



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
October 14, 2025 Newsletter
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost



On Thursday this week, we celebrate the feast day of [Thomas Cranmer](#) (1489-1556). Thomas Cranmer played a pivotal role in the formation of the Church of England by serving as the Archbishop of Canterbury, advocating for the break with Rome, and authoring the first [Book of Common Prayer](#). He helped establish the foundational structures of the reformed church under both Henry VIII and Edward VI by introducing Protestant reforms like making the Bible accessible in English and standardizing liturgical forms. His work created the core liturgical and doctrinal framework that would eventually define the Episcopal Church.

Sermon Notes – Giving Thanks Like the Samaritan (Luke 17:11-19)

Reflecting on this Sunday's Gospel, I was struck by the story of the ten lepers and the one who returned to say "thank you." Rev. Tryggvi set the scene beautifully in his sermon, painting a picture of Jesus walking the borderlands between Samaria and Galilee—a place where divisions ran deep. In those days, borders weren't just about safety, as Tryggvi reminded us; they were about keeping things "pure." Lepers, considered unclean, were cast out, forced to live on the fringes, far from family and community. Among them was a Samaritan,

doubly an outsider because of his heritage, caught in a world that saw him as less-than many others, especially the Israelites.

When these ten lepers spot Jesus, they don't dare come close, fearing rejection. Yet they cry out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" There's something raw and hopeful in their voices, calling him "Master"—Lord, Protector, maybe even God. Jesus hears them and simply says, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they obey, a miracle unfolds: all ten are healed, their skin made whole, and their isolation lifted. They're free to return to life, to loved ones, and to the community that cast them out.

But here's where the story tugs at my heart. Only one, the Samaritan, turns back. He doesn't just whisper a quick thanks; he praises God with a loud voice and falls at Jesus' feet in gratitude. Jesus looks at him and says, "Your faith has made you well." That word "well" in Greek, *sesōken se*, means more than healing—it means salvation, wholeness, being made new. Tryggvi put it so well: "Gratitude and salvation go hand in hand."

The Samaritan's thankful heart led him to a deeper encounter with Christ, a moment of true connection. Tryggvi confessed that "sometimes my gratitude feels like half. For example, when I notice the beautiful stars in the sky, I say, Thank God and then don't think much more about it. And then I move on to something else." But the Samaritan's example challenges us. His gratitude came from the depths of his soul, mindful of how rare and beautiful God's grace is. He didn't take it for granted. He stopped, turned around, and let his thanks spill over into worship and love. That's the kind of gratitude as followers of Christ we should strive to cultivate—a gratitude that draws us closer to Jesus and helps us to find our truest self.

This story also reminds us that God's love crosses every boundary. The Samaritan, an outsider in every way, shows us that Jesus' mercy is for all. Tryggvi spoke of Jesus mingling with "sinners, sharing meals with tax collectors, and letting a prostitute anoint him—never afraid of being 'soiled'". Instead, his goodness, his mercy, cleanses and restores those he touches in our world, where borders—geographic, social, or political—often divide. We are called to pray for peace, for places like Israel and Palestine, Ukraine, which is fighting for its survival, and here at home, for all those caught in struggles of illegal immigration, especially the innocent children.

Tryggvi closes by saying, "The lepers, all ten of them, called Jesus their Master. But one drew closer and dared to have an intimate life with the Lord, and found his truest self by doing so. By returning to Jesus for a better and more lasting revival, he transcended polarities and found compassion. He discovered happiness when gratitude spilled over into love." These are words we should remember and act upon.

Question for Reflection: How does our faith, rooted in trusting God's promises, inspire us to respond with gratitude? How can we live out this faith through actions that reflect God's love?

In Christ+, Kim

Volunteer for Council Delegate: We are seeking a parishioner to be one of Advent's delegates to represent our parish at the Diocesan Annual Council! The 119th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta will be held on November 7-8 at the Cathedral of St. Phillip in Atlanta. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the larger workings of the Episcopal Church. Delegates participate in legislative and business sessions of the diocese and have the opportunity to meet and worship with members of other parishes in our diocese, as well as learn about the variety of ministries throughout the diocese. If you would like to serve as a delegate, please submit your name in an email to: priest@adventmadisonga.com by **October 24**.

Stewardship Campaign: By now, parishioners should have received mail and email containing pledge cards and other information. If you haven't, please email info@adventmadisonga.com.

Devin Dartnell – A message on what stewardship means to me: “Stewardship is something I think about often in my job with the forestry service. We help forestry owners maintain good stewardship of the forestry lands that they own and manage. Stewardship means to be responsible and thankful for the gifts that God has given to me, and that means to manage the forestland for the health of the trees, the water, and the wildlife. I asked myself how this translates into my responsibility as a Christian, and similarly to the gifts that God has provided me to help other people unconditionally. And to me, this means that I should be generous in giving of my time and my finances to the best of my ability for my church. I hope this translates well to you and helps you to find your perspective as a Christian and member of the Church of the Advent as you make your pledge this year.”

Save the Date - Ingathering Sunday – November 16: Mark your calendars for Ingathering Sunday on November 16! In the spirit of Episcopal tradition, join us in this cherished rite where parishioners process forward during the Eucharist to present their pledges, as a joyful commitment of financial stewardship for the year ahead. Drawing from the Book of Common Prayer's emphasis on thanksgiving and common worship, this act symbolizes your personal "ingathering" of blessings, offered in community for the growth and mission of our parish.

Rooted in gratitude, Ingathering Sunday echoes the ancient harvest festival of Sukkot from Jesus' time—a season of thanksgiving for God's abundant provision—as well as our Anglican heritage of stewarding resources for the spreading of the Gospel. In our Episcopal faith, it invites reflection on how we've been blessed, responding through generous giving that funds our ministries, outreach, sacramental worship, and diocesan operations, all in service to God's kingdom.

Come, unite in this honored moment of collective dedication, embodying our shared baptismal vows of faith, unity, and proclamation. Your pledge empowers us to plan, pray, and thrive together in Christ!

Foyer Sign Up: The Vestry encourages everyone to sign up for this season's foyer dinners, which are small gatherings held monthly at someone's house on a rotating basis. They are fun and provide a way to interact with your church family outside of church. You may sign up in the Narthex at the Church or by emailing foyers@adventmadisonga.com by the end of September.

**Rota for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 19, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M.--- 10:30 A.M. Pridgen

1st Reading: Jackson-Lewis

2nd Reading: B Pridgen

Altar Guild: Jackson-Lewis-Hawkins-Pike-Hilsman

Flower Guild: Crown

Organ Tech: M Dartnell

Vestry of the Day: Jackson-Lewis

**Readings for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 19, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:27-34

The Psalm: 119:97-104

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

The Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Parish Prayer List

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

October Birthdays: **12** Gloria Baldwin, **25** Tim Pridgen, **27** Jim Branch, **31** June Harrell

Anniversaries: **10** Rick Crown and Richard Simpson, **16** Beth and Tim Pridgen, **27** Terry Blum and Paul Roman

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

To learn more about Advent's Pastoral Care ministry, or to request addition of a person to the Prayer List, go to <https://adventmadisonga.com/advent-ministries/>. Use the same link to inquire about weddings, baptisms, or funerals and the use of the Memorial Garden.

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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