

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



December 29, 2019

Called to embody God's love by welcoming everyone who enters
and by empowering all who stay to make a difference in the world.

Calendar

| | | |
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| Sun | Dec 29 | Christmas 1 Holy Eucharist 11 am |
| Thu | Jan 2 | Accessible Mindfulness 10 am |
| Sun | Jan 5 | Christmas 2, Holy Eucharist 11 am |
| Sun | Jan 12 | Epiphany 1, Holy Eucharist 11 am |
| Mon | Jan 13 | Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm |
| Thu | Jan 16 | Accessible Mindfulness 10 am |
| Sun | Jan 19 | Epiphany 2, Holy Eucharist 11 am, Annual Parish Meeting |
| Sun | Jan 26 | Epiphany 3, Holy Eucharist 11 am, Soup Supper, 5 pm |

[Sermon Link](#)

[Parish Profile 2019](#)

Serving this Sunday

Chalice:

Reader:

Music: Rosa Reily

Coffee:

Readings: [Isaiah 61:10-62:3](#),

[Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7](#),

[John 1:1-18](#). [Psalm 147 or 147:13-21](#)

Serving during December

Flowers: Judy Robinson

Muff Lyons Dec 25

Linen: Gerlinde Lindy

Communion: Gracia Slater &

Margot Wilcox

Bread: John Slater

Greeter: George Rector &

Joan Byrd

RIP

Nancy Joyner

1936-2019

Jubilate Deo Revived



The Jubilate Deo small choir is reuniting again for 2020! All who love singing are welcome to join this group. We will meet every four (4) months for a 2-hour session at which we will practice four (4) songs. On the Sundays we sing we'll gather at 10:15 to review the song for that day. We will usually sing on the last Sunday of the month. The first practice will be on **Sunday, January 5th at 3 pm** at the home of Rosa Reily. Please contact Rosa at reily2@frontier.com or 828-293-9358 for more information and to express interest. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 100)

An Advent Reflection by Paul Cooper

With the inexorable movement of our planet Earth around the Sun, we are now within three days of the Winter Solstice—the event where we will experience the least amount of daylight within a 24-hour period—what we commonly call “the shortest day of the year.”

Simultaneously with this physical phenomenon, our liturgical, theologically-oriented calendar in this Advent season also focuses upon the intriguing interplay of light and darkness, as these phenomena move ever so quietly, yet also, ever so powerfully within our lives.

Our Hebrew prophet ancestors writing from a perspective of the deeply-felt and dark despair of living as captives in a foreign land, utilized these images of despair and darkness as they wrote and spoke in multiple attempts to wrestle with the haunting question of “where was God” within their lives.

The darkness of despair can come in variant forms and experiences within all of our lives; being captive in a foreign land isn’t simply a geographical locale. Foreign lands have psychological and emotional addresses also. Thus, our identity with our Hebrew ancestors in periodic desires and searching for hope and light within our lives is echoed in the prayerful expectancy contained within the hymn, “O come, O come Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel who sits in lonely exile here.”

Less foreboding than the darkness and despair of exile and captivity in a foreign land, yet powerfully daunting none the less is what we often reference as the darkness of ignorance or “not-knowing.”

We expend significant effort and resources as we seek for lamps that provide the light of learning, where acquired information can then be honed and sharpened upon the pumice stone of life’s experiences, so that by acquiring a cutting-edge of knowledge, that knowledge can then be utilized and tested within the course of life’s multiple experiences, with the result that we are gifted with the lighted gift of wisdom.

Thus, it is from our Judeo-Christian heritage that we value and affirm the word of the Psalmist that “by the judgements of the Lord is your servant enlightened, and in the keeping of them there is great reward.”

Through the work of the psychiatrist, Carl Jung, and persons oriented to his perceptions and understandings, I believe that we have been assisted to better understand the darkness that we, as humans, often inhabit when we act out of a desire to protect the idealized and valued projections of the Self—i.e., the Ego.

When we defensively attempt to project outward to others—the self-image we value—it is in doing so that we invariably tend to pull down around us the curtains of rationalization and pretense - and thereby in effect, create within ourselves a darkness—a shadow that is often devoid of grace and self-acceptance; a darkness—a shadow that is often fueled from our anxieties and fears.

A radio program that I recall as a young child would begin each week with a haunting voice asking the question, “what evil lurks within the heart of man?” And the equally, haunting response would be, “the Shadow knows.”

One of the most freeing and enlightening experiences of life can be when we are able to draw upon the willingness and courage to face, embrace, and learn from “our shadow selves”—an experience that can enable the light of grace and self-acceptance to begin their healing work and to make experientially real within us the truth of the ancient scripture that “the light has come into the world and the dark-ness has not overcome it.”

This dance and the interplay of light and darkness in their multiple forms and experiences is a life-long given and a constant within our life experiences.

In a few days, we will sing a song that I wish to suggest encapsulates the totality of what I’ve attempted to share in these thoughts.

The song was originally a poem written on Christmas Day in 1863 by a distraught father, whose young son, Charles Applegate Longfellow, had left earlier that year—without parental permission—to enlist and fight with the Union Army, and who a few months later was critically wounded at the Battle of New Hope in Virginia.



As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow put pen to paper on that Christmas Day of 1863, can the surging, pulsating feelings of darkness and light—the back and forth movement from despair to hope, as they interplay and dance from Longfellow’s heart onto the page—become a means whereby we too can also reflect and perceive from within our periods of darkness and from within our world’s events—the sustaining promise of the light that brings grace, healing, hope, and comfort—the Light that shall prevail.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
 and wild and sweet
 The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along
 The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
 A voice, a chime,
 A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
 And with the sound
 The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearthstones of a continent,
 And made forlorn
 The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
 For hate is strong,
 And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
 The Wrong shall fail,
 The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”



**Greening of the Church
Christmas Eve Service
2019**





Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

Dec 30 **Brad Ulrich**
 Jan 1 **Dottie Brunette, Hank Sharp**

Anniversary

Jan 4 **Jane & Andy Coburn**

Virtual Closet

If you need medical-related equipment or have something you can offer, contact [Nancie Wilson](#). She keeps a list of who has what to facilitate sharing.

Box Tops for Education

There is a basket under the white board in the Parish Hall where you can place any of these box tops you may have. This is an ongoing project for our children.

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| Regular Activities | 2 nd Sundays Last Sundays 5-7 pm Sept-Apr Mondays 10:30 am 2 nd Mondays 1 st & 3 rd Thursdays | Rice & Beans Ministry Soup/Bread Community Supper Cullowhee Men's Group 10:30 am Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm Accessible Mindfulness 10 am |
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St. David's Links and Contact Information:

Website: stdavidscullowhee.org

[Lectionary Page 2019](#)

Newsletter editor: Maggie Bowles: magbowles@gmail.com

Church phone # and email: 828-331-1427

stdavidscullowhee@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 152, Cullowhee, NC 28723

Diocesan Links:

[Diocese of Western North Carolina](#)

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

[Sign up for Diocesan Newsletter](#)

[Camp Henry Facebook page](#)

www.lakelogan.org

St. David's Vestry Members:

Judy Robinson, Senior Warden

Muff Lyons, Junior Warden

Sandy Frazier—Gael Graham

Vance Davidson—Jake Jacobson

2019 Outreach Support

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| | From 1 st Sunday's loose plate offering and Soup Suppers | | |
| Jan | Circles of Hope | Aug | School Supplies drive |
| Feb | Clean Slate | Sep | Vecinos |
| Mar | Community Table | Oct | Midwives of Haiti |
| Apr | Mainspring Conservation Trust | Nov | to be determined |
| May | (general) | Dec | (general) |
| | May-Jun-Jul-Aug-no Soup Suppers (general outreach) | | |

St. David's Vestry

Senior Warden, Judy Robinson Junior Warden, Muff Lyons
Sandy Frazier Gael Graham
Vance Davidson Jake Jacobson
Steve Steinbrueck, Treasurer, is ex-officio to the vestry.

Vestry Stewardship Covenant 2019

St. David's Episcopal Church

We believe that God loves us unconditionally and desires that we love one another without exception; that God wants us to use the gifts we've been given including the gifts of listening, discerning, and doing. We trust in God's abundance and can respond in generosity and love by serving our community and creation in ways we never thought possible.

We commit to fostering a broad vision of stewardship as encompassing our physical church, our congregation, the community that surrounds us, and all of creation.

We invite the St. David's family to explore how we can embody God's love and promise of abundance in our process, practice, and reflection.