



# The New Epistle

*a newsletter of*

The Progressive Episcopal Church

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## December



NOVEMBER has rolled into December. For those of us in the United States, the end of November was marked by a day set aside by President Lincoln in 1863 as a national holiday of “Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” Despite the earlier, bloody history of the first regular observation of Thanksgiving, it is good to give thanks to God for blessings received. We should be mindful that every day is a day of thanksgiving. And this brings us to December.

As many people are aware, Christmas was not observed by the early Christians. The various Winter Solstice celebrations of many cultures had a very common thread. As the days begin to grow slowly longer, the earth re-awakens with new life. The celebration was about the return of the life-giving sun from the darkness of winter. The ancients knew that without the sun, there would be no life on Earth. The Sun was the bringer of Life.

So much of the Christian Christmas traditions come to us from the Pagans, even retaining the original symbolism. This speaks of a universal language.

Green has for millennia been regarded as the colour of life; the circle a symbol of eternity. The evergreen, which retains its life and colour even in the dead of winter, is a reminder that life is everlasting. Christians and Pagans alike celebrate life eternal, and give thanks to the Supreme Being who brought it into existence.

And that Supreme Being, that Creator, has sent special teachers throughout the ages with a particular message of love and reconciliation. For us as Christians, that Teacher was Jesus, whose Nativity we celebrate on December 25. As the Sun awakens new life on the Earth, so too does the Son (of Man) awaken us to new life within ourselves. And that New Life calls us to love one another as our God has loved us, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. To seek justice, and to love mercy. And to walk humbly with our God.

As Jesus was born into humility to be the Light of the World, may we also allow that Christ-Light to dwell within us, and to shine from us as we seek to follow His example.

The Leadership of the Progressive Episcopal Church  
wishes everyone a blessed Holy Season.  
May we all be bearers of the Light.

# EVOLUTIONS . . . . .

## *Miscellaneous TPEC news*

The TPEC family extends its condolences to Venerable Mother Francesca on the death of her father on Thanksgiving morning. A card has been sent on behalf of the Church.



On November 8, Minister Tommie Spain was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Michael Sherbert. Photos will be posted shortly on the Facebook page as soon as they are available.



The Revs. Sheldon & Amanda Alley have set up a new ministry community called *St Martha's Table*. They are still working on developing the website, but the Facebook page is up. Check out our newest worship community! <https://www.facebook.com/stmarthastable/>



The Diocese of the West welcomes **Rev. Dr. Dan Edmunds** who comes to us by incardination. Fr. Edmunds is a noted psychotherapist who is dedicated to drug free relational approaches to help those undergoing extreme states of mind (schizophrenia and psychoses, bipolar) as well as aiding autistic and developmentally different persons. Dr. Edmunds pioneered an amazing project where persons who would be typically institutionalized and given large amounts of suppressive medication could instead live in the community or with other supportive individuals and be supported in a way where barriers between therapist and client are broken down.

Rev. Dr. Edmunds has served in the past in ministry and as a chaplain for the elderly and veterans. In 1998, he was inducted into the National Honor Society for Theology and Religious Studies and published an article in the University of Scranton's *Diakonia Journal for Eastern Christian Studies*. He was ordained in the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1997, later leaving and entering the EADM, a denomination in the Liberal Catholic tradition and the Society for Humanistic Potential.

Fr. Edmunds continues in his exceptional ministry amongst those with autism, recognizing them as full and complete persons, rather than being people with a "condition" that needs to be treated. He will be establishing a chapel dedicated to St Pádraig (St Patrick).

Fr. Edmunds' incardination date is November 30, on the Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle.







# December 2015



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Churchman's Ordo Edition

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>READINGS</b> Mass — Year C Office — Year Two</p> <p>Weekday Eucharistic Readings for use throughout the year are found in LFF, pages 498-528.</p> <p>See Notes on Reverse</p> <p>[ ] - In some Places</p>	<p>In Old English (Sarum) Use, the Advent color is dark blue.</p> <p>See LFF pages 20-26 for Advent and Christmas weekday lessons.</p>	<p>Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637</p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Glo.Pr.F.St.1</p>	<p>Channing Moore Williams, Missionary Bishop in China and Japan, 1910</p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Glo.Pr.F.Pen.</p>	<p>[Francis Xavier, Priest, Missionary to Japan, 1552]</p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>[Common of a Missionary I, Glo.Pr.F.Pen.]</p>	<p>John of Damascus, ✕ Priest, c. 760</p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Glo.Pr.F.Eas.</p>	<p>Clement of Alexandria, Priest, c. 210</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Glo.Pr.F.Bap.</p>
<p>The Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Cr.Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397</p> <p><b>7</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.St.1</p>	<p>[Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary]</p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p>[Propers for May 31 Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Inc. or BVM (IASB)]</p>	<p>Advent Feria</p> <p><b>9</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Advent Feria</p> <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Advent Feria ✕</p> <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>[Jane Frances de Chantal, 1641]</p> <p><b>12</b></p> <p>[Common of a Saint I, Glo.Pr.F.St.1]</p>
<p>The Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Rose may be used. Cr.Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>[John of the Cross]</p> <p><b>14</b></p> <p>[Common of a Theologian and Teacher I, Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Tri.]</p>	<p>Advent Feria</p> <p><b>15</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Advent Feria (Ember Day) [O Sapiientia]</p> <p><b>16</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Advent Feria [Raising of Lazarus]</p> <p><b>17</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Advent Feria (Ember Day) ✕</p> <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Advent Feria (Ember Day)</p> <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>
<p>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Cr.Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE</p> <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Ap.</p>	<p>Advent Feria</p> <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Advent Feria</p> <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Pr.F.Adv.</p>	<p>Vigil of the Nativity</p> <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Eve of the Nativity - W</p>	<p>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Inc.</p>	<p>SAINT STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR</p> <p><b>26</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Inc.</p>
<p>SAINT JOHN APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST (The First Sunday after Christmas Day)</p> <p><b>27</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Inc.</p>	<p>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</p> <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Inc. Violet may be used.</p>	<p>Of the Octave (Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury - R)</p> <p><b>29</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Inc. Commemorate Thomas Becket</p>	<p>Of the Octave [Josephine Butler, 1906]</p> <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Inc. Commemorate Josephine Butler</p>	<p>Of the Octave [Sylvester, Bishop of Rome, 335]</p> <p><b>31</b></p> <p>Glo.Cr.Pr.F.Inc. Commemorate Sylvester</p>	<p>Glo.—Gloria Cr.—Creed Pr.F.—Proper Preface of Adv.—Advent Inc.—Incarnation Epi.—Epiphany H.Wk.—Holy Week Eas.—Easter Asc.—Ascension</p>	<p>Pen.—Pentecost Tri.—Trinity Sunday A.S.—All Saints St.—Saint Ap.—Apostles Ded.—Dedication Bap.—Baptism L.D.—Lord's Day</p>