

### *On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser*

Last Sunday I attended a memorial service for Archbishop Desmond Tutu at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. As expected, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry delivered a rousing and passionate sermon. The choir and instrumentalists delivered an exquisite mix of solemn and celebratory music, including Bobby McFerrin's rendition of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. And dignitaries delivered fitting and heartfelt tributes highlighting the Archbishop's prophetic witness and palpable joy.

One such dignitary was Nomaindiya Cathleen Mfeketo, South Africa's Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Mfeketo closed her remarks by saying we could honor Tutu's memory through an ethic of *ubuntu*, which he embodied. *Ubuntu* is an African word that I first learned at Incarnation from a South African parishioner, Zinyusile ("Zi"). He told me it means, "I am because we are." It refers to the power of our shared humanity rooted in kindness, compassion, hospitality and interconnectedness. We need others, and need to honor the value of others, in order to be truly human.

*Ubuntu* reminds me that there is no such thing as a lone Christian – except maybe for the occasional monastic hermit who truly lives an isolated existence and prays all day. But for the rest of us, we can't be the body of Christ by ourselves. We can't live out our calling to love our neighbors from afar.

At the turn of 2020, Zi gave me a bracelet with beads that spelled out "UBUNTU 20" as a little gift for the new year. It's somewhat ironic that we entered into lockdown less than three months later. Yet that bracelet became a determined reminder that we must stay connected and affirming of one another no matter what. To quote Desmond Tutu, "We belong in a bundle of life.... A person is a person through other persons."

If Tutu is right, then the kind of persons we are makes a difference to the kinds of persons others will become. In this regard, Tutu tells a story about what he considers to be one of the most formative experiences of his life:

*"When I was a young child, I saw a white man tip his hat to a black woman. Please understand that in my country such a gesture was completely unheard of. The white man was an Episcopal bishop; the black woman was my mother."*

What gives us dignity is not our independence, but rather our interdependence, our ability to participate and share and live with open hearts. May our lives and our community be defined by *ubuntu*.

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### **20s/30s OUTING – February 25**

The 20s/30s Group will meet at the Morgan Library & Museum (225 Madison at 36<sup>th</sup> St.) on **Friday, February 25, at 6:00 p.m.** Then we'll head to The Long Haul Pub (58 E. 34<sup>th</sup> St. between Park and Madison) for drinks and discussion about the Morgan exhibit on Gwendolyn Brooks, who was the first Black author to win a Pulitzer Prize in any category.

Tickets are free, but only a handful remain. Contact the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee at [ilee@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:ilee@churchoftheincarnation.org) to reserve your spot and/or to be added to our 20s/30s email distribution list.

### **"LUNDI GRAS" AT MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR – February 28**

Parishioners are invited to a Mardi Gras bingo party at Moravian Open Door (347 E. 18th St.), a transitional housing facility for homeless adults. The party will be from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28** – hence, Lundi Gras! The Moravian Open Door Committee is seeking donations of \$10 gift cards to serve as bingo prizes, as well as refreshments (individually wrapped, please). Call the church or email the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser at [adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org) to RSVP for the party and/or to make a donation for this event. Suggested gift cards include CVS, Starbucks, Chipotle, Subway, Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

## LENTEN SAVE THE DATES!

*Read about the following events and more in the Lent 2022 Newsletter. Pick up a copy in the Narthex, and fill out the yellow "Connect Card" in your pew to be added to our mailing list.*

### Ash Wednesday, March 2

8:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 6:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes. The 12:15 p.m. service includes organ music and a soloist from the Incarnation Choir. This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel for those who can't join us in person. Ashes are administered throughout the day.

7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our yearly Confirmation and Inquirers' Class begins in the Parish House (and also on Zoom!) with "Introduction to the Sacraments." Classes are held on Wednesday nights and run for five weeks. Call the church or email the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser at [adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org) to learn more and register.

### Saturday, March 5

10:00 to 12:00 p.m. Families are invited to the Assembly Hall "turned art studio" where children of all ages will paint the Stations of the Cross. Email the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser to learn more and RSVP.

### Sunday, March 6

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. "At the Grave We Make Our Song: Reflections on the End, From the Middle." Stick around after Coffee Hour to hear from the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee as he discusses one of the key themes of Lent—our mortality, and the place of death in our lives before God.

### Sunday, March 13

12:30 to 1:15 p.m. We begin a series of "Sermon Talk Backs" that will continue through the season of Lent. After Coffee Hour, you'll be invited to gather for a roundtable discussion of the sermon from that day. This will be a time when you can ask questions, give feedback, and in general, help us all to deepen the conversation that the sermon has only just begun.

## EVERY WEEK AT INCARNATION

**Sunday Bible Study:** Bible Study is held in the Parish House on Sundays from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. (Masks are required.) We generally follow the Yale Bible Study program, which offers course materials on select books of the Bible, deepened by insights from Yale Divinity School professors.

**Sunday School for Children:** During the 11:00 a.m. service, children ages 3 to 10 depart the service with their teachers for Sunday School in the Parish House. (Masks are required, and all teachers have been vaccinated.) They return before the end of worship. See our website, [churchoftheincarnation.org](http://churchoftheincarnation.org), for more information on Children and Family Ministries.

**Wednesday Holy Eucharist:** Join us each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. for this Rite I spoken service of Holy Eucharist, which includes a brief homily and organ music.

**Thursday Candlelight Communion:** Join us each Thursday at 6:15 p.m. for Candlelight Communion, a service of Holy Eucharist that incorporates chant and silence as well as elements of contemporary worship. This service is informal and contemplative, with music led by a Cantor and a brief reflection by one of the clergy. You can also stream this service on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/churchoftheincarnation](https://youtube.com/churchoftheincarnation).

**Daily Office:** Services of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer and Compline are held via Zoom. To receive Zoom access information and view the weekly schedule, join our email distribution list by filling out the yellow Connect Card found in your pew or signing up through our website.