



# EMMANUEL NEWS

January 2016

[www.alexmnepiscopal.org](http://www.alexmnepiscopal.org)

[episcopal@centurylink.net](mailto:episcopal@centurylink.net)

From Fred Nairn

We have been complaining (not me) about the brown Christmas and our terrible lack of snow cover. I know moisture is essential in whichever form it comes and, whilst snow is not the most efficient delivery system it is the most common at this time of year. I am writing now in the Milwaukee area when a big-deal snowstorm is under way forcing travel plan restructuring and the rest. No sooner had the “Be very afraid” weather reports begun during and after yesterday’s games – good for The Vikes, sorry Pack – but came the muttering and moaning and predictions of chaos and don’t move or breathe unless you have to (that would be my panicky sister-in-law in full voice). Easy for me, of course, since I don’t actually have to move anywhere until Friday and I am certainly happy that we had a clear drive yesterday. So I do sympathize for those who have to be out and about whether they like it or not; I suppose the first winter storm is always a big deal and snow does bring us a bit more brightness at this time of year and it is pretty if you are just looking at it or playing in it.



I mentioned in my short homily on Christmas Eve at Emmanuel that Mary Jo and I were in Paris last Christmas Eve and Boxing Day (Feast of Stephen but no snow lying either deep or even) and I have a photograph to prove it. It is a

lovely picture of a lovely woman standing by a municipal Christmas tree right by Notre Dame Cathedral. The sky is blue and the streets are crowded with promenading Parisians taking the air Christmas Day afternoon which is,

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P O Box 231  
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320-763-3201

**Sunday Service: 10 a.m.**  
**Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.**  
**Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.**

**Pastoral Care:** Contact Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon or [320-763-3201](tel:320-763-3201) or [episcopal@centurylink.net](mailto:episcopal@centurylink.net)

Support Staff  
DeAnn Runge, email: [episcopal@centurylink.net](mailto:episcopal@centurylink.net)

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Godly Play Director/Teacher:  
Verlie Sinning  
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**Vestry:**

Karen Reicks	Sr. Warden ('16)
John Hull	Jr. Warden ('18)
Verlie Sinning	Treasurer ('18)
Tim Johnson	('18)
John Hull	('18)
Mary Sinning	('18)
Rachael Sinning	('16)
Wendy Zander	('18)

**Delegates to Region and Convention:**

Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon  
Alternate: Belvin Doebbert

apparently, what they do when they, the streets, aren't thronged with tourists sporting Burberry umbrellas and Louis Vuitton handbags. Not a tourist in sight except for a couple, one of whom is hiding behind the camera, his favorite place.

The point of this particular ramble is the light or the luminescence of the scene captured on camera - it was magical – it wasn't the light of the sun though it was of course, but the great golden orb was low in the sky giving everything a lift as if it was backlit – the streets, the pedestrians, the cathedral and the decorated trees which lined the bridge Pont Neuf over the Seine were shimmering. Mary Jo was wearing her lovely new hat which Santa had bought for her and which she lost the next day. We were on our way to an organ recital in the great cathedral, God was in His Heaven and all was right with the world.

We were at Emmanuel this Christmas Eve and very glad to be there but we couldn't help saying to one another, "This time last Christmas Eve ..." or "This time last Christmas Day ..." and hoping that the residents of that great city were again promenading their stately streets defying the forces that would change or destroy them, the forces who had so cruelly and devastatingly attacked their young and not so young. The New York Times Sunday Review, December 27, had four full pages of photographs that defined their photo journalists' year. They were almost entirely images of misery – in Paris, Beirut, Syria, Turkey, San Bernardino, Colorado Springs. They were neither bright nor cheerful. In spite of all that and much more lest we despair, the theme of light and with it hope is ever present during the liturgical Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. Indeed it is the central theme of the Gospel message – Jesus, the Light of the World, the light which cannot be extinguished despite "mans' inhumanity to man." At the beginning of the first creation story in Genesis the Creator decrees, "Let there be light!" In the beginning of the Gospel of John the Evangelist writes, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was made flesh..." in the person of Jesus. The writer goes on, "He was the light which lightens everyone ... the light has shined in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it [the Word]."

We have many places of darkness in our world and some in our inner being but they cannot and must not overcome the Light. As we move into a new year with all of its opportunities and challenges we must remain steadfast in both the hope and the promise that whatever the darkness, public or personal, the Light of the World has already overcome and will not be turned back, cannot be defeated and will prevail. There is no darkness that the Light of Christ cannot overcome.

### **Senior Warden Report – January 2016**

By this time, you have received the Stewardship letter. This letter reviews what Emmanuel has done in 2015. Included with the letter was a pledge form. Your pledge helps us to make a budget for next year. Please consider what you can give to Emmanuel and return this form by January 11. Thank you.

**The Annual Meeting will be held on January 31 immediately after the service.** The annual meeting is where we discuss the goals and plans for our church. The budget is set for 2016. Please try to attend this meeting so you can have input into the future of our church. Lunch will be provided.

Please call Karen at 320-808-6484 if you have any questions.

# Lectionary Readings for January

## January 3

Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a  
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23  
or Luke 2:41-52  
or Matthew 2:1-12  
Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

## January 10

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
Psalm 29

## January 17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11  
Psalm 36:5-10

## January 24

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21  
Psalm 19

## January 31

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30  
Psalm 71:1-6



Position	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
					<i>Annual Meeting</i>
<b>Priest</b>	Rev. Nairn	Rev. Hegge	Rev. Preble	Rev. Preble	Rev. Emery
<b>Organist</b>	Margaret Kalina	Bev Steuck	JoNette Brogaard	Nancy Anderson	Laurie Krueger
<b>Lector 1</b>	Wendy Zander	Mark Reicks	Wendy Zander	Karen Reicks	Mark Reicks
<b>Lector 2</b>	Laird Barber	John Hull	Laird Barber	John Hull	Farren Moical
<b>Alter</b>	Karen Reicks	Tim Johnson			
<b>Usher</b>					Tim & Farren
<b>S School</b>	Verlie & JoEllen	Verlie & Wendy			<i>No Sunday School</i>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Wendy Zander	Farren & Tim	Wendy Zander		
<b>Coffee</b>	Verlie Sinning	Karen/Mark Reicks	Mary Sinning		<i>Lunch Provided</i>

**Remember in Your Prayers:** *(please take this list home and use as a prayer list):* All clergy serving Emmanuel, especially Charles, Linnae and Tom - Jana Preble - Bishop Brian Prior - Don Krueger - Sherman Family - John - Mary Sinning - Heegaard's nephew Nicholas - Edith Kelly - Bill & Josie Heegaard - Don's daughter Tracy - Josh Sinning - Edith's daughter Dana - Laird - Pat Weinmann - Don & Ann Hultstrand - Mike & Lana Ennis - JoEllen's father Al - Total Ministry Team - Heartland Girls Ranch - Military Personnel - Law Enforcement Officers - Peace in the World - The Food Shelf, the volunteers, & all who use it - People of Ziwa and the Rift Valley - Future of the Episcopal Church



## January Birthdays

Donna Ziegelman  
Linnae Hegg  
JoEllen Doebbert  
John Hull  
Mark Reicks  
Stephanie Schaper  
Christian Schaper  
Flynn Bakkum-Byne



## Hymn of the Month By Tim Johnson

Hymn #129 First Line Title: “Christ upon the mountain peak” Tune Name: *Mowsley*  
Text Author: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936) Tune Composer: Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)

When researching a hymn of the month (or in this case, hymn of the season), there are occasions during which I stumble upon a hymn which does not have a great story behind its origin. Also, I often feel like the proverbial broken record when I begin an article with this statement; however, “Christ upon the mountain peak”, our Hymn of Epiphany, is one of those selections. The author of our hymn’s text is Brian A. Wren who holds the title of Emeritus Professor of Worship at Columbia Theological University in Decatur, Georgia. He is known internationally as a hymn-poet (in other words, simply an author of hymns) and many of his works have appeared in a number of interdenominational hymnals published in recent years. Our own Hymnal 1982 contains six hymns attributed to him. Wren is a minister within the United Reformed Church of the United Kingdom. This denomination was formed in 1972 as the result of a merger between the Presbyterian Church in England and the Congregational Churches in England and Wales. Additional denominations joined this union approximately ten years later.

The text for this hymn is based upon the gospel accounts of the Transfiguration from Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. It appropriately appears in the Epiphany section of our Hymnal as it speaks to Christ’s appearing which is most evident in stanza four: “*This is God’s beloved Son! Law and prophets fade before him; first and last and only One, let creation now adore him! Alleluia!*”

With regard to the melody, this is not the first time that we have encountered the tune *Mowsley*. In fact this same tune is also assigned to #195, the hymn “Jesus lives! Thy terrors now” which served as our Hymn of the Month just this past Eastertide. Even though the melody may continue to be somewhat new to us, perhaps you may find something mildly familiar about it? When speaking of tune names for those having their origins in England or the United States, I have noted in past articles that many of these stem from the place-names for the locations where they were either composed or first performed. Per the article addressing #195, none of the sources make any mention of a location in conjunction with the process of naming the tune. However, it is of English origin and there is in fact a village in England with the name of “Mowsley”. Perhaps this was where the tune was written or first used?

Again, this is possibly the third time that Cyril Vincent Taylor has appeared in these articles. Taylor was a priest within the Church of England who eventually became producer for BBC religious programming. Not only did he compose the tune to which we sing both “Christ upon the mountain peak” as well as “Jesus lives! Thy terrors now”, but he is also responsible for yet another which we learned in the not too distant past, “God is love, let heaven adore Him”. To briefly revisit the tune for this latter hymn, “God is love, let heaven adore Him”, was formerly sung to a tune by the name of “*Austria*” prior to the Second World War. As this tune also served as the melody of the German National Anthem under the Nazi Régime, popular sentiment of the times called for an English tune which would bear no recollection of the original German melody. Taylor’s solution to this dilemma was to compose “*Abbot’s Leigh*”, the tune to which has been appointed to this text ever since.

Even though some may find the tune slightly challenging at first due to its quick meter and frequent turns, it is also the sort of melody which grows on a person fairly quickly and many may find it to be the hymn that they find themselves humming under their breath as they leave the service. This has already been the case with me!

Sources:

[http://www.hymnary.org/person/Taylor\\_CV](http://www.hymnary.org/person/Taylor_CV)

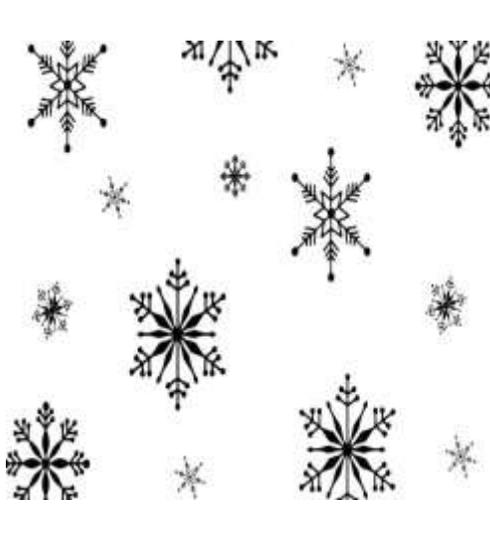
[http://www.hymnary.org/person/Wren\\_Brian](http://www.hymnary.org/person/Wren_Brian)

## Weather Cancellations

In the last couple of years extremely poor weather has forced us to cancel services four times: December 29 in 2013, January 5 & 26 in 2014, and February 18 (Ash Wednesday) in 2015. Services are not cancelled without a lot of thought. The supply priest, Tom, any available members of the Vestry, and senior warden decide what is the best and safest choice. After making the decision, the next problem is to let everyone know.

We will try to make the decision to cancel late Saturday afternoon/evening rather than Sunday morning because it is very important to be sure that everyone is contacted. But weather is extremely changeable, and it may be necessary to cancel on Sunday morning.

These are the steps that will be followed:

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1. Pay attention to the weather. If the weather forecast is predicting "no travel advised" or any kind of extreme weather for Saturday night and/or Sunday morning/afternoon, please check your email on Saturday evening and again on Sunday morning.
  2. An email will be sent out on Saturday afternoon/evening stating there is a possibility that there will not be church and asking you to check your email before leaving for church.
  3. An email will be sent out announcing cancellation of church. This will be done late Saturday night or early Sunday morning (before 7:00 am).

*Only people who do not have an email address will be called and a message left on their answering machine if no one answers. Other people will not be called. If you specifically want to be called, please let Karen know by early December. If you know of anyone who does not have or may not check their email, please call them and let them know.*

If possible local radio or TV stations will be asked to put a notice on the air and on their websites. I will call as many local stations as possible; but some stations do not staff their offices on Sunday morning.

I certainly hope that the forecasters are correct and that we have a relatively mild winter so that no services have to be cancelled. But it is always good to have a plan.

Karen Reicks  
320-808-6484



Address service requested

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