

# THE MOSAIC

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**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*



*John O'Donohue 1956-2008*

November begins with the celebrations of All Saints and All Souls. We do not always attend to these festivals as carefully as our more liturgical siblings, but they still resonate. These celebrations recognize the powerful spiritual bond between the living and the departed. We may refer to this as the communion of the saints or employ the image of the great cloud of witnesses from Hebrews 12. Those who came before us shaped us by the decisions they made, the doctrine they taught, and the institutions they left behind.

One of the easiest ways to commune with a departed saint is to read something they wrote. I am often blessed by the poetry of John O'Donohue. He was a Catholic priest in Western Ireland for 21 years until he left the priesthood in 2000. He was also a best-selling author and speaker and environmental activist. In response to the yearning that November evokes in me, and possibly in you too, I share this poem.

Peace,  
*Kathy*

### For Longing

blessed be the longing that brought you here  
and quickens your soul with wonder.  
may you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire  
that disturbs you when you have settled for something safe.  
may you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own unease  
to discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.  
may the forms of your belonging – in love, creativity, and friendship –  
be equal to the grandeur and the call of your soul.  
may the one you long for long for you.  
may your dreams gradually reveal the destination of your desire.  
may a secret providence guide your thought and nurture your feeling.  
may your mind inhabit your life with the sureness  
with which your body inhabits the world.  
may your heart never be haunted by ghost-structures of old damage.  
may you come to accept your longing as divine urgency.  
may you know the urgency with which God longs for you.

~ John O'Donohue in *To Bless the Space Between Us:*  
*A Book of Blessings*

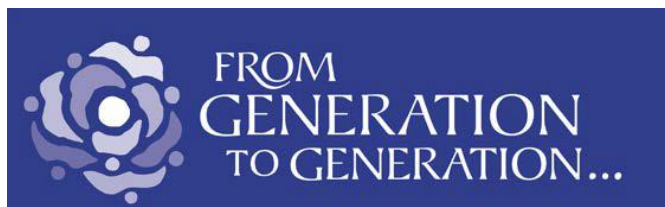




## November Texts and Themes

As one church year ends and another begins, we hear the final readings from the Year C lectionary cycle. November brings a recognition of All Saints Sunday and the Reign of Christ and the beginning of Advent.

November 6	Luke 20:27-38	All Saints Sunday
November 13	Luke 21:5-19	
November 20	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20	Reign of Christ
November 27	Matthew 1:1-17 Isaiah 2:1-5	First Sunday of Advent



*Surely, from now on  
all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and  
holy is God's name.  
God's mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.* Luke 1:48b-50

Our 2022 Advent theme comes from Mary's song of protest and praise. Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of bringing forth. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. Christ is coming for collective liberation: God's redemption is at work for years to come. Therefore, the promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from one generation to the next. *From Generation to Generation...* reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together.

Intergenerational themes will recur in worship and activities throughout the season. Watch bulletins and EBC-Announce for more details. A seasonal devotional booklet is available with daily reflections which begin on November 27. We are printing on demand, so if you want one, please contact Dorothy in the church office.



## Musical Concerts Scheduled

*Michael Clement and the Emmanuel Choir are planning some special events which you won't want to miss. Be sure to mark your calendars! Here are the details:*

**Sunday, November 13:**

### **“Franz Schubert, Fountain of Melody”**

A concert of Lieder (songs), choral and piano music by this beloved Viennese master  
Performed by the Emmanuel Singers and guest soloists  
Directed and accompanied by Michael Clement  
2 pm in Emmanuel Baptist Sanctuary



**Sunday, December 18:**

### **A concert of Sacred Music for Christmas**

Emmanuel Singers will present “*Hope!*”,  
a gospel music inspired cantata by Joel Raney  
There will be additional choral and solo selections as well.



## Preparing for Advent...

### Party and Dinner

***An evening of fun for EVERYONE!***

**November 18, 5:30 to 7:30**

**Featuring: Crafts, games, treasure hunt...**

**make an advent calendar to take home**

**Invite a friend and join us!**

**Please let Marilyn know if you plan to attend.**



We are collecting photos of Emmanuel people engaged in church/community activities for a special **Advent Surprise**. The pictures can date back as far as you remember or be as recent as yesterday. Please submit *plain paper copies*. If you'd like us to make the copies, we will return your photos if you label them and put them in an envelope.

**Please bring or mail them to church by November 11.**

**Can you trace a pattern? Cut on the lines? Glue neatly?** We need you for a special project! Marilyn Malone and Karen Green are coordinating the creation of an **Advent Banner** and are looking for helpers. A meeting place will be announced when we know who will be participating. We'd like the banner to be completed for worship on November 27. Contact Marilyn or Karen if you have questions or to volunteer.





## Capital Area Baptist Association Annual Meeting

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Saturday, November 19

Latham Community Baptist Church

109 Forts Ferry Road, Latham

Agenda includes regular business like approving the 2023 budget, electing officers and discussion of ongoing and future ministry. This time will also include an ordination council for Mark Dorr, pastor of Burnt Hills Baptist church.

You may attend in person or on Zoom. Contact Pastor Kathy for a copy of Mark Dorr’s ordination paper and/or the Zoom link.



Remember the  
Food Pantry... *toothpaste*



**Veteran’s Day:**  
November 11



*Deadline for the December  
MOSAIC: November 18*

**Daylight Saving Time Ends  
November 6 – “fall back”**



*Happy Birthday...*

*November*

Mary Asala

Judith Henningson

Donald Heintz

Pat Campbell

Rian Farrell



1<sup>st</sup>

8<sup>th</sup>

17<sup>th</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup>

27<sup>th</sup>



*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

*November 24*

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