

Ka Leo o Timoteo

The voice of St. Timothy's

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land deep in darkness on them a light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2).

Dear St. Timothy's 'Ohana-
Happy Advent!

It is hard to believe how quickly time flies in this pandemic altered world. All the days seem to run together and many of the seasonal guideposts and events we took for granted are missing or diminished.

This is my second Christmas as Vicar at St. Timothy's and in looking back two years ago when I first arrived, I was excited to try some new things and some new events. We were working hard and well on our way to paying off old debts and becoming more financially secure while looking at some new capital improvement projects on campus.

This year, however, took a dramatic turn under COVID-19 conditions. Festal holy days such as Easter and Ascension Day were spent in lockdown. Students and parents worked from home, we hoarded toilet paper and not just because it was hurricane season. Many of you missed celebrating Thanksgiving with your family, a difficult decision, but the right one under the circumstances. Christmas may pose a similar challenge and dilemma. I do understand. Every decision to visit a family member or member of the congregation is weighed against the risks of possibly transmitting Coronavirus. We have been through so much.

Now more than any time in memory, we need to celebrate the season the best we can. Maybe you can share a meal with someone close to you in the church or with a neighbor. Eat outside, if safety is a consideration. Decorate your home. Do not deny yourself the joy of the season! It is vital that you connect as best you can with family and friends by phone or the internet. You could go that “old school” step and send out a real Christmas card. Do be aware of those who are alone this holiday season. If anyone needs help, please let me know.

In my sermon on Sunday, Advent 1, I said that Advent is a season that is historically spiritually similar to Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with the marking of ashes upon our foreheads. Advent also involves “ASH” as well in the form of an acronym: Aching, Sorrow, and Hope.

In Advent we anticipate the coming Messiah and prepare our hearts; we Ache for the presence of God. We make ready our homes and church for the coming of Christ. We sometimes feel that God is far from us and we yearn to know and to feel God's presence. Isaiah 40:10 says, “See the Lord God comes with power...” God comes- this is not a hypothetical but an active reality. This anticipation and making ready involves self reflection, acknowledgement of our sins- the “Sorrow” we feel in them and our need for forgiveness and grace. This culminates in the birth of the Incarnate One- Emmanuel: God with us.

Finally, Christmas is a season of Hope. The prophet Isaiah's words are as relevant to us today as they ever were: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land deep in darkness on them a light has shined.” (Is. 9:2). Winter has come and there is no doubt that the we are passing through a deep darkness. We desperately need to hear words of hope today.

There is no darkness that the Light and love of God cannot shine through. The darkness of uncertainty and fear affects us in this present time every day from how we can gather, to where we can shop, how we travel, or even how we worship. But winter will eventually give way to spring. The barren and bitter chill will find its end in the budding leaves of new life. Light shines on the horizon; a new day has begun. This is the Hope of Christmas. This is why we celebrate Jesus' birth.

Into this world Jesus is born. Emmanuel- God with us- is born among us, not in palatial splendor or even in his own home, but in a barn among the animals. A Light has come into the world and not even the darkness of the pandemic can dare to stop it.

I pray that the Hope and Joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons bring you comfort and peace as we look forward to 2021 and with it, new promises of hope and new beginnings.

Thank you for continuing to be a part of our St. Timothy's 'Ohana. Charmaine, Annaliese, and I wish you all the happiest of holiday greetings.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings,




Happy Birthday!

- 12/2 Mark Tucker
- 12/4 Francis Ballesteros
- 12/11 Roxanne Birch
- 12/12 Dewey Hamasaki
- 12/14 Kurt Hirose
- 12/15 Angie Hamasaki
- 12/18 Grace Iwami
- 12/20 Jana Dove
- 12/30 Jane Hamasaki



SAVE THE DATE:
JANUARY 24, 2021

ST TIMOTHY'S
ANNUAL MEETING

Parish Staff

The Reverend Daniel L. Leatherman, Vicar
daniel.leatherman@sttimothysaiea.org

Paul Mahuka, Parish Manager
pmakuha@sttimothysaiea.org

Angie Delight, Organist

Member Directory



The Pastoral Care calls to members of the church during the pandemic has highlighted the need for us to update our Church Member database and fill in the blanks when it comes to contact information, birthdays, anniversaries, and family members.

Please fill out the form which can be found on our website under "Connect" (<https://www.sttimothysaiea.org/memberupdate.html>) and send it to us at updates@sttimothysaiea.org.



Reservation System for Christmas Services

Under the Mayors current COVID-19 Emergency order, while in Tier 2, houses of worship may gather at up to 50% of their capacity. As we prepare for our Christmas services, St. Timothy's will implement a reservation system to help us with managing attendance on Christmas Eve and special services, AND to assist us with maintaining a contact tracing log. If you wish to reserve seats for a service, follow the link on our Home page and be sure to read our COVID-19 safety protocol.

The reservation link and instructions can be found at: <https://www.sttimothysaiea.org/xmasreg>.

If you have technical questions, please contact the Church Office at 488-5747. This reservation system is for in-person attendance only. If you are joining us online via our livestream you do not need a reservation.



Christmas Poinsettia Purchase

The Christmas poinsettia are used to beautify our church and altar. They will be available for pick-up after Midnight Mass, on Christmas Eve. Please call 488-5747 or email the church office: office@sttimothysaiea.org for your reservations. Payments can be made by mail or in person (please call for an appointment). Each 6inch Red (20) and White (20) poinsettia plant costs \$15.



Holiday Photo Opportunity

Santa has loaned St Timothy's his sleigh for photo opportunities. He has also left some goodies to share!

You, your family, and friends (social distancing, please) can stand behind it and take photos with your cell phone for a digital Christmas Card or email, to send to your other family and friends not able to join you. Sleigh will be available following both services on Sundays until noon, starting Dec 13.

Safe Church Training: Why We Do It

Every Christian community has an obligation to care for and protect the most vulnerable. The Episcopal church has developed a training program to help protect our most vulnerable members, especially within the setting of the church where we all should experience love and safety. To that end, Diocesan policy and St. Timothy's Church is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment where the full work of the Church can take place and all of God's people can grow and flourish in their ministries. The Episcopal Church's program called "Safe Church" or "Safeguarding God's People" is a series of computer-based training modules centered on topics such as sexual misconduct, human trafficking, elder and child abuse with the intention of informing and giving people the tools to prevent, identify and respond to situations of abuse or misconduct.



Who needs to complete this training?

The Diocese requires this training for all clergy, employees, and most volunteers. This includes all paid employees, members of diocesan commissions/committees, youth group directors, Sunday school directors, choir directors, acolyte leaders, lay eucharistic ministers and visitors, vestry members, worship leaders, anyone going into someone's home in any role related to the church, regular church volunteers, etc. (Safeguarding policy, 2017).

Recertification is required every three years.

Aiea Complex School Supply Drive

On November 21, the Aiea High School PTSO, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, and several community organizations held a supply drive to help families and schools during this pandemic. The event honored the late Senator Breene Harimoto who was a strong advocate for education. They successfully collected school supplies, cleaning necessities, and monetary donations to help the 7 schools in the Aiea area. Through the community's generosity, the 'Aiea PTSO donated \$500 to St Timothy's which we will use to repair the sacristy window.





Greening the Church

Mahalo nui loa to those that were able to join us on Advent 1 Sunday between services to help us green up the church. This included hanging wreaths and garlands, greening the Advent wreath, and setting up a Christmas tree. We will continue to change and transform the space to make it ready for Christmas. If you weren't able to join us and would like to help, we will still need volunteers to take it down in January.



Ideas for Living Joyfully (even in a pandemic!)

Forty Days of Celtic Advent & the Twelve Days of Christmas 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 15 Create an Advent reflection space in your house. What will you put in it to inspire your journey?	16 Determine where the nativity will be placed in your house. Fill it with the animals, straw, and the empty manger.	17 Place Mary & Joseph far from the stable but where you can see them. Start them on their journey to the nativity.	18 Place the Magi farther from the nativity and marvel at their trust, led only by a star, to find their King.	19 Pray for the world, for peace and for an end to the pandemic.	20 Get out some colored pencils and crayons and color. Pray for someone as you do.	21 Singles and elders are feeling isolated. Write notes encouraging them and check-in.
22 CS Lewis Day Appreciate an animal companion today and look for the Deeper Magic! Aslan Lives!!	23 Text a loved one a favorite memory of them. Mary & Joseph move closer.	24 If you are out, wave at people you see. Don't let distance and masks impede acknowledgement.	25 List what you are thankful for, tell God, tell each other. Start a gratitude list.	26 Invite a single person to join you for a meal via Zoom.	27 Reach out to a person whom you haven't seen recently.	28 Make a tasty something and give it away, or donate to a local food pantry.
29 Four-week Advent begins How is Jesus being born in you?	30 Read or Tell stories to loved ones (even on Zoom, if necessary).	December 1 Turn off recorded music and sing some favorite songs. The Magi move closer.	2 Write a gratitude note to a family member. Hide it in their pocket.	3 Call a friend & tell them one thing you appreciate about them.	4 Enjoy a grilled cheese sandwich & tomato soup or other comfort dish.	5 Take a break from screens and look out the window. What do you see?
6 Tell someone that God loves them. Mary & Joseph move closer.	7 Have tea or a meal with a friend you haven't seen in awhile, on Zoom.	8 Text a word of encouragement to 5 loved ones.	9 Spend time with favorite artwork. What sparkles? The Magi move closer.	10 Take a break from your smartphone and all screens this evening.	11 Mail a note to someone. Describe how they are gift to the world & you!	12 Light candles for whatever places or situations break your heart.
13 Gaudete Sunday Read Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55. Light a pink candle for JOY and share joys with loved ones. Mary & Joseph move closer.	14 Take a walk and enjoy the Christmas lights.	15 Listen to some favourite music that makes you smile. The Magi move closer.	16 Notice the really small things in life, like bugs or dust bunnies.	17 The "O" Antiphons: Wisdom (Isa. 11:2-3) Who is a voice of wisdom in your life? Thank her or him.	18 Lord (Isa 33:22) Ask God how he wants to be the Lord of your life. Listen. Mary & Joseph move closer.	19 Root of Jesse (Isa 11:10) Write memories of God's faithfulness in your life on paper ornaments & hang them on the tree.
20 Key of David (Rev. 3:7) What door of your life do you need God to open & bring grace? God has the key to every door.	21 Morning Star (Isa 9:2) Pray for God's light to shine in a situation that is breaking your heart. The Magi move closer.	22 King of Nations (Isa 9:6) Listen to Handel's "For Unto us a Child is Born. What does Christ's birth mean?"	23 Emmanuel (Isa 7:14) How is God with you? Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (all the verses!).	24 Christmas Eve Celebrate with your church. Mary & Joseph enter the stable	25 Feast of the Nativity John 1:1-5 Make a joy list. Put Jesus in the Nativity; add the Shepherds, too	26 St. Stephen's Day The First Martyr The Twelve Days of Christmas Begins! Genesis 1:3 The Magi journey closer each day
27 Psalm 139:11-12	28 The Holy Innocents Pray for children around the world Matt. 19:14	29 Isaiah 58:10	30 Isa 60:19	31 Ps 43:3	1 Matt 5:14-16	2 John 8:12
3 1 Peter 2:9	4 Romans 8	5 Epiphany Eve Luke 4:1-21 Move the Magi to the stable	January 6 – February 1 Epiphany and Epiphanytide Chalk your lintels and the lintels of friends' houses with the Epiphany blessing 20+C+M+B+21 . CMB represents the names of the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), and also the Latin phrase, <i>Christus Mansionem Benedicat</i> – Christ Bless this House!			

How we spend our days is how we spend our lives. Annie Dillard
Calendar created with joy by Susan Forshey at ContemplativeCottage.com. Please share freely.

Charitable Contribution Deduction Rules for 2020

From Peter Pereira, Diocesan Treasurer

Prior to the CARES Act passed in March 2020, the annual income tax deduction limits for individuals were as follows for gifts to public charities, including donor-advised funds:

- 1) 60% of AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) limit for cash contributions
- 2) 30% of AGI limit for non-cash assets held for more than one year
- 3) 50% of AGI limit for blended contributions of cash and non-cash assets.



Donations in excess of these limits are carried forward for up to 5 years.

As a result of the CARES Act, the following changes apply solely to the year 2020:

- 1) Donors who take the standard deduction instead of itemizing their deductions may deduct up to \$300 for cash contributions to operating charities.
- 2) Donors who itemize their deductions have an option to elect a 100% of AGI deduction limit for cash contributions made to charities.

These revised limits for 2020 are not available for contributions to donor-advised funds, supporting organizations, or private foundations.

These are just the general rules. More specific rules may apply. Please consult your tax accountant for specific information about how these rules will affect your individual tax situation.

Communications Alert & Reminders Text Messaging Scams

E-mail scams have been a constant threat and annoyance to our online communications, and now, scamming through text messaging is becoming more prevalent.



A couple members of our Diocese recently received a bogus text message from the "Bishop" asking them to purchase gift cards for a cancer patient because he was in a meeting and couldn't do it. One of the phone numbers being used is (808) 401-2192. Bishop Bob would never send any communication (text, email, letter, fax, etc.) requesting gift cards. Report these fraudulent communications to the appropriate authorities and block the sender(s).

Complicating matters are that scammers are using legitimate local numbers to lure people in. Known as spoofing, a text or call could even appear to come from a friend or familiar contact. Always remain vigilant about sharing personal information and question requests for something of value from anyone! When in doubt, always contact the person directly to reconfirm.

We are following Diocesan recommendations by removing email addresses from our website/social media feeds and using a contact form. We also do not display someone's personal phone number.

For more information and for a short informational video on spoofing you can go to:
<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofing-and-caller-id>.

Quotation Corner...

Sabbath keeping says clearly that we are not going to do what everybody else does. We are going to be deliberate about our choices in order to love truly as we want to live in response to the grace of God.

- Marva Dawn, author & theologian

Watching and Waiting: A Reflection on an Advent Hymn

In the readings for this season, the common theme of watching and waiting is evident. This is no surprise since the Latin word for “advent” means “coming.” While many of the traditional Christmas carols focus on the joy of the season (i.e. Jingle Bless, Deck the Halls, White Christmas, Joy to the World, We Wish You a Merry Christmas), Advent hymns intend to focus the heart on the longing we have for the coming of Christ. Advent hymns invite the church to celebrate the Incarnation instead of the holiday season, and to prepare for the hope of the world to be born in the manger in Bethlehem.

Through Dec 24, we are in Advent. Hymnal 1982 contains 26 hymns in the “Advent” section. There are also other hymns not included in the Advent section but are thematically connected to it. In this article, I want to focus on one well known Advent hymn.

O Come O Come Emmanuel (Hymn 56), has its origins in the great O Antiphons that emerged no later than the 8th Century, though their exact origins are unknown. There is a reference by 6th century philosopher Boethius thereby suggesting that they were present in the early 500’s. The O Antiphons are seven short chants of praise (called Magnificat antiphons) that were used in the service of Vespers (Evening Prayer) during the last seven days of Advent (December 17-23). One antiphon was sung each day. What is notable about each antiphon is that the second word helps to form an acrostic: read in reverse order from the last to the first stanza, the Latin words begin with the letters ERO CRAS which is Latin for “I shall be present tomorrow.” If one antiphon is read each day, the full text of the acrostic is revealed only on the Dec 23, the day before Christmas Eve.

The Antiphons are:

- O *Sapientia* (O Wisdom)
- O *Adonai* (O Lord)
- O *radix Jesse* (O root of Jesse).
- O *clavis David* (O key of David).
- O *Oriens* (O Dayspring)
- O *Rex gentium* (O King of the nations)
- O *Emmanuel* (O God with us)

Each antiphon is based on one or more passages of scripture. A five-verse hymn based on the O Antiphons was found in the 1710 publication of *Psalterium Cantonium Catholicarum*. This version, whose origin is unknown, was the immediate source of the translation we sing in church. The hymn itself is not a translation nor even a paraphrase, but rather the focus of each verse is given to the petition at the end of each line, e.g.: “to us the path of knowledge show...;” and “disperse the gloomy clouds of night...”

The musical tune, *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* has an equally uncertain origin. It first appears in musical publications of the 1850’s and was adapted by Thomas Helmore. It was later revealed by Mother Thomas More* in 1966 that this melody was found in a 15th Century book of litanies and hymns formerly belonging to French Franciscan nuns, but whether or not this is the actual source that Helmore used remains a mystery.

Reflection: In the musical canon for Advent, O Come, O Come Emmanuel is one of our most ancient works and because of its connection to the great O Antiphons of the 6th century or earlier, it has stood the test of time. Some might ask the question, “Why should we still sing a hymn that is over 1500 years old?”

I still sing this hymn (and others do as well) because it touches something deep inside of us. Perhaps the peaceful and plainsong nature of this hymn where even the joyous refrain, “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!” seems subdued and calming. This characteristic certainly helps to center and settle our hearts amidst the craziness of the holiday rush.

Finally, each verse of O Come, O Come Emmanuel beckons God to come nearer to us. There are many facets of God and some are named in the hymn, but each line speaks to the heart of Advent- an ache for God’s presence, sorrow and repentance, and lastly hope. Though Advent still calls us to repentance and for the need to remain awake and alert challenges us in these times. Yet, the coming of Emmanuel (God with us) is always something we can celebrate. I cannot imagine an Advent or a Christmas without the inclusion of this marvelous hymn.

*Mother Thomas More was the pseudonym of British musicologist Mary Berry

Sources:

“56 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” A Hymnal Companion, Vol. 3A, The Church Hymnal Corporation, 1994;

“Veni Emmanuel” at Hymnary.org, https://hymnary.org/tune/veni_emmanuel_chant, accessed 12/2/2020

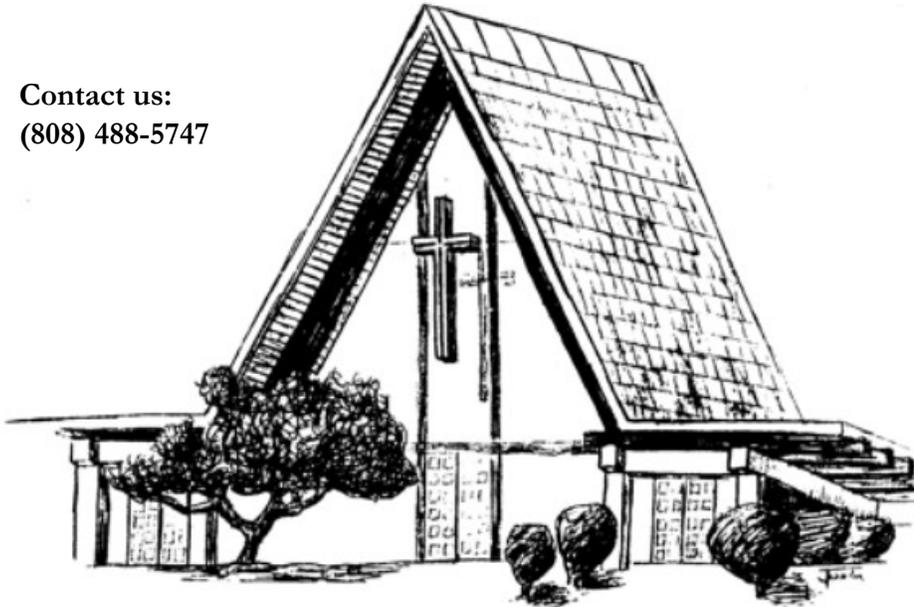


ST. TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Aiea, HI 96701-5012

Contact us:
(808) 488-5747



From St. Timothy's archives

St. Timothy's Events

Classes, Meetings, & Services

Sunday

8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II
(in person and live streamed)

10:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II
(in person)

Wednesday

11:00 AM - Bible Study
(online only)

6:00 PM - Evening Prayer
(live streamed only)

7:00 PM - Adult Formation
(online only)

Calendar Highlights

12/6 Second Sunday in Advent
12/13 Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

12/20 Fourth Sunday in Advent
12/24 Christmas Eve Services
6 PM
11 PM (Midnight Mass*)

*There will be no Lessons and Carols prior to Midnight Mass

12/25 Christmas Day Service
10 AM

12/27 First Sunday After Christmas

Holiday Services

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve: 6 PM and 11 PM (Midnight Mass); Christmas Day: 10 AM