

On the mind of Parishioner Annie Liu...

“Work hard, play hard, rinse, repeat” was how I lived most of my adult life. While living in NYC, I spent a lot of my early years focusing my energy towards gaining earthly pleasures and career advancement in lieu of strengthening my bond with Christ – never mind being a good daughter, sister, wife, neighbor, and friend! It is NYC after all, as I told myself, and one is only responsible for taking care of oneself, right? (If you don’t, maybe no one else will...)

Each Sunday morning in reflecting back at the week, I felt a deep sense of dread when I realized I chose wrong many times in a pinnacle moment in standing at the crossroads of a moral decision...I was the poster child of a so-called Christian that was “talking the talk”, but not necessarily “walking the walk” in the footsteps of Jesus. My secret shame that I carried silently for years. And so, feeling like the ultimate hypocrite sitting in the pew for Sunday service after “only God knows” what I had been up to the night before, I spent my 20’s and 30’s generally avoiding it. I attended church maybe only a few times a year for Christmas or Easter.

When my mother passed away in 2022, I was working late the night before and opted to take the 10am train the next day to Boston instead of the 7pm that night. I was woken up at 5am to be told by a nurse that she passed away sometime around 3am. So there I was all alone in this news in my apartment, alone like she was, because I had chosen wrong. *Once again, I had chosen wrong* – and at the worst possible moment this time. The incredible weight of this guilt was crushing me from the inside out that following Sunday as I walked home numbly from Penn Station following her memorial service. In this terrible haze of grief, God literally put Church of the Incarnation in my path and told me quietly to walk inside for the first time, and something inside me listened and obeyed. Let me tell you that Incarnation shone like a beacon in the sun to me that dark day, welcoming me with its kind staff and parishioners, calling me to the Episcopal faith...and I have not turned back since! Each day since then I feel it growing stronger and I have really come to see the Bible as the living, breathing Word in times of turmoil.

While I am a human being and I still make mistakes and fall, I know that God understands my honest desire to be a better daughter, sister, wife, neighbor and friend – and a better example of a Christian. As Adrian told us before, WE may falter but HIS love for us does not. Please remember that always, if you are visiting us for the first time or millionth time and are struggling in your faith like I was. I encourage you to lean in, listen for God, and allow Him to guide you towards His love. That is the exact moment that your life will start to change. May God bless you all. Amen.

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. “Our Beliefs, Our Practices, Our Parish.” Aimed primarily at helping newcomers and new members integrate into the parish, this three-part class is open to everyone who would like to know more about what our church believes and does. Join the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser in the Parish Dining Room for part two: a discussion about spiritual practices in the Episcopal tradition. The remaining session will take place at the same time on Sunday, October 25.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, October 18, 10:00 to 10:40 a.m. The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser leads the second session in a seven-part series on *Redemption*. We’ll explore the biblical meaning of redemption, tracing the theme throughout the Bible to see how God saves us from death and makes a way for us back to life through Jesus.

SANDWICH SUNDAY

Sunday, October 18, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Every third Sunday of the month, parishioners and visitors are invited to the Parish Dining Room to help make sandwiches for delivery to a nearby homeless shelter. Please join us!

ALL SOULS AND ALL SAINTS

November 2 is All Souls Day, and we will have the opportunity to remember our loved ones who have died by creating an All Souls Memorial Altar in the Chapel of the Resurrection. We welcome you to add the names of the deceased on the slips of paper provided, and to add your photos and mementos. We’ll start to build the memorial altar on **Sunday, October 18**.

Please email office@churchoftheincarnation.org if you wish for the names of your departed loved ones to be read at our services of Holy Eucharist on All Saints Day, November 1.

FAMILY FRIDAY

Friday, October 23, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Children and families are invited to the Assembly Hall for Halloween-themed activities, games, and an evening in community. Think: pumpkin painting, glow sticks, and (of course) plenty of candy! We'll also have a pizza dinner and a teaching from Rev. Adrian on the Christian origins of Halloween and what it means to be a "saint" in the Church. Costumes are optional and encouraged. Email Amanda Bell (abell@churchoftheincarnation.org) for more information and to RSVP.

HALLOWEEN BINGO AT MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR

Saturday, October 24, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Parishioners are invited to Moravian Open Door (347 E. 18th St.) for a Halloween bingo party with the residents. Be ready for some fun tricks to go along with the treats!

We are seeking donations of \$10-15 gift cards to serve as bingo prizes. Speak to Lenore Ritter to learn more, RSVP, and/or make a donation for this event. *Suggested gift cards: CVS, Target, Starbucks, Chipotle, Subway, Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.*

NOSFERATU MEETS INCARNATE JAZZ

Friday, October 30, 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. Kick off Halloween weekend with Incarnate Jazz! Sarah Pillow sings selections from her new jazz album, *Wanderer*. Followed by a screening of F. W. Murnau's legendary silent horror film *Nosferatu* (1922), accompanied live by Dr. Kalle Toivio on Incarnation's newly restored Aeolian-Skinner organ. Purchase tickets through Eventbrite by scanning the QR code.



KEEP IT COOL CAMPAIGN

We recently launched the Keep It Cool Campaign to replace our 70-year-old air-conditioning system in the church. As of today, we have received **\$155,388** in pledges and gifts! **We've now surpassed our campaign goal of \$150,000 and are working toward our stretch goal of \$175,000.**

Will you help us reach it with a pledge to the campaign? Pledges can be fulfilled in 2027. Use the pledge card in your pew by filling it out or scanning the QR code. Pick up a letter from the Rector and Wardens at the back of the church to learn more about this capital project to *Keep It Cool* at Incarnation.

EVERY WEEK AT INCARNATION

Sunday Bible Study: Bible Study is held in the Parish House from 10:00 to 10:40 a.m.

Sunday School for Children: During the 11:00 a.m. service, children ages 3 to 9 (pre-K through 4th grade) depart the service with their teacher for Sunday School in the Parish House. Learn more about Family Ministries at Incarnation, including offerings for older children, on the church website.

Tuesday Morning Prayer: Join us on Zoom each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. for Morning Prayer. Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser or sign up for our weekly email to access the Zoom link.

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, organ music, and healing prayer with holy oil.

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.