



Sunday November 15, 2020
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Prayer: Rite Two
St. John's Episcopal Church, Bangor, Maine

Prelude

Contrapunctus No. 1 (from The Art of Fugue), BWV1080, by J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Opening sentences

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians*
1:2

Confession Of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Then follows the Venite, said in unison.

The Antiphon may first be sung or said with it.

The earth is the Lord's, for he made it: Come let us adore him.

Psalm 123

Ad te levavi oculos meos

Said together in unison

- 1 **To you I lift up my eyes, ***
to you enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, ***
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 **So our eyes look to the Lord our God, ***
until he show us his mercy.
- 4 **Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, ***
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- 5 **Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, ***
and of the derision of the proud.

At the end of the Psalms is said in unison

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Judges 4:1-7

A Reading from the book of Judges.

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The First Canticle

A Song of God's Love 1 John 4:7-11

Said in Unison

Beloved, let us love one another, *
for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, *
for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, *
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us *
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, *
we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on

the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

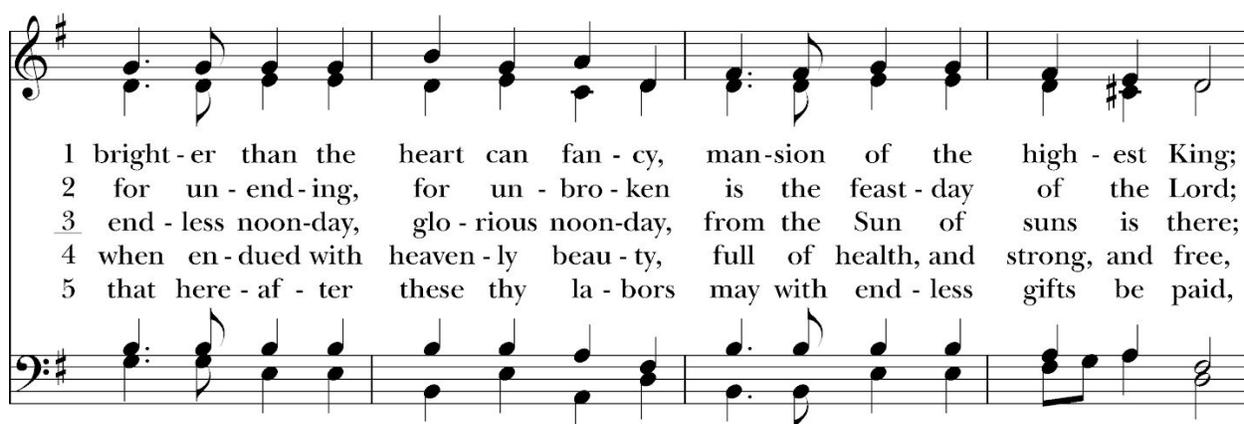
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn Canticle

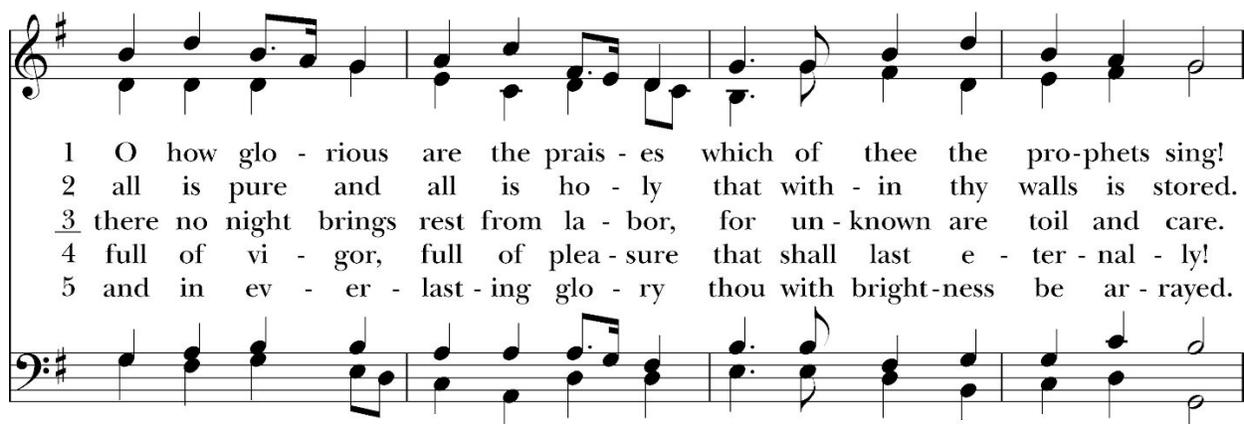
Light's abode, celestial Salem Hymn 621 vs. 1,5



1 Light's a - bode, ce - les - tial Sa - lem, vi - sion whence true peace doth spring,
 2 There for ev - er and for ev - er al - le - lu - ia is out - poured;
 3 There no cloud nor pass - ing va - por dims the bright - ness of the air;
 *4 O how glo - rious and re - splen - dent, fra - gile bo - dy, shalt thou be,
 5 Now with glad - ness, now with cour - age, bear the bur - den on thee laid,



1 bright - er than the heart can fan - cy, man - sion of the high - est King;
 2 for un - end - ing, for un - bro - ken is the feast - day of the Lord;
 3 end - less noon - day, glo - rious noon - day, from the Sun of suns is there;
 4 when en - dued with heaven - ly beau - ty, full of health, and strong, and free,
 5 that here - af - ter these thy la - bors may with end - less gifts be paid,



1 O how glo - rious are the prais - es which of thee the pro - phets sing!
 2 all is pure and all is ho - ly that with - in thy walls is stored.
 3 there no night brings rest from la - bor, for un - known are toil and care.
 4 full of vi - gor, full of plea - sure that shall last e - ter - nal - ly!
 5 and in ev - er - last - ing glo - ry thou with bright - ness be ar - rayed.

The Third Lesson (Matthew 25:14-30)

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Deacon The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

Then follows this set of Suffrages

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
 R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**
 V. Day by day we bless you;
 R. **We praise your Name for ever.**
 V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
 R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**
 V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
 R. **For we put our trust in you.**
 V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
 R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Collects

The Collect for the Day

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your

purposes on earth,; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Collect for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Office Hymn

Sequence Hymn *Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth* (H 598) v. 1&4

1 Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth, up - on a cross they
 2 O awe - ful Love, which found no room in life where sin de -
 3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, shall we a - gain re -
 4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in us thy new cre -



bound thee, and mocked thy sav - ing king - ship then
 nied thee, and, doomed to death, must bring to doom
 fuse thee, till in the night of hate and war
 a - tion; our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled,



by thorns with which they crowned thee: and still our wrongs
 the powers which cru - ci - fied thee, till not a stone
 we per - ish as we lose thee? From old un - faith
 we wait thy rev - e - la - tion: O love that tri -



may weave thee now new thorns to pierce that
 was left on stone, and all those na - tions'
 our souls re - lease to seek the king - dom
 umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round thee.
 pride, o'er-thrown, went down to dust be - side thee!
 of thy peace, by which a - lone we choose thee.
 fore thy cross, to fi - nish thy sal - va - tion.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Parish intercessions and thanksgivings may follow

*Before the close of the Office, the General Thanksgiving may be said in unison
Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Anthem at the Collection

Prelude No. 1 in C major (from The Well Tempered Clavier), by J. S. Bach

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Scripture reflection

The Reverend Rebecca Liberty

Rev. Rebecca Liberty is a Lutheran (ELCA) pastor who lives in Bangor. Ordained in 2002, she previously served Lutheran congregations in Hong Kong, northern California, and Nevada, and until 2018, served as lead pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bangor. She is currently adjunct faculty at UMaine in the Honors College and Judaic Studies.

Final Prayer and Blessing

Let us Pray *in unison*

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, hear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace. **Amen.**

The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us Bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Partita II in C minor BWV 826 - Sinfonia, by J. S. Bach

Parish Prayer list

For a holy death for Barbara Brown.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed – The Hamilton Family, Sue B., Gavin, Shibohan, Ashley, Ella D., Lorraine S., Lee S., James L., Eileen, Angela O., Andrew L., and Justin O., *Continued prayers for* – Stevens W., Jacob B., Ralph R., Ross., Chris., Lois N., Deej P., and Patricia.

For our Homebound Members – Evelyn L., Joline F., Kathleen D., Mary, Charles, Robert B., Christa F., Lilly P., Earlene B., Cathy K., Betty C. and Eileen H.

For Everyone affected by the COVID19 virus: for all who are sick or dying, all who mourn; for all who are isolated, anxious, or scared; for those most vulnerable in our institutions and on our streets, for those sacrificing and volunteering to provide safe beds and nutritious meals; for students, families, teachers, and school administrators; for all who are working in essential services, especially our doctors and nurses and all in our health care systems, for all working in our grocery stores and supply chains, and for those who clean and sterilize; for all who willingly sacrifice their own needs and desires for sake of others' health and well being.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in war-torn places, especially those in those in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Iraq. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters, especially in California, Oregon,. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced, especially for children.

For our Nation: for each citizen who has or will vote, for all who suffer from injustice; for eyes to see injustice and for the will to work for fairness for all of God's people; for all who protest and for those who are charged to maintain our safety; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald Trump, President; Joseph Biden Jr., President-Elect; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree,

Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills, Governor; and Daniel Tremble, Mayor - for those who serve in the courts of this land - that they govern with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., Joshua M., Aaron B., and Timothy W.

For the Departed - for all who have died from the Corona Virus around the world; All who have died from racial injustice and violence around the world.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the week including Bob C., Joseph C., Donald L., Meg P., Evan S. and Leith W.

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact one of the clergy. Please use this list for your own personal prayers too.

Announcements, Opportunities & Invitations

St. John's would like to send out a huge thank you to everyone who worked on the online event to honor the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II which aired on our YouTube channel on November 11th. This service was a wonderful gift to the entire community and we are so blessed to have such dedicated volunteers who put in countless hours to make this happen.

Phoebe has been reveling in this late fall weather. Hope you have been enjoying the out-of-doors, too. But don't worry! She will be back and ready to ZOOM at the usual Tea Time. Don't miss out! **Grab your tea cup and join Phoebe and friends on Sunday at 1700h (5pm).** We might be physically distant, but can be socially connected. Tea Time concludes by 1800 (6pm), but participants are welcome to dip in for shorter periods. Have questions? Don't ZOOM? well no problem - let us know and we'll provide a phone number. Contact Ann at deacon@stjohnsbangor.org

Calling all Youth Group members! Please join us on Zoom for our Youth Compline today, Sunday November 15th at 7:00pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81922345345?pwd=TzdTcHdKZEhGTU9UekFHZ2tiSmMyUT09>

Do you like to read? The Women's Book Group reads a variety of books on a variety of topics. We welcome new members to the discussions which are on the third Tuesdays at 2 p.m. through Zoom. Contact Marisue Pickering

<marisue.pickering@maine.edu> or Jane Zenk <jzenkizenk@gmail.com>
November 17 - Winchester, Simon *The Map That Changed the World: William Smith and the birth of Modern Geology*, 2001. Available from Bangor Library and through MaineCat and Minerva libraries and by purchase (HB, PB, Kindle, Audio). 368 pages. "The fascinating story of William Smith, the orphaned son of an English country blacksmith, who became obsessed with creating the world's first geological map and ultimately became the father of modern geology."
December 15 - Kushner, Lawrence. *Jewish Spirituality: A Brief Introduction for Christians*, 2001. Available from Bangor and MaineCat and Minerva libraries and by purchase (PB, Kindle, Audio). 112 pages. "A window into the Jewish soul—written especially for Christians."
January 19 - Hanna-Attisha, Mona *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*, 2018. Available from Bangor, Orono, UMaine and through MaineCat and Minerva libraries and by purchase (PB, Kindle, Audio). 384 pages. "The dramatic story of the Flint water crisis, by a relentless physician who stood up to power."

Advent is coming! Advent is coming! Each year we gather together to make advent wreaths in the Undercroft. This year, we'll be offering the materials for you to pick up and make in the comfort of your own home. **Drive by the Parish Office, at 234 French Street, on November 29th between the hours of 12-2 to get your Advent Wreath kit!**

Please join us for the Advent online book group *"The Bush Was Blazing but Not Consumed: Developing a Multicultural Community Through Dialogue and Liturgy"*. Author Eric Law shows how to work with the dynamics of diverse cultures to create a truly inclusive community in which everyone can live and thrive. In particular, Law addresses power relationships within and between groups, and explores the concept of holy and unholy fire in attempts to rectify injustices. This is a very timely book. Eric Law is the founder of the Kaleidoscope Institute (<https://www.kscopeinstitute.org/>). **Thursdays, Dec 3-17, & Dec 30, 6:30-7:30.** The book is available from Amazon in both hardcopy and electronic versions, and also on the Institute's website. Enroll by sending a note to patricia.sprague03@gmail.com.

To all of our wonderful volunteers who donate their time and efforts to cooking and serving at the Salvation Army with us, we have exciting news. **The Salvation Army began allowing volunteers back into the building to cook!** Our group is signed up for the 4th Tuesday. We'll be cooking and placing the food into to-go boxes which the Salvation Army staff will then serve from the truck. We will be practicing social distancing and masks are required, so please bring one. **We look forward to**

seeing you again at the Salvation Army on November 24th from 10:00am to 1:30pm!

Each month, **Communion from the Reserve Sacrament will be available on Second Saturdays** of the month from 9-11am at the Church and at the same time as our food drive for those in need. December 12th will be our next Second Saturday. People are encouraged to make offerings of canned goods and also to come to retrieve the Sacrament to then keep at home and to receive it together on Zoom on Sundays. Communion bags with the Reserve Sacrament can also be retrieved by appointment or by requesting delivery by emailing community@stjohnsbangor.org.

Extra help is needed for our monthly serving at Second Saturday, hosted at St. John's. We are scheduled to serve next on **December 12th from 11:30am-1:30pm.** We are currently serving "to go" meals, observing social distancing and masks are required. No need to sign up in advance, or even commit to coming monthly. Just stop in to help out when you can.

The next Big Red Truck drive will be on the second Saturday of December 14th - between 9 and 11 am in front of the church. All contributions will go to those in need. See you at the Big Red Truck!

During this time of COVID-19, communication via email is even more important than in the past. St. John's is in a time of transition, the work on the building and awaiting a new Interim Rector to be called. It's important that we stay connected. Each week, we send out "This Week at St. John's" via email, filled with information about our Parish life, including events and classes to participate in and news to keep you up to date. If you are not getting this important weekly email, please let me know at admin@stjohnsbangor.org, so that we can sign you up for it. If you are receiving it, I'd love to hear from you as to what would make it more useful. Is there something you feel we're not updating you about often enough? Are there specific articles that you'd like to see? Please, fill my email with suggestions. - Vanessa

We have copies of Forward Day by Day at the office! The pocket version is in a clear box on the front door at 234 French Street and can be picked up any time. Need the large print version? Let Vanessa know at admin@stjohnsbangor.org and she'll either arrange a time for you to pick it up, or she'll mail it out to you.

Are you computer savvy? **We're looking for volunteers to help stream our Sunday services. We use Zoom and YouTube.** Are you not a computer wizard but comfortable with basic computer skills? **We also need volunteers to share their**

screen and music while in Zoom during the service. If you'd be interested in regularly volunteering on Sunday mornings doing one of these duties, please contact Eric Boberg at stewarship@stjohnsbangor.org.