

Friday digest

December 21, 2012

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New today from the *Century*:

- Peter Marty on [Christmas unvarnished](#): "I once preached a Christmas sermon that struck out with one family. I had underestimated the peril of tampering with holiday sentiment." (subscription required)
- Carol Howard Merritt on [Sandy Hook and public theology](#)
- John Buchanan on [hearing a good post-Shady Hook children's sermon](#): "On Sunday I attended a worship service at which the air was heavy with a sense of loss. But I saw the church being the church at its best." (subscription required)
- Steven Porter on [censorship of the Top 40](#)
- "[Third baptism](#)," a poem by Rachel Brownson
- Steve Thorngate's [setting of the Magnificat](#)