



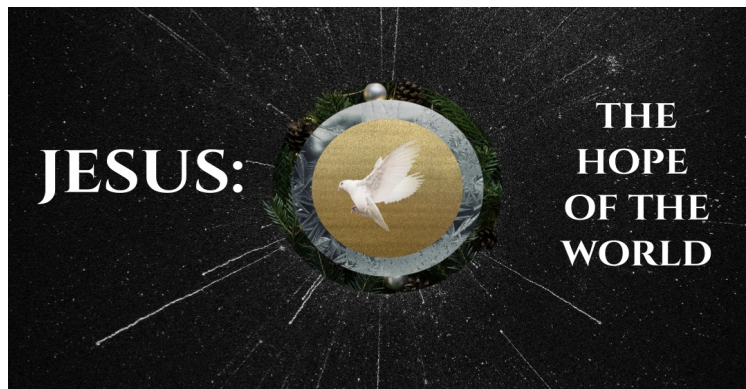
# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

**Our Vision:** "We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."

## THIS SUNDAY — December 19 & Beyond

### " I Have Come to Do Thy Will, O God"



As the Advent Season comes to an end, the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews on this fourth and last Sunday before the celebration of God's Incarnation brings us the theme of sacrifice (Hebrews 10: 5-10).

As theologians have emphasized, the wonderful mystery of God's Incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas implies that God leaves

His majestic and glorious realm and comes down to earth, made human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary, fully human, and yet, fully divine.

This is known in theological terms as God's *kenosis* or self-emptying. So in its historical perspective Advent points to the mystery of God's willing sacrifice to come to us as a human being.

But as we all know, the person of Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, is not simply the Second Person of the Holy Trinity who decided to become human so that we might come into closer contact with God's love for us. Jesus Christ is, above all, the incarnation of perfect obedience to God's will.

This is the main theme of the writer of Hebrews in the fragment of the letter that we read this Sunday.

The writer quotes the Greek version of Psalm 40: 6-9 and puts these words into Jesus' mouth. The original Hebrew version reads: "Sacrifice and offering Thou didst not desire; mine ears hast Thou opened. Burnt-offering and sin-offering hast Thou not required. Then said I: Lo I come; in the volume of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Thy will, O God."

The Greek version or Septuagint, which is probably the one the writer of Hebrews was familiar with (he may have not known Hebrew), reads “A body you have prepared for me” instead of “mine ears hast Thou opened”, but the idea is essentially the same: perfect obedience to God’s will.

The idea of Christ’s body being offered in obedience to God as the perfect sacrifice is, of course, better understood in the Greek version. Anyway, it was Jesus Christ’s willingness to obey God’s will, even if it meant giving His own body in sacrifice, that constitutes the perfect atonement for the world’s sins.

All other sacrifices that were offered to God, like the burnt offerings and all offerings for sins by the traditional Jewish religion meant nothing to the Creator of all that is. This is something that the prophets, like Samuel, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah, and the writers of the Psalms had pointed out consistently. They all made it clear that what really pleased God was to obey Him, i.e., to do His will, which Micah properly translates as “to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

Throughout His life and ministry while on earth, Jesus Christ did just that. He obeyed God’s will. He walked on the path of unconditional love and proclaimed justice and reconciliation for all. He showed His followers the radical Way of Love as the only way to true abundant life. And He was in unreconcilable opposition to the powers of evil, represented on earth by the oppressive worldly powers of His time. They unjustly condemned Him to death on the cross and may have thought they had defeated Him. But they were totally mistaken.

By raising Him from the tomb, God made Him beat the powers of evil and death. His ultimate obedience to God’s will was His ultimate victory, and it has brought us the justification from sins that no other sacrifice could bring us.

As we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives, let our hearts rejoice in thankfulness for His perfect sacrifice in obedience, and let us endeavor to imitate this obedience in our own lives.

“Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done...”

May these be much more than mere phrases to be repeated as we recite the words Christ taught us in communal or personal prayer. May they be the main goal of our lives, so that, no matter how imperfectly, as God’s children, we also aim to incarnate Him on earth.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

## Weekly Calendar Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021 to Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021

Note: We will continue worshipping in our historic church, except on Tuesdays and Fridays when the service is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel. The Sunday service will also be on Zoom. To join the Zoom Meeting click [here](#).

### **SUNDAY: The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:00am Mass in the church

Join Zoom Meeting Click [here](#).

10:00am to 10:45am — Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for children ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall taught by Lucretia Locke.

**TUESDAY:** Noon Mass in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel followed by a fellowship snack in the Flower Room.

**WEDNESDAY:** Spanish Class held in the Rector's Office from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Taught by Fr. Carlos.

### **FRIDAY CHRISTMAS EVE:**

10:00am Morning Prayer in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

8:45pm — Musical Offering

Christmas Music: Organ, Choir and Carols

9:00pm — Solemn Mass

10:30pm — Christmas Eve Cookie Party

### **Saturday, December 25— Christmas Day**

10:00am — Said Mass with Hymns

### **SUNDAY: The First Sunday after Christmas Day**

10:00am Mass in the Church

Join Zoom Meeting Click [here](#).

10:00am to 10:45am — Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for children ages 5-12 lead by Lucretia Locke in the Parish Hall.

11:30am -- Christian Formation— A study of "A Concise History of the Book of Common Prayer" meets this Sunday in the rector's study and is led by Fr. Carlos.

1:00pm -- A Spanish Mass will be held on the first, second, and fourth (and fifth) Sundays each month in St. Mary Chapel

**NOTE:** Christian Formation— A study of "A Concise History of the Book of Common Prayer" meets the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the rector's study and is led by Fr. Carlos. The next meeting is Sunday, December 26.

To activate Zoom you need to click on the link and zoom will download and put you in the meeting. If you have a camera and microphone they can interact in the meeting. The meeting is setup to not auto turn on your camera. You will need to make that decision.

Otherwise it will be on Facebook - a video and you can listen and watch. Easy access to All Saints' Facebook page via our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)