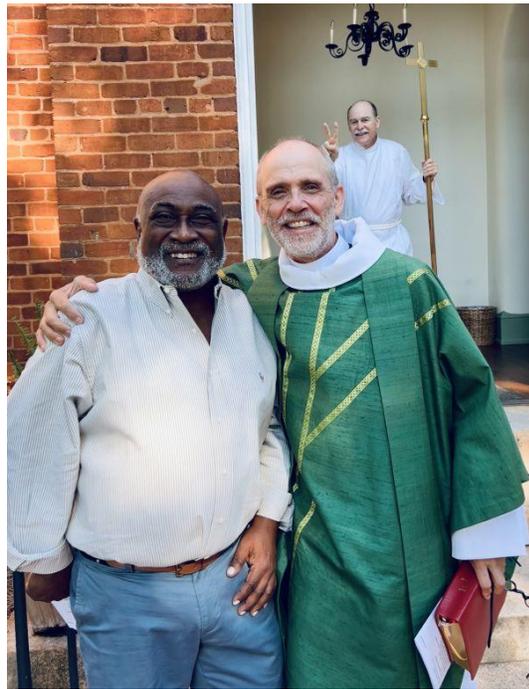




**The Episcopal Church of the Advent**  
**September 16, 2025 Newsletter**  
**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



### **Sermon Notes – The Good News Within the Good News**

On Sunday, as we sang the beloved hymn Amazing Grace, its haunting melody and powerful words reminded us of God's unending love for the lost. Father Arneson shared how this hymn, penned by John Newton in 1772, tells the story of a man transformed—from a slave ship captain lost in despair to a priest who fought against the slave trade. Newton's journey mirrors the heart of this week's Gospel, where Jesus shares two parables: the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. These stories, which Father Arneson called "the good news within the Good News," reveal God's relentless pursuit of each of us, no matter how lost we feel.

In Luke 15:1-10, Jesus is criticized by the Pharisees for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the "wrong crowd." In response, He tells of a shepherd who leaves his 99 sheep to find one that's lost and a woman who searches tirelessly for a single coin. When they find what was lost, they don't just sigh in relief—they throw a party! Jesus says, "There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." This is God's heart: a love so deep that heaven rejoices when even one person is found.

Father Arneson reminded us that these parables aren't just about "outsiders" finding salvation—they're about us, the insiders, the churchgoers, the faithful. "We get lost over and over," he said, "and God finds us over and over again." Lostness takes many forms: losing our sense of purpose, questioning God's goodness in illness or grief, or being consumed by bitterness or pride. Sometimes, even the Holy Sacrament that nourishes us leaves us feeling "hungry, cranky, and bored." Yet, God is there—in the wilderness, the darkness, the dusty corners—searching for us with uncontainable joy.

The hymn Amazing Grace captures this truth: "I once was lost, but now am found." Father Arneson noted how its words, paired with that unforgettable tune, hum in our hearts, reminding us of our own journeys from lostness to grace. Like Newton, we may struggle to believe we're worth finding, especially when our lostness feels complex or shameful. But God, the determined seeker, never gives up. As Father Arneson beautifully put it, quoting the poet Rumi, "What you seek is seeking you." Even when we can't find God, God is already there, doing His best work in our wilderness.

These parables challenge us, as they did the Pharisees, to admit our own lostness and to embrace its virtues. Being lost reveals who we are and opens us to God's grace. They also call us to reflect God's love by seeking out the lost in our community—those who feel overlooked, broken, or distant. This week, let's pause to thank God for finding us, again and again. Let's reach out to someone who feels lost, and invite them into our parish family. And let's celebrate with heaven's joy, singing, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!"

Loving God, You seek us when we're lost and rejoice when we're found. Thank You for Your amazing grace that never gives up on us. Help us to trust in Your love, to admit our own lostness, and to share Your joy by welcoming others. Amen.

***Reflection Question: When have you felt lost, and how did God find you? Who in our community might need us to be a "shepherd" or "searcher" for them this week?***

Peace be with you, Kim

**Father Tryggvi contact information and office hours:** Father Tryggvi's email is [priest@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:priest@adventmadisonga.com). He typically holds office hours at the Parish House on Mondays and Tuesdays. For pastoral emergencies,

please call his cellphone number at 828-446-7843. For an appointment, please call the church office at 706-342-4787 and leave a message to schedule an appointment.

**A Celebration of Life for Livy Scholly:** Saturday, September 20, at 10:30 am in the Chapel at The Farmhouse Inn at Hundred Acre Farm, followed by a small reception. All members of Advent are cordially invited.

**Parish House project:** On Sunday, September 7, O.J. Booker presented a review of the Parish House maintenance and renovation project. The presentation slides are up on the website at <https://adventmadisonga.com/news/>.

**Stewardship Campaign Chair:** Vestry member Mary Horton is this year's Stewardship Campaign Chair. The Campaign will begin this month. Parishioners will soon see mail and email which will contain pledge cards and other information.

**First Wednesday Get-Together**  
**Steffen Thomas Museum • 4200 Bethany Rd, Buckhead, GA 30625**  
**Wednesday, October 1 • 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Our October First Wednesday gathering will take place at the Steffen Thomas Museum. This unique venue will allow us to explore the current exhibitions: Art Inspired by Steffen and Sara's 1972 Trip to Germany, Steffen Thomas Through the Eyes of Young Adults, and Tribute to Richard "Ole" Olsen. The museum is a warm and welcoming space, complete with a full kitchen and plenty of room to gather. They'll have tables set up for food and drinks, so just bring what you'd normally share and join us for a relaxed evening with great company in a beautiful setting.

**Email Spoofing and Phishing Incident**

It was discovered that a email spoofing/phishing attack affected some members last week. Please be aware that neither emails from Father Arneson nor the Vestry will ever ask you directly for money or resources. Please prevent email fraud by not clicking on suspicious links. Instead, you should call to be assured of the source before acting.

**Rota for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 21, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson / 10:30 A.M. Crown  
Altar Guild: Jackson-Lewis-Hawkins-Pike-Hilsman  
Flower Guild: Crown  
1st Reading: R Thompson  
2nd Reading: G Thompson  
Vestry of the Day: Branch  
Organ Tech: M Dartnell

**Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 21, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
The Psalm: Psalm 79:1-9  
Second Reading: Timothy 2:1-7  
The Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

### Parish Prayer List

Fr. Dann Brown, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Julie Hancock Jones, Mary Mack Jones, Jan Kozel, Bill Kurtz, Susan Kurtz, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jerry Maddoz, David Medlock, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Emily Sigman, Betty Thomas, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jay Whitcomb.

**September Birthdays:** 17 Julie Jenkins, 20 Ray Bennett, 20 Alex Branch, 26 Devon Dartnell, Harrison Yost, 28 William Wood Burriss

### Recurring weekly calendar

- Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM
- Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM
- Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM
- Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM
- Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon
- Madison AA group: Th, Su @7:30 PM, F @ 7:00 PM

### The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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Priest-In-Charge, The Reverend Tryggvi Árnason

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden

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