

On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser

It's rare that I get to worship seated next to my family, but I love to hear their stories from the pew. A couple of weeks ago my daughter was making fun of my husband at dinner. She claimed that his singing in church was off key and all around terrible. His response – "Oh, whatever. To God it sounds like Adele!"

Truer words have never been spoken. When we "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 100:1), it's music to God's ears. It's praise, and yes, it does sound like Adele. Praise is about articulating who God is and what God is like. It's something we naturally do when singing in worship. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

I have a friend who told me that praise was her "go to" in the early days of the pandemic. She didn't know what to do, or how to feel, or what to say. She had no words for God or anyone else. But in her state of bewilderment and sadness, she could praise. For her, this meant listening to K-LOVE Radio and simply letting the songs move her heart, sometimes moving her to sing along. This practice was a great comfort and strengthened the love she shares with God.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is another occasion for bewilderment and sadness. It's utterly unbelievable to see grandmothers taking up arms, mothers and teenagers practicing at the shooting range, common citizens answering the call to protect their homeland, their communities, and their right to live free and secure. In response, we offer prayers of intercession, joining the pleas of countless across the globe for God to help and protect the Ukrainian people.

In that vein, we also offer praise. Praise is not only an expression of joy. It is an expression of defiant hope. It is the confession that God's love is stronger than death and that Jesus, the light of our salvation, will always outshine the darkness. From one of my favorite hymns, "How firm a foundation" (#637 in the hymnal):

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

May we proclaim these words for ourselves and all who cry out for justice, for we are indeed upheld by God's hand – the pierced hand of the Good Shepherd who lay down his life for the sheep.

THIS WEEK AT INCARNATION

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.

Monday, February 28

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Last call for Lundi Gras! Parishioners are invited to a Mardi Gras themed bingo party at Moravian Open Door (347 E. 18th St.), a transitional housing facility for homeless adults. You can still donate \$10 gift cards to serve as bingo prizes as well as refreshments (individually wrapped, please). Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser to RSVP for the party and/or to make a donation for this event.

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 at youtube.com/churchoftheincarnation. Ashes will be 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 to learn more and register.

Ash Wednesday also marks the start of our Lenten drive for baby supplies for Hour Children. Pick up a flier in the Narthex to learn more.

Thursday, March 3

7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our Lenten Book Discussion on *Freeing Jesus*, led by the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee, begins in the Parish House (and also on Zoom) with “Jesus as Friend.” Pick up a flier in the Narthex for more information and email Nate at nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org with any questions.

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 (and via Zoom) 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, 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 at youtube.com/churchoftheincarnation.

Daily Office: Services of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer and Compline are held via Zoom. To view the weekly schedule, go to churchoftheincarnation.org/worship.

To receive access information for offerings held via Zoom, join our email distribution list by filling out the yellow Connect Card found in your pew or signing up through our website.