



**Sunday December 6, 2020**  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two**

**Prelude**

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (Fanfare)- Karl Osterland*

**Welcome**

**The Word of God**

## Gathering Hymn

Hymn 65, v.s. 1-3, *Prepare the way, O Zion*



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

## Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Song of Praise

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

A Reading from the book of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13**

*Benedixisti, Domine*

*Said responsively*

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.**

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 **Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

13 **Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

### Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *There's a voice in the wilderness crying* (H 75) v. 1&3



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a —  
 2 O — Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
 3 but the word of our God — en - du - reth, the —



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The —  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 flowers of the field they — per - ish, like  
 feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!  
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;  
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

## Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Rev. Rebecca Liberty

## The Creed

**We believe in one God,  
     the Father, the Almighty,  
     maker of heaven and earth,  
     of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
     the only Son of God,  
     eternally begotten of the Father,  
     God from God, Light from Light,  
     true God from true God,  
     begotten, not made,**

of one Being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
     he came down from heaven:  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
     he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
     and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
     he suffered death and was buried.  
     On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the Scriptures;  
     he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
     He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
     and his kingdom will have no end.  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
     who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
     With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
     He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
     and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For the Most Rev. Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, and the Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

*The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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 stands and says*

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

## The Peace

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*                **And also with you.**

## The Holy Communion

### Offertory Sentence

I appeal to you, siblings in Christ, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

### Offertory Hymn

*Pescador De Hombres- Cesareo Gabarain*

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*"StJohnsBangor Donation \$50" to 73256 to donate using your text messaging. (Any amount donation can be made, \$50 is just an example.) Standard text message rates do apply. **Donations by check can be mailed** to : St. John's Episcopal Church, 234 French St., Bangor ME 04401.*

*Thank you for your continued support.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</b>

## Proper Preface

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## Words of Institution

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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,

forever and ever. **Amen.**

*By not partaking of the elements at this time, we express our longing for God's presence and our longing to gather once again in person as the body of Christ. None of us partake at this time, including those present in the church, as an expression of our unity as a congregation.*

*More information will be coming about opportunities to receive from the Reserve Sacrament, available on Second Saturdays of the month from 9-11am at the Church.*

*At the same time, we pray that we might recognize God's presence with us in our longing.*

## **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

Beloved, a spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray, expressing desire to receive Holy Communion in this moment, but in which circumstances impede us from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Since we now are apart, let us pray:

**Gracious Christ, you invite us to your feast, setting before us your heart's bread, and your life's wine. We yearn with all our souls to feast with you at the Altar, to taste and see the Lord's goodness today. Since we cannot now find union at the table, grant your presence spiritually. We offer you our hearts, lives and souls, that we may become eternally one. Amen.**

## **Time for Reflection - Communion Anthem**

*Veni, Veni, Emmanuel (Hymn 56)*

## **Blessing**

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## **Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*Wachet Auf- Setting No. I- Paul Manz*

## Parish Prayer List

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

**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** - Mary Harrison, Susan Blackmore, Sarah (Sally) Sawyer, and for all who have died from the Corona Virus around the world

**With Thanksgiving** for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the week including Janessa B., Shirley G., David I., Kay L., Tim R., and Lee S.

*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 Christmas Baskets** - St. John's has a special Christmas project. We provide supplies for a Christmas turkey dinner and toys to needy families that are serviced by Penquis Cap. The project is funded entirely by donations from St. John's parishioners. In the past we have asked parishioners to help by donating money or buying gifts, however, this year we are doing things a little differently so that everyone can stay safe. We are only asking for donations to help pay for the food and the gifts. This year, we would like to help about 15 families with a total of 28 children. It costs about \$90 for each basket of food. If we help 15 families the food will cost \$1350 in all. We also need \$25 per child to buy a gift for each child in these families. If we have a total of 28 children it will cost \$700 for all the toys. If you would like to make a donation toward the food and gifts you can send in a check. Please put the Christmas Basket Project in the memo line. You can also make a donation online at <https://stjohnsbangor.org/online-giving/> and select either "Christmas Basket Donation" to help fund the basket of food and the gifts for the children. This year more than ever many people need help at Christmas. Thank you for making a difference to these families. For further information contact Cassy Palmer, 949-9040.

C is for covid, but also for cookies! Our youth are embarking on an outreach project where we will be doing some baking and sharing our efforts with folks in need, with nonprofits in need of a boost, and with folks who are especially isolated and lonely during this time. If you have a suggestion about where some delicious baked goods and a colorful note might be appreciated, please pass them on to Anne-Marie at [youth@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:youth@stjohnsbangor.org).

Bedtime Bible Story- Our program with the parishes of St. Patricks, St. Marks, St. James and St. Albans continues! Please look for a link to a bedtime prayer and Bible

story each Monday evening. If you are not receiving the weekly links and would like to, please email Anne-Marie at [youth@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:youth@stjohnsbangor.org).

ST JOHN'S READS: *The Genesis Trilogy*, by Madeleine L'Engle. In this time of separation it seems a particularly good thing for us to find ways to strengthen our bonds to one another. One way to help with this is to read in companionship. Since we have just started another church year, L'Engle's trilogy on *Genesis* may be particularly appropriate. As the title implies, it is actually three books published in one volume. In *And It Was Good* L'Engle offers meditations on the Creation story, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, and Abraham; *A Stone For a Pillow* speaks of Isaac and Jacob; and *Sold Into Egypt* tells the story of Joseph. Many of you will be familiar with the writings of Madeleine L'Engle, which include *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Rock That is Higher*, and many others. In *The Genesis Trilogy* L'Engle brings the stories from Scripture into her own life and her life into them. As we always find when we meditate on the lives of people spoken about in the *Bible*, in the pages of newspapers, or in our own homes, human flaws abound. But when meditated on with a compassionate heart, we find that those imperfections become the very ties that bind us together and give us hope. There will be no Zoom meetings to discuss this book, no queries on your progress. Add it to your next Amazon order or find it in your local bookstore. Then read it as a gift to yourself.

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](mailto:deacon@stjohnsbangor.org)

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](mailto:patricia.sprague03@gmail.com).

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. Communion bags with the Reserve Sacrament can also be retrieved by appointment or by requesting delivery by emailing [community@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:community@stjohnsbangor.org). *On Sundays, we will share in spiritual communion only as an expression of our unity as a congregation, but stay tuned for more information about a regular opportunity to receive communion from the Reserve Sacrament. Contact Rev. Liberty if you have questions, [transitionpriest@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:transitionpriest@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.

**Big Red Truck Drive, Saturday, December 12 from 9 to 11 in front of St. John's Episcopal Church, 225 French Street, Bangor.** This month's collection will be a dual purpose for **Hope House and Bangor Homeless Adults.** For Hope House we will collect food (canned goods, rice/pasta, condiments, sugar etc) and clothing (sweat shirts/pants, jeans etc) For this December drive, we will also collect personal care items (soap, deodorant, toothpaste/brushes, lip balm), candy/gum/mints, socks, gloves, hats, and playing cards/crossword or word search pads to give to the Bangor Homeless adults. Each person's gift bag will include a hand-written note from church members. The items will be assembled into approximately 25 Christmas gift bags that will then be distributed by Bill Rae at the Bangor Brick Church on Union Street, Bangor. All donations are greatly appreciated.

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](mailto:marisue.pickering@maine.edu)> or Jane Zenk <[jzenkjzenk@gmail.com](mailto:jzenkjzenk@gmail.com)>

**December 15** - We are changing our book for December, with the new choice being *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier. It is a historical novel about two 19th English women who were fossil finders and collectors, one of whom is Mary Anning who was mentioned several times in Winchester's book. So we are having a second focus on

fossils! **January 19** - 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." and **February 16th** -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.

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 December 26th from 10:00am to 1:30pm!**

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](mailto:admin@stjohnsbangor.org) and she'll either arrange a time for you to pick it up, or she'll mail it out to you.

**We're looking for volunteers to help stream our Sunday services. We currently use Zoom and YouTube.** Are you not a computer wizard but comfortable with basic computer skills? **We 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 [stewardship@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:stewardship@stjohnsbangor.org).