

St. John's Good News

November, 2023

Rooted in Love

Dear Friends,

Throughout the month of November, the church proclaims the transforming power of God's Kingdom. We begin the month celebrating the Feast of All Saints, remembering the loving souls who have gone before us. The galvanizing force in God's kingdom is the power of love. We also acknowledge on November 11th the signing of the armistice in 1918. We pause to consider all those who gave their lives for the sake of freedom. The last Sunday in November we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. The nature of this kingdom is expressed nowhere more powerfully than the second verse of the hymn **I vow to thee my country**.

*...There is another country, I've heard of long ago.
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
Soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.*

Our theme for this year's stewardship campaign is *Rooted in Love*. In the midst of our national and international conflicts we celebrate the fact that our common life is rooted in love. We forget this at our own peril. Over the course of the next few weeks you will be receiving a letter inviting you all to prayerfully consider your financial support for the ministry of St. John's. We expend much energy thinking about those many things which pull us apart. As a corrective to this, we do well to rejoice in and support those forces which bind us together.

Peace,

John +



November 2023

Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually: All are welcome to participate, and seating capacity is now at 75. The service also continues to broadcast via Zoom, with link options shared by email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

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**Joint Gaza Appeal Letter from the Most Rev'ds Hosam Naoum and Justin Welby,
the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem and the Archbishop of Canterbury**

24 October, 2023

Dear Friends,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

From Archbishop Hosam Naoum:

Just over two weeks ago, the world was horrified at the sudden eruption of war in the Holy Land, resulting in hundreds of deaths, injuries, and displacements. Since that time, those numbers have multiplied into the thousands, as open hostilities have drastically escalated. Innocent civilians, especially women and children, have been caught in the deadly crossfire. As you have probably seen, a massive rocket blast exploded in the midst of our own Ahli Hospital in the heart of Gaza City, tragically killing or seriously wounding hundreds of refugees who had gathered there because they had no other place of shelter in which to go.

Although Ahli's buildings were heavily damaged, two nights later our devoted staff partially reopened the hospital. In doing this, they demonstrated the determination we have in the Diocese of Jerusalem to persevere in our Christian mission to serve others as though we were serving Christ himself (Matt 25:31-46). And this is the case not just for Gaza, but throughout all the Holy Land. Yet in order to accomplish this mission in the midst of a devastating war, we need to draw upon the strength of the larger Body of Christ. For we understand that when one member of the Body suffers, all parts suffer (1 Cor 12:26).

And so, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I appeal to you to first of all to pray for our mission here, as well for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa 122:6). Secondly, advocate with your representatives for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land, so that all who dwell within these lands can live in security. Finally, if you are able, support our ministries in Gaza, Palestine & Israel, and throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem by contributing financially through one of our international partners.

Thank you for helping us continue the work of our Lord Jesus Christ in the very lands in which he himself ministered in his earthly life before offering up his life on our behalf and then rising again victorious from the grave, overcoming death and giving us hope for a new life. May God bless you.

Cont'd.

From Archbishop Justin Welby:

As war devastates the Holy Land, we ask where Christ is to be found amid the cries of His children. When the lives of the innocent are at risk, we strain our eyes for the light of the One who offers healing, peace, and justice. In Gaza, the Al Ahli hospital, run by the Diocese of Jerusalem, is that light. Despite being hit by rocket fire last week, it is still providing critical care to the injured and anyone in need of medical attention. As health services become even more vital in Gaza, the work of the hospital becomes more difficult for urgent need of medications, equipment and fuel.

Please, continue to pray for those who mourn, those who are in pain, and those who are in fear, and for those who are caring for the injured and bereaved. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says that those who have looked after the sick have cared for Christ himself. I urge everyone, if they are able, to support the Al Ahli Hospital's work caring for the wounded body of Jesus Christ and contribute to the Gaza Appeal.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
The Most Reverend Justin Welby
The Archbishop of Canterbury

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Roast Beef Dinner



Huzzah! We sold over 125 dinners! In advance and as we go to print, hats off to Fritz, Steve, and Nancy White, Donna, Laura, T. J., Paul Penachio, Brandon, Al Coppola, Bill Bidmead, and others for their efforts. Profound thanks for the purchasing, set-up, cooking, packaging, order processing and all the many critical tasks that make this event a success. And to everyone who placed an order: as always, we are grateful for your support!

**Every Child Deserves to Smile**



Thank you for all the October donations! Your generosity has made it possible to put a smile on the faces of the 40 children residing at the motel. Thank you to Karen Riccio and Jane Selvitella for organizing the October 29th Halloween Treat Bag stuffing party to create Halloween goodie bags for the children!

During November and December, we will be collecting Stop & Shop and Market Basket grocery gift cards. Donations toward the gift cards will also be gratefully accepted.

Disposable flashlights    Microwaveable & non-perishable foods    Tuna fish/can  
Instant noodles    Can openers    Bottled water - gallons & single bottles    Paper plates  
Natural fruit juices    Disposable utensils    Hot/cold cups

Clothing for cold weather: hats, mittens/gloves, sweaters, pants, socks - All sizes children & adults (2T-Adult)

Donations may be left in the collection baskets in the vestibule. Questions may be directed to Jeanne Seaboyer.

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**Community Outreach**

**November 1 - December 3, 2023**

As in years past, we are participating in the Saugus Fire Department's annual appeal to help make Christmas more enjoyable for families in need. Donations of gift cards (pizza, X-box, Visa, Amazon, etc.) for teens and tweens are gratefully accepted. For those wishing to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase of gift cards, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer.



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**Christmas Craft Fair**

**Saturday, December 2nd ~ 9am - 2pm**



Yard sale (downstairs) ~ Tables: Vendor craft, baked goods, candy, handmade greeting cards, jewelry, and knitted items ~ Gift basket raffle  
Kids activities ~ Snack bar and more! Stop by and bring a friend!

If you would like to lend a hand for the event, we are in need of set-up, clean-up, and yard sale help, etc. Even an hour or two can make a big difference - please contact Donna Manoogian or the church office. Thank you!

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**Looking ahead...**

**Sunday Advent Worship - 10am**

**December: 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th**

**Christmas Eve Worship: 4:30pm & 9pm**

## Rooted in Love - Theme for St. John's 2024 Stewardship Ministry

Fall is St. John's 2024 Stewardship Season - the time that we are asked to think about what St. John's and our church community means to us, time to think about how we would feel if St. John's was no longer here for us to come gather and worship and also time to think about what our personal contribution of our Time, Talent and Treasure can be to ensure that St. John's will still be here in 2024.

Around November 20th we will all be receiving a Stewardship Letter that includes a pledge card for you to fill in, showing how you will be able to support the church financially in 2024. There will also be a form for you to fill in so your monthly pledge is taken directly out of your checking or savings if you wish.

The theme this year is Rooted in Love and I will be handing out a different passage from the Bible on four Sundays on this theme - being rooted in Christ, growing strong in our faith by being a part of the church community, how strong roots are needed for good health and growth, and how strong roots help withstand storms, droughts and distress.

Our faith is based on the teachings of the Bible - so my hope is that you will take the one line readings given out and look it up in your Bible at home to read a few lines before and after the quoted verse so you can see 'the rest of the story' and what it's telling us about the roots of faith.

You can also look it up at Bible Gateway dot com. You just have to type in the Chapter # at the top of the page and hit enter, you can also choose which Bible translation you want - King James, NIV, New Living Translation etc. - each one gives the reading with slightly different wording - some are easier to understand.

St. John's needs your financial support as well as your support through volunteering for our various activities and outreach programs during the year.

~ Julia Aston - 2024 Stewardship Ministry

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*Have a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving!*



**Officers:** The Rev'd. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano, Sr. Warden, Daniel Casey, Jr., Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry & Sexton

**Vestry:** Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Dibby LeBlanc (2026), Duana 'Dee' LeMay (2024), Sandy Mears (2025), and Donna Manoogian (2024)