

8 December 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a blessing it is to be traveling together through this Advent season!

I could not be more happy with our "[Coming Home for Advent and Christmas](#)" preaching series at the 11 a.m. service. So far we have heard the former Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori, our own Dean Emeritus Alan Jones, and former Cathedral Canon and current Church Divinity School of the Pacific Professor Susanna Singer.

Now we are looking forward to the former Cathedral School Head Malcolm Manson, Ellen Clark King, Bishop Marc Andrus and former Bishop William Swing. These are some of the best preachers of our time each reflecting on what it means to find your spiritual home.

The chapter house has been thrilled that our new Executive Pastor Ellen Clark King arrives for her first day on Sunday December 11. She preaches her first sermon on

Sunday, December 18 at 11 a.m. We are very pleased to welcome her and her husband the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King to our community.

This afternoon I spoke with Benjamin Bergery and Jim Campbell [our 2016 Artists in Residence](#) as they installed their magnificent 47-foot-high light sculpture in the north aisle of the cathedral. We will be blessing them and their work at a special Evensong at 5:15 p.m. tonight.

I'll also be talking with them at [The Forum](#) this Sunday, December 11 at 9:30 a.m. to learn more about their important work. Later that day at 5 p.m., we will have the official opening reception.

There are so many great ways to get involved in service this season at the cathedral. We have donated and wrapped 200 presents for children of incarcerated parents. Our yoga community is collecting and wrapping presents for others in need while we are working with Cathedral School for Boys to prepare food and packed toiletries. You can volunteer to usher at a concert. [Let us know what you might be able to do to help.](#)

May God bless you with the presence of the holy during this season of darkness and light. Thank you for being the light of the world!

Love,
Malcolm



We are so grateful to our warm and loving congregation during this season of stewardship. Today, we are 82% to our goal of 400 pledging households participating for 2017. Hundreds of hearts representing pledges adorn our St. Francis statue. We also thank our stewardship committee for their 100% participation and leadership. During the month of December, we are publishing the name of each pledging family as a welcome to thousands of Christmas visitors to Grace Cathedral.

If you call Grace your home, please [renew your support or join us with your pledge.](#)

Advent is a special time in the church for spiritual renewal. Join us in observing this time through daily prayers, reflections, music and crafts all on our [Advent calendar](#). Information on our sermon series, Christmas concerts, Christmas services and volunteer opportunities is also available at [gracecathedral.org/advent](#).



Our beloved [Christmas concerts](#) return this week. We are offering a special 50% off discount for **this weekend's concerts** to congregation members with code "grace."

Tickets are selling fast; buy yours at [City Box Office](#) before they're all sold out!



Sing You a Merry Christmas
Saturdays, December [10](#) and [17](#) at 11 a.m.
Friday, December [23](#) at 4 p.m.
Sing along with your favorite holiday carols as the toys of St. Nicholas's workshop lead young and old alike on an extraordinary journey.



A Cathedral Christmas
Saturdays and Sundays, December [10](#), [11](#), [17](#) and [18](#) at 3 p.m.
Monday, December [12](#) at 7:30 p.m.
The Choir of Men and Boys, accompanied by orchestra and the grand pipe organ, present traditional carols and holiday masterpieces.



Messiah in Grace Cathedral
December [14](#), [15](#), [16](#) at 7:30 p.m.
This annual performance brings together Handel's timeless score and outstanding performances in one of San Francisco's most breathtaking settings.



A Brass & Organ Christmas: The Bay Brass
Monday, December [19](#) at 7:30 p.m.
A consortium of the finest musicians in the Bay Area pair the wonderful sound of brass with Grace Cathedral's 7,466-pipe organ for the musical highlight of the year.

Please join us in unveiling a new light art installation by our [2016 Artists in Residence](#) Benjamin Bergery and Jim Campbell.



Jacob's Dream: A Luminous Path evokes a connection between earth and heaven, between the seen and unseen. All are welcome at several great events planned in celebration of the opening. First, tonight's Evensong service at 5:15 p.m. will include a special procession and blessing of the artwork.

On Sunday, the artists will share the inspiration and creative process for *Jacob's Dream* at [The Forum at 9:30 a.m.](#) [The official opening](#) is later that evening at 5 p.m., with a reception to follow. The piece is on view daily during normal cathedral hours.

The Ven Malcolm H. Manson, Archdeacon for Schools and former headmaster of The Cathedral School for Boys, will preach at the 11 a.m service this [Sunday, December 11](#) as part of our "Coming Home for Advent and Christmas" sermon series.



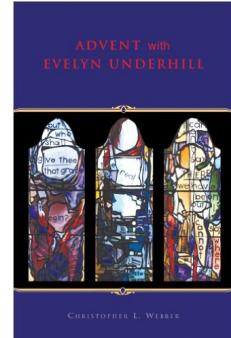
The [Advent Sale continues this Sunday, December 11](#), right after the 11 a.m. service. This holiday fair features handcrafted goods made by cathedral families and friends. Proceeds will go towards scholarships to [our annual Family Retreat](#). There is still time to [sign up to donate your homemade crafts and treats](#).



While shopping at the Advent Sale, enjoy coffee hour hosted by [The Men of Grace](#) after the 11 a.m. service. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this ministry.



The [Sunday 4:30 Book Study Group](#) is reading a special text for Christmas entitled *Advent with Evelyn Underhill*, edited by Christopher Webber. The book features selections from the writings of the woman who reintroduced Christian mysticism to the 20th century, with suggestions for prayer and meditation for each day in Advent through Epiphany. The group will meet on Sundays until January 18 (excluding Christmas Day) to discuss the prior week's readings and share reading experiences. For more information, email the group organizer.



The "[Grace is Home](#)" Gift Drive is still ongoing. Donate *unwrapped* presents or funds towards toys and living necessities for San Francisco families in need. Please mark monetary donations "Attention: Outreach Ministries" or deliver marked items to reception. On Tuesday, December 13, attend a wrapping party from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. [RSVP to help wrap presents and enjoy a holiday dinner](#).



Spread holiday joy and love! Join Dinner with Grace in [cooking for the Mentone Hotel on Tuesday, December 13](#) or [serving the meal on Wednesday December 14](#). Help prepare the meal to be served the next evening, then enjoy dinner with hotel guests. Or join us for the Crosby Hotel on [December 20](#) and [21](#).



Dinner with Grace needs drivers. Help transport meals from the cathedral on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. [Email Tracee Zyla](#), Outreach Ministries Administrator, to learn more.

Make the cathedral glorious for Christmas! Be part of the festivities while honoring a friend or family member by contributing toward our flowers and decorations this Christmas. This loving tribute is a meaningful way to remember a loved one's legacy or recognize a special person in your life. Send your gifts and tribute names to: Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, San Francisco 94108, Attn: Christmas Flower Fund or [donate online](#). The deadline to send gifts for publishing in our Christmas service bulletins has passed, but we welcome gifts past the deadline.



Connect with us

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