

What is Mary doing in the subway station?
Maybe it is just the red and blue colors that beckon the question. The people's faces around the woman display a frozen vacancy. She herself is looking rather anxious and distressed, even sorrowful. Like a woman feeling the unborn, her hand is resting on her belly. Is she concerned for the child and the world it will be born into? Is she distressed by the inattention, the lifelessness and listlessness of everyone around her?
What if the 'newborn' were to come into the world today, this Christmas? Would some wakeful heart offer a place?

Partial view of George Tooker's painting "The Subway", 1950, recently shown at the Whitney, NYC



Looking Far Ahead - save the dates Every four years a **North-South Americas Conference** is hosted alternately in North and South America. The last conference took place on Vancouver Island in Canada; the **next conference will be in Argentina during the last week of July in 2016. At Pentecost 2017 there will be a World Pentecost Conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.** This is a rare opportunity to experience The Christian Community as a world movement.

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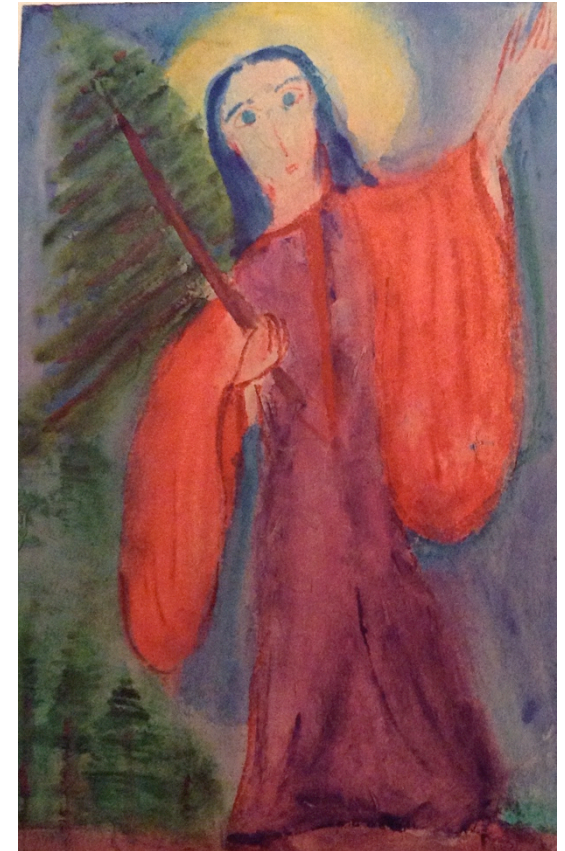
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Priests' absences and visits:
Rev. Gisela Wielki will be away Feb. 25 - March 7
Rev. Erk Ludwig will be in New York City during her absence. His cell phone number is: 415-430-5446

Cover painting by Albert Steffen

 **THE CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY**
MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL



ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY
2015 - 2016

309 West 74th Street
New York, NY 10023
Rev. Gisela Wielki
212 877-0208

SERVICES

The Act of Consecration of Man
Sundays at 11:00 AM
Thursdays at 9:00 AM

The Sunday Service for Children
Sundays at 10:30 AM
Call for dates 212 877-0208

ADVENT SEASON

Sunday, December 6

12 Noon light lunch followed by
12:45 PM Advent Contemplation

THE POWER TO STAND IN HIGH WATERS
Between a Fearful Heart and the Hoping Soul

Sunday, December 13

9:45 AM

ADVENT FESTIVAL

The Star Child Draws Near

For children and parents

Sunday Service for Children at
10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS SEASON

CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday, December 24

10:45 PM Christmas tree lighting and singing

**The Threefold Celebration of the Act of
Consecration of Man**

Midnight 12:00 AM

Christmas Morning, Dec. 25 8:00 AM

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 11:00 AM

Christmas Service for Children 10:30 AM

This special service is celebrated only once a year.
Parents, please confirm that your child is coming.

Services during the 12 days of Christmas

December 26, 27 at 11:00 AM

Dec. 31 and Jan. 2, 10:00 AM

Jan. 1 and Jan. 3, 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE GATHERING

6:00 - 8:30 PM

THE DREAM SONG OF OLAF ASTESON

Come sing or listen to the words and have some
serious fun around the Christmas tree as we bid farewell
to the old and welcome the New Year

Sunday, January 3rd

12 Noon

MUSIC FOR THE WAY

FROM CHRISTMAS TO EPIPHANY

Played by David Ralph, piano

Followed by light lunch and lighting the Christmas tree
for the last time

EPIPHANY SEASON

EPIPHANY DAY

Wednesday, Jan. 6, service at 9:00 AM

No Service Thursday, Jan. 7th

Sunday, January 24

12 Noon light lunch followed by talk

'THE HUMAN BEING HOLDS THE POWER TO
BIND INTO UNITY ALL INDIVIDUAL
DIVERSITIES' St. Exupery

Looking Ahead

Sunday, March 6

12 Noon light lunch followed by talk

OVERCOMING THE SEPARATION OF
THE WORLDS

Rev. Erk Ludwig, San Francisco

DEAR CONGREGATION,

Yes, it was a lot of fun and a big success, our
Irish Halloween Fundraiser for retired priests,
hugely thanks to our emcee Robb Creese and
his fount of imagination. He was assisted by
many helping hands, and to all and everyone,
also our guests, heartfelt thanks.

CHANGE WHEN NEEDED

Occasionally changes have to be made in the
translation of the rituals. As of Advent a few
word changes will be introduced in the Act of
Consecration of Man. The noticeable one will
be the change from Yea to Yes in all the
responses.

DURING ADVENT we read from the Gospel
of Luke, chapter 21. We hear of events that
shake heaven and earth. Storm clouds are
mounting on the horizon of our world, of our
consciousness and so are the frantic attempts
to stay ahead of what we fear is pursuing us;
or to find shelter from what we dread is
coming towards us. The Advent prayer in the
Act of Consecration is instead full of hope and
divining. It holds the promise of a becoming in
a mood of deep stillness. In the midst of this
tension our challenge is to stand.

THE THREEFOLD BLESSING of the Act of
Consecration, Midnight, Morn and Day on
Christmas is a unique experience. It is but
one long breath bestowed upon us from the
Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

IMAGINE: A chapel, an altar, seven candles not yet
lit, flowers, a congregation gathered in quiet
preparedness. Behind the door, the priest in the vestry
ready to begin the service and NO SERVERS. It has
not yet come to this, but we do need more servers.
Consider it. Serving can be learned and is a unique way
to participate in the service.