

### God ... Use This.

#### from Rector Mike Kinman

"...And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever (people) may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas

"God ... Use this."

This is one of my briefest and most oft-prayed prayers. I pray it when I am sitting with someone crying tears of deep grief. I pray it when I am reading a news story about the latest abomination to come out of Washington. I pray it when I am in one of those moments of being confronted by my own behavior – how I have wounded someone ... or avoided conflict instead of reaching out in love ... or not had the courage to stand up for someone being targeted.

I pray it when I feel powerless and overwhelmed by sadness, anger or brokenness. When "everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it."

"God ... Use this."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer knew how bad things could get. He had looked evil square in the eye – and didn't even live to tell the tale. As a pastor during the rise of the Third Reich, a key founding member of the Confessing Church and eventually executed as an anti-Nazi dissident, Bonhoeffer was not prone to talking about clouds with silver linings.

And yet, he remained convinced to his death that no matter how deep the evil, no matter how profound the pain, no matter how shattered the humanity, God could use it for the good. Such is the infinite power of the infinite love that is God. Nothing is beyond being used for God's good purposes.

"Whatever (people) may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives."

I've thought of these words a lot recently. They are not a call to say the evil of the world doesn't matter or to discount the profundity of the pain and the grief.



PHOTO BY KEITH HOLEMAN

They are, however, a reminder that there has never been and there never will be a state of affairs so terrible that God cannot find a way to use it.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the residents of what is now Palestine and Israel were living in abject poverty under a cruel occupation ... an occupation that was just the latest in a series of occupations that had plagued them throughout history. And yet God entered into this deepest of nights and used it as an incubator of the deepest of joys.

"God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment."

God looked at the people in suffering and saw the seeds of revolution and liberation. God looked at the

Can we help each other remember to pray 'God, Use This'? ... then watch expectantly for what happens next? cruelty of the Roman Empire and the oppression of the people and said to the divine self:

"I can use that."
And use it, God did.
And use it, God does.
And use it, God will again.

This Advent, as we read the news, as we sit with family and friends who may be battling grave illness or grieving deep loss, as we confront the ways all of us have fallen short, can we remember that none of these things are beyond

the redeeming reach of the God who was able to turn a manger into a throne? Can we help each other remember that our most abject failures are but God's opportunities for inbreaking grace?

Can we help each other remember to pray "God, Use This?" ... and then watch expectantly for what happens next?

### **Alternative Christmas Market**



For over 20 years the Alternative Christmas Market (ACM) has been an All Saints Advent tradition. The ACM brings together over 20 non-profit organizations, all of which address All Saints Peace & Justice initiatives on the local, national and international levels. The Market has raised between \$25,000 to \$35,000 annually for these organizations and, more importantly, has raised our social consciousness even more. This year's market will be on Sunday, December 10, from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Sweetland Hall and the Guild Room.

The list of participants is a who's who of local, national and international organizations—including Homeboy Industries, Habitat for Humanity, Doctors Without Borders—and you can make donations and receive unique greeting cards to give as gifts, or make purchases from a wide variety of socially-conscious and fair trade items.

ACM co-chair Sharyn Delahousie says, "The Alternative Christmas Market tries to capture the true spirit of Christmas—while taking us out of our usual comfort zone and beyond our borders—to provide an opportunity, with a different kind of Christmas shopping, that will positively impact those who are in need at the same time."

Get the catalog and shopping list for the Alternative Christmas Market here, on the All Saints website or on-site during the market. Merry Christmas!

PHOTOS BY KEITH HOLEMAN

### Spotlight

## Vivian Varela

by Matt Mueller-Curson

What does it say about a person who gladly commutes over an hour every Sunday to attend services at All Saints Church? The most obvious conclusion is that they've found something worth traveling for and for ASC member Vivian Varela that absolutely rings true. Vivian, a resident of Garden Grove in Orange County, has been a faithful attendee and contributor to our parish for roughly fifteen years. Her faithful service has been felt by numerous church ministries and by anyone who has had the pleasure of working alongside her.

Vivian was raised in Corona, California and grew up worshiping in the Mexican Baptist Church. She is a 4th generation Mexican-American and identifies herself as Chicana. After high school, she dedicated her life to spreading her faith and the gospel by joining a missionary organization working in Latin America. Between the ages of 18 and 26 Vivian served in El Salvador, Guatemala and Chile. It was in Chile that she spent the most time working

but to her great disappointment, she was removed from her post after candidly confessing her confusion with her own sexuality to a fellow missionary. It was twenty years before

she ever went back to church.

Back in the US, Vivian started following her thirst for education at Fullerton College and later at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena. After graduating with a degree in Human Development, Vivian took a vacation back to Chile. While visiting she began a romantic relationship that kept her in Chile for 10 years. At the end of the relationship Vivian was ready to come back to the US. She returned to her family but was confronted with substance abuse and addiction with one of her siblings. Helping their struggle

and helping herself, Vivian found



making some sense of her own spirituality.

Vivian first came to All Saints Church the Sunday after the horrible events of September 11, 2001. She had heard of All Saints before, and after the tragedy felt the need to be with Godly people. She was so impressed with the welcoming nature and inclusive teachings of ASC that she just started attending every Sunday, driving up every morning from Long Beach where she was living.

Vivian has a long history of working with the ASC Children's Ministry. She also serves on the Altar Guide and has been very helpful with the transcription ministry. She volunteered to be on the Integrity team that advocated for full LGBTQ inclusion in the Episcopal Church. She is very involved with the Latino/Hispanic Leadership Programs with the Los Angeles Episcopal Diocese. Vivian is an active attendee of the 1pm Spanish-language service at ASC and is a graduate of the Education for Ministry (EFM) program. She is currently a customer service representative at the Episcopal Diocese Credit Union, which she finds to be very rewarding work. Moving forward, Vivian is very excited about any and all ways that God may call her to serve, especially regarding racial justice. Thank you, Vivian, for your continued devotion and service at ASC and beyond.

### **Continuing to Make** All Saints a Place of Radical Welcome

by Susan Russell

"Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself there is a place for you here" is the decades old invitation of radical welcome which is one of hallmarks of All Saints Church. As we begin a new church year, we continue to live into both

Adviento 2017

o, 10 de Dic., 5 p.m Festival de Adviento de Villancicos

Domingo, 10 de Dic., 7 p.m. Todos Somos Afectados por la Violencia

Martes, 12 de Dic., 6 p.m

personas sin hogar

ta Vigilia Anual de la Comunidad

Domingo, 3 de Dec., 5 p.m.

the opportunity and challenge of

making those not only words we say but a reality we

live.

One outward and visible sign of expanding our scope of radical welcome is this year's Advent Pew Card - for the first time offering information on upcoming Advent and Christmas services in Mandarin as well

From the Ritz Carlton to Disney; from Nordstrom's to Starbuck's: the hospitality industry's primary goal is customer satisfaction. They meet that goal by making people feel valued – and they have a great deal to teach us about radical welcome.

Reverend Canon John W. Kilgore, M.D. has studied their training

圣诞节 2017

圣体圣事晚上八点

星期日,十二月三十一日 治疗等会 上午九岁,十一次十五分和下午一点

所有智期聚会都将提供托儿服务。

Advent 2017 裁問日,十二月二十四日 來稿 IV 早級聚会 1時在上午九点提供一项早級的聚会。 oke 领得的1点四底牙乐队将提供音乐。 Our Lady of Guadalupe S Sunday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m. in the Chapel We Are All Touched by Gun Violence 5th Annual Community Vigil ALL SAINTS CHURCH

processes and works to bring those lessons to the fore for the benefit of the church. "Hospitality is at the core of Christianity. Just look

as English and Spanish. Increasing our capacity to reach diverse communities in the language of their heart is one visible sign of radical welcome.



Another is the ongoing process of updating our restroom facilities to provide accessible gender neutral options. Stay tuned for more information as that work continues.

And then on Saturday, December 9,

we will welcome John Kilgore for "Setting the Welcome Table: Lessons on Radical Hospitality."

at Jesus at the table ..." he says. And so – with Jesus as the supreme model for hospitality – he offers us the opportunity to weave together the scriptural warrant for hospitality with the lessons of corporate American hospitality and to equip us with practical lessons for making All Saints Church even more hospitable.

John and Mike have been friends since the early days of Mike's ministry in the 1990's and they walked part of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain together last year. We are delighted to welcome John to All Saints and look forward to the work we will do together! Join us on Saturday, December 9, from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon in the Forum ... and for a lunch reception immediately following. For more information contact Jamie Hebert at 626.583.2765 or jhebert@allsaints-pas.org - and register at the Sign Up Center on the lawn on Sunday or sign up online here.





#### Year-End and Christmas Giving

Your generosity all year lets All Saints be an oasis of life-changing, world-shaping joy. And your year-end giving will help us not only to close 2017 strong, but position us in the best way possible as we look at our mission and goals for 2018. To have your contributions count toward your 2017 tax deductions, they must be post-marked on or before Sunday, December 31, 2017. Make your final pledge payments or give special year-end Christmas gifts at <a href="https://allsaints-pas.org/donate/donate-now/">https://allsaints-pas.org/donate/donate-now/</a>. You can also drop your contributions in the mail slot next to the south office door on December 31 (signs will be posted on Dec. 31). For more info contact Jim Loduha in the Giving Office at 626.583.2736 or JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org.

#### IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are 70 ½ or older, you need to take your required minimum distribution from your IRA. However, if you don't need the extra income and want a creative way to fulfill your pledge or give a special Christmas gift to All Saints, you can take advantage of the charitable rollover. Contact your IRA administrator to begin the process, or the Giving Office for more info (https://allsaints-pas.org/donate/donate-now/ira-charitable-rollover/).

#### Stock Gifts

Have you heard? The stock market is doing great! In the current bull market and with uncertain tax and charitable deduction rules in 2018, donating appreciated securities to All Saints can be an excellent way for you to maximize the impact of your contributions while also enjoying greater tax benefits now. This can be a great way to give "over and above" your 2017 pledge, prepay your 2018 pledge, or give a special year-end Christmas gift to All Saints. Contact your stock broker to initiate a transfer and forward the info on this page to them: https://allsaints-pas.org/donate/donate-now/give-stock/.

#### **AmazonSmile**

The holiday season is here! If you shop on Amazon, try AmazonSmile instead. Identical to Amazon, when you shop on AmazonSmile the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to All Saints! Visit <a href="http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1980801">http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1980801</a> to shop today or read more about it on our website (https://allsaints-pas.org/donate/donate-now/amazonsmile/).



#### God created us out of love and for love. Be part of All Saints sharing love with others. Pledge for 2018 today:

1. Email: stewardship@allsaints-pas.org
2. Click: https://allsaints-pas.org/donate/pledge/

3. Call: 626.583.2753 4. Scan:



#### 2018 Pledge Envelopes

2018 pledge envelopes will be ready for pick-up on Sundays, Dec. 10 & 17, and Jan. 14 & 21 at tables on the lawn. Unclaimed packets will be mailed the week of Jan. 22. If you do not use your envelopes, let us know so we can conserve resources. Email Roxie Bates at rbates@allsaints-pas.org to cancel your envelopes.

#### **Giving Office Contact Information**

Jim Loduha: jloduha@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2736 Roxie Bates: rbates@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2753 Jamie Hebert: jhebert@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2765

All Saints Tax ID: 95-1980801

### Advent&Christmas@ASC

Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on the journey this Advent and Christmas, there is a service here for you! English or Spanish; Advent Evenings or Virgen de Guadalupe; Christmas Eve or Christmas Day ... Join us!

#### Advent Evening Service, Potluck and Wreath Making

Sunday, Dec. 3, 5:00 p.m. in the Church.

Minisingers, Mastersingers and Troubadours
offer music of Patterson and Edwards, directed
by Jenny Tisi. Kelly Phelan offers a meditation.
Immediately following the service, Parish
Celebrations, the LGBTQ Ministry, and Children
Youth and Families (CYF) invite you to join them
in their Advent potluck supper and Advent
wreath making in Sweetland Hall. Information
= Christina Ortega, 626.583.2733 or cortega@
allsaints-pas.org.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Service

Sunday, Dec. 10, 1:00 p.m. in the Church. We celebrate *Virgen de Guadalupe*, the patron saint of the Americas. Join us for this beautiful service full of candles, roses, and joyful song steeped in our Latino religious tradition. This service is bilingual, Spanish/English. *Pan dulce* and *antojitos* will be served after the service.

Antonio Gallardo preaches; Dan Cole offers music. Information = Ada Ramirez, 626.583.2734 or *aramirez@allsaints-pas.org*.

#### Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 10, 5:00 p.m. in the Church. In the warm ambience of the candlelit church, **Coventry Choir** offers motets, carols and canticles of intense, mystical beauty. A meditation by **Mike Kinman** focuses on the meaning of the coming of the Christ in a contemporary context. The choir, directed by **Weicheng Zhao**, will perform music of Jackson, Ireland, Bruckner, Victoria, Busto, and Stanford. Child care provided. Information = Debbie Daniels, 626.583.2750 or *ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org*.

#### **Homeless Memorial**

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:00 p.m. in the Church. Each year, thousands of homeless men and women die on the streets of our nation due to illness, exposure or violence, many from the Pasadena community. These individuals die without the dignity and respect they deserve. Please join us as we honor and acknowledge their lives and membership in the human family. **Mike** 

**Kinman** preaches. A festive reception follows in Sweetland Hall. Information = Juliana Serrano 626.583.2721 or *jserrano@allsaints-pas.org*.

#### Pasadena Symphony Presents Holiday Candlelight Concert

Saturday, Dec. 16, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. Grant
Cooper, conductor; Lisa Vroman, soloist;
Los Angeles Children's Chorus, The Donald
Brinegar Singers and L.A. Bronze Handbell
Ensemble. Top off the season with Pasadena's
most cherished holiday tradition – Pasadena
Symphony's Holiday Candlelight. Broadway
veteran Lisa Vroman joins an array of choruses
in this festive concert featuring the most popular
and cherished holiday melodies. Get your tickets
today at bit.ly/holidaycandlelight.

#### **Advent Evening Service**

Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:00 p.m. in the Church.

Trouvères, Youth Chamber Choir, Vox

Cambiata and Canterbury Choir offer music of Beery, Kendrick, Hella Johnson, Kirchner, Mendelssohn, and Ešenvalds. Jeremy Langill offers a meditation. Child care provided. Information = Debbie Daniels, 626.583.2750 or ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org.

### **Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24**

### Advent IV Morning Service

We will have one service in the morning at 9:00 a.m. This will be a bilingual Spanish/English service; **Dan Cole and the 1 p.m. ensemble** offer music; **Antonio Gallardo** preaches.

### 3 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

Rector **Mike Kinman** and friends tell the Christmas story; **Troubadours**, directed by **Jenny Tisi**, offer music of Burke and Johann Sebastian Bach. This service will be simulcast in the Learning Center.

#### 5:30 p.m. Festive Eucharist

**Trouvères** & **Trouvères alumni** offer music of Forrest & Leontovitch, directed by **Jenny** 

**Tisi**. **Susan Russell** preaches. This service will be signed by an American Sign Language interpreter.

#### 8 p.m. Festive Eucharist Canterbury Choir and chamber orchestra offer Spätzenmesse by Mozart and music of Lauridsen and Knecht, directed by Jenny Wong. Mike Kinman preaches. Spanish language interpretation available.

# 11 p.m. Festive Eucharist Coventry Choir and chamber orchestra offer Coronation Mass by Mozart and music of Clements and Kirchner, directed by Jenny Wong. Mike Kinman preaches.

Early arrival to all services helps ensure seating. All Christmas Eve services are well attended, so please plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early.

Parking for the 3 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be in the North Lot or underground at the Westin Hotel (enter from Union Street). For the 5:30, 8 & 11 p.m. services, parking will be available at the Kaiser parking structure or underground at the Westin Hotel (enter from Union Street).

Child care will be provided for all services.

### Christmas Day Monday, December 25

#### 10:30 a.m. Eucharist

Monday, Dec. 25, in the Church. **Sally Howard** preaches, and **Coventry Choir soloists** sing carols arranged by Willcocks and Walker. Child care is provided. Spanish language interpretation available.

### New Year's Eve Sunday, December 31

#### New Year's Eve Healing Services

Sunday, Dec. 31, 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Church. With **Cantor Elizabeth Tatum**. **Sally Howard** preaches.

#### **New Year's Eve Service**

Sunday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. in the Church.

Canterbury Choir soloists offer music of
Nordquist. Mike Kinman preaches. This special
service is a wonderful way to prepare for the new
year. Child care provided. Validated parking is
available in Plaza las Fuentes.

Calendar of events for the month. Please check our website at www.allsaints-pas.org and the weekly This Week At All Saints for details and contact information.

Click on the green titles to see more

- **1** Friday, **Theatre Ministry: Les** Liasons Dangereuses, 8:00 p.m., Antaneus Theater, Glendale
- **2** Saturday, **Foster Care Project Foster/Adopt Event,** 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall
- **3** Sunday, **Advent Potluck**, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Sweetland Hall
- **7** Thursday, **Senior Saints**, 12:30 p.m., Sweetland Hall Women's Community Not-a-Party, 6:30 p.m., Off Campus
- **9** Saturday, Free Legal Clinic, 9:00 a.m.-noon., Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena 91103

**Setting the Welcome Table:** Lessons on Radical Hospitality, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Forum

**10** — Sunday, Our Lady of Guadalupe Service, 1:00 p.m., Church

Lessons & Carols, 5:00 p.m., Church

We Are All Touched by Gun **Violence 5th Annual Community** Vigil, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

**11** — Monday, **Vroman's Presents** Fr. Greg Boyle, 7:00 p.m., Church

**12** – Tuesday, **Homeless** Memorial Service, 6:00 p.m., Church

#### **Homeless Memorial Reception,** 7:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall

- **15** Friday, **Fiction Fun!**, 7:30 p.m., Guild Room
- **16** Saturday, **Pasadena** Symphony Holiday Candlelight Concert, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m., Church
- **17** Sunday, Foster Care **Project Presents: Truman** Capote's A Christmas Memory, 2:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall Advent Evening Service, 5:00 p.m., Church
- **21** Thursday, Celebrate the Journey: Cultural Posada and Fiesta, 6:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall

**24** — Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Eve 3 p.m. Service, 3:00 p.m., Church Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Service,

5:30 p.m., Church Christmas Eve 8 p.m. Service, 8:00 p.m., Church

Christmas Eve 11 p.m. Service, 11:00 p.m., Church

**25** – Monday, Christmas Day, Christmas Eucharist, 10:30 a.m., Church

**26** – Tuesday, **Christmas** Holiday, Office Closed

**31** — Sunday, New Year's Eve Service, 7:30 p.m., Church

#### Adult Ed in December, 10:15 a.m. Sundays

- **3** Patriarchy, Predators and Glass Ceilings: Truth-Telling and Justice For Victims of Sexual Assault in Hollywood with Karen Alexander, Amy Brenneman, Quinn Cummings, Janet Carol Norton, and Erin O'Malley, Rector's Forum, Forum
  - Advent Wreath Making, Sweetland Hall
- 1 () Radical Welcome, with John Kilgore, Rector's Forum, Forum
  - Alternative Christmas Market. Sweetland Hall & Guild Room
  - Parent Culture, Scott Hall 2
- **17** *TBD*, with Mike Kinman, Rector's Forum, Forum
  - Transformational Journeys **Debrief**, with the TJ Team, Guild Room
  - Parent Culture. Scott Hall 2
- **24** Christmas Eve. Adult Education will resume on January 7.

#### **Next Vestry Meeting**

Because the Vestry does not meet during Advent, there will be two Vestry meetings during January, on Tuesday, **January 9**, and on Tuesday, **January 23**, both at 7 p.m. in Sweetland Hall. All Vestry meetings are open and visitors are welcome!