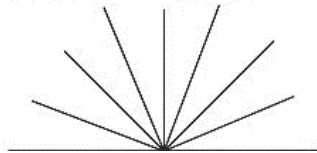


### *Weekday Services*

Wed. 11/2, 7:00	All Saints Evensong
Wed. 11/9, 5:30	Evening Prayer
Wed. 11/16, 5:30	Evening Prayer
Wed. 11/23, 5:30	Evening Prayer
Wed. 11/30, 5:30	Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle Eucharist
Wed. 12/7, 5:30	First Wednesday Eucharist
Wed. 12/14, 5:30	Evening Prayer

### *Holiday Services*

Sat. 12/24, 6:00	First Mass of Christmas
Sat. 12/24, 10:30	Chorale Prelude and Midnight Mass
Sun. 12/25, 10:15	Christmas Day Mass
Mon. 12/26, 5:30	Feast of St. Stephen
Tues. 12/27, 5:30	Feast of St. John
Wed. 12/28, 5:30	Feast of the Holy Innocents
Fri. 1/8, 5:30	The Epiphany



## **Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Services**

**Sunday, December 4** – 10:15 am Second Sunday of Advent – Decalogue

**Wednesday, December 7** – 5:30 pm First Wednesday Eucharist, Mary Chapel

**Sunday, December 11** – 10:15 am Third Sunday of Advent – Followed by the Greening of the Church

**Sunday, December 18** – 10:15 am Fourth Sunday of Advent – Lessons and Carols

**Saturday, December 24** – 6:00 pm First Mass of Christmas

**Saturday, December 24** – 10:30 pm Choral Prelude and Midnight Mass

**Sunday, December 25** – 10:15 Christmas Day Eucharist

**Monday, December 26** – 5:30 pm Feast of St. Stephen, Mary Chapel

**Tuesday, December 27** – 5:30 pm Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, Mary Chapel

**Wednesday, December 28** – 5:30 pm Feast of Holy Innocents, Mary Chapel

**Sunday, January 1** – 10:15 am Feast of the Holy Name

**Friday, January 6** – 5:30 pm Feast of the Epiphany

## **Recurring Events - Winter Schedule**

**Second Sunday of Month** - following service - Daughters of the King  
Healing Service with Holy Unction - Nave

**Second Sunday of Month** - 11:30 am Daughters of the King Meeting - Parlor

**Fourth Sunday of Month** - 11:30 am Bishop's Committee Meeting - Parlor

**Mondays and Wednesdays** - 11:00 to 4:00 CAIR Refugee Resource Center

**Tuesdays and Thursdays** - 9:30 to 3:30 Hickman Music School in session

**Wednesday Evenings** - 5:30 pm Wednesday Eucharists and  
Evening Prayer Services

**Wednesday Evenings** - 7:00 pm Choir Practice

**Thursday Evenings** - 6:30 pm Tai Chi

**Second Saturday of Month** - 8:00 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew - Parlor

## **Office Hours**

**Tuesday through Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00**

(or by appointment)

(If you have a recurring event that you would like added to this posting,  
please contact Nancy at [stjohnsokc@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnsokc@yahoo.com) or 405-943-8548.)

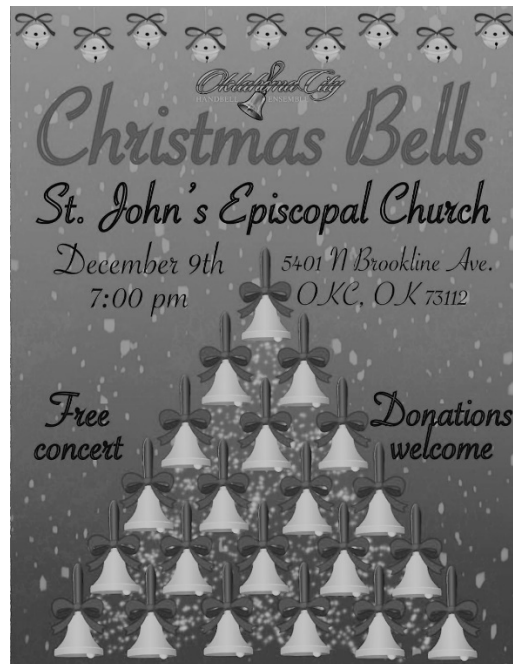
## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

1 – Liz Pearson  
2 – Kevin Watson  
6 – Glen Fields  
7 – Ann Warzyn  
11 – Jonah Torossian  
14 – Erin Hensley  
16 – Cynthia Cortright  
16 – Gwyneth Mason  
16 – Cherie Tompkins  
17 – Scott Bennett  
26 – Miranda Faircloth  
31 – Victoria Thomason

### Anniversaries

1 - Ben & Aimee Hanneman  
27 - Dave & Amy Thomas  
28 - Rob & Kathleen Ferguson  
28 - Jim Bellingham & Dana Billingsley  
30 - John & Marsha Greiner



**Don't miss this special Christmas treat!** The OKC Handbells Ensemble will ring in the holiday with an array of Christmas music. **Friday, December 9, at 7:00 PM in the Nave.** The concert is free, but donations are appreciated.



If you missed last year's **Hickman Music School Holiday Program**, you won't want to make that mistake again! Feel the spirit of Christmas spring forth from the mouths of babes. **Tuesday, December 13, at 10:00 AM (Littles) and 1:00 PM (Bigs)**. Each performance is different and has its own music and humor. I love this event!

### **Bishop's Committee**

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### **Bishop's Committee**

(Continued)  
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Sarah Tracy  
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### **St. John's Staff**

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