Christ Church Weekly A newsletter for members and friends

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

he month of November is a distinctive "season" in the church's year of grace, beginning with All Saints, All Souls, and ending with Christ the King - the end of this liturgical year. And today is Veterans' Day, a day in which the nation offers gratitude for those who have served in its military forces. Such a day can bring to mind those who have died in military conflict. At the same time, the lectionary readings we hear on Sundays in this month point us to the last things: dying and death and the Christian hope that frames mortality: ours and increasingly the earth's.

A newcomer to Christ Church asked me a question perhaps many of us have asked: Why is there suffering in the world? Or, its other form: Why does God allow suffering? I prefer the wording of the first question because the second can easily presume that God is distant from, aloof from suffering. Well, part of the answer to that question is this: human beings can make life miserable for others through their attitudes and actions. Perhaps those who willfully engage in such misery-making have no idea or reject the notion that they are created in the image of God and thus endowed with the ability to create rather than destroy; to redeem rather than abuse; to sustain rather than degrade people, other species, and the planet itself.

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Christ Church Parish



Friday, November 11, 2022

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Upcoming Events

- Sounds Wonderful Community Drum Circle, November 13
- Adult Formation: The Gift of Preparation, November 14
- Vestry Meeting, November 15
- Third Friday Concert, featuring Chery Drewes, November 18
- Adult Formation:Thanksgiving Day Seen in a Different Light, November 20
- Worship Committee Meeting, November 20
- Choir Rehearsal Tuesday, November 22
- Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist, November 24
- Advent I, November 27
 Advent Wreath Making
 Lessons and Carols
- Advent Quiet Morning, December 3
- Adult Formation, December 4
- Wellspring Ensemble, December 4

Need Help??

To add to our prayer list, email the <u>Parish Administrator</u>. If submitting a name other than your own, please ask permission from that person first. Names remain on the list for **four weeks**, unless renewed by the one who submitted them.

In a pastoral emergency, please contact Fr. Torvend.

Parish Help Team: Errands run, groceries, meals provided, medication pickup, vaccination transportation, etc., contact <u>Deacon Gen Grewell</u> or call her cellphone at 360.280.5593. You may speak with a deacon on Sunday at the **10:30am** Holy Eucharist.

Christ Church Prayer List

Our baptismal commitment calls us to pray for the world and the needs of our community, including those who are experiencing any sort of trouble, illness, or grief.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Members and Friends of our Community:

Edith Abicht; Bob Carver; Lani Frisch; Mark Nassutti; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Pat Trytten; Melissa Glick, Lea Worth; Ginny Peterson; Elin Gratton; Leslie Brooks; Debbie and Doug Oakman; Jim Pierson.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Pete Strimer.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Annie Wright School, Tacoma • Charles Wright Academy, Tacoma

• The Table: University of Washington Episcopal Campus Ministry **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma Weekly Newsletter

The Rev. Samuel Torvend, Priest for Worship, Adult Formation, and Pastoral Care
Deborah Hope Breneman, Editor/Design and Layout
The Weekly is a publication of Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma.

Please visit our website at Christ Church Calendar • Next Week at Christ Church

To submit an article to the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the <u>Parish Administrator</u>.

Articles must be submitted by Wednesdays to be included in the Friday edition, and may be edited.

We never share your information outside the church family.

Land Acknowledgement We gather at 310 North K Street. Let us give thanks to the Creator for the Puyallup and Nisqually people on whose ancestral land this church and many of our homes stand. Their descendants live among us still. For their wise stewardship of the creation, we offer our gratitude. May we never forget that their land was taken by force and broken treaty.

Episcopal News Service • Episcopal Church on Facebook • Diocese of Olympia Bishop Rickel's Blog



A Message from Fr. Torvend

Continued from page 1

And there is this, too: the god Profit demands worship in the form of evergrowing wealth - at any cost for some: children working in uranium and mercury mines; laborers in chicken factories with no breaks and no living wage.

But there is also another dimension we might want to consider in this month when Fall and approaching Winter remind us vividly of diminishment and death. God has created all things with freedom: the freedom to grow in health but also the freedom to mutate into viruses and disease. When I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, I did not ask, "Why has God done this to me?" Rather I recognized that the creation - and our bodies as part of the creation - can grow in directions threatening if not deathdealing. With freedom comes the distinct possibility that accidents, the genetic pool, the DNA can cause unwanted suffering.

But all this talk of God needs to be refined: God is known to us as Christians through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And what do we recognize in the life of Jesus who also suffered as do we with the ultimate and unwelcome truth of diminish-

ment and death? He used every means possible to affirm, heal, and restore life. Is it any wonder that of all the stories in the gospels, a preponderance focus on Jesus drawing people from the isolation of chronic sickness, disease, and death into life and community?

The healing rites and the funeral rites of the Anglican Communion speak honestly about sickness and death. They will not let us pretend these things do not exist. Just read the psalms! But at the same time and even more so they speak of Christian hope: misery, sickness, diminishment, and death do not have the last word. That last word is God's presence with us - Emmanuel - in this life and the life to come and our responsibility as maturing Christians to use every means possible to affirm, heal, and restore life.

(1) orship

Altar of Remembrance

We give thanks to **Sue Stibbe**, a member of the Christ Church Liturgical Arts Group, for creating a lovely Altar of Remembrance where throughout the month of November we can pray for our beloved dead "because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is" (The Book of Common Prayer 862). Thank you, Sue.



Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, November 24
Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am.

Sunday, November 27
The First Sunday of Advent
Advent Holy Eucharist
at 8:30 and 10:30 am.
Advent Lessons and Carols
at 4:30 pm.

On November 27, just a few days after Thanksgiving, we will enter into a new year of grace with the first Sunday of Advent: a new color, wonderful Advents hymns and anthems, a new setting of the liturgy, two guest preachers, and a set of lectionary readings intended to prepare us for the celebration of God taking flesh in human form: in Jesus of Nazareth and in us through the action of Holy Baptism. Did you know that Advent was originally a season of baptismal preparation of six weeks (not four) leading to baptisms on the feast of the Epiphany and later on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord? Advent's short season seems to be a beloved time for many as its liturgies serve as a blessed oasis from the frantic buying and noise of the market.

Save the Date: December 11

On Sunday, **December 11**, there will be one Sunday Eucharist at 10:30 AM. **The Most Rev. Melissa** Skelton will preside and preach, and she will confirm Ann Welton and David Pierce as they enter into Episcopal faith and life. Bishop Skelton is the former rector of St. Paul's Seattle and served as Fr. Torvend's supervisor until he became interim priest after her election as the bishop of New Westminster (Vancouver, BC).

Comfort My People

As promoted by the media and some church people, the "holidays" are supposed to be a time of "good cheer" and "warm family gatherings." But that message can ring hollow for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, a friend, a job, or for those who are just plain lonely or anxious. On Wednesday **December 21** at **7:00 PM** - the longest night of the year join **Fr. Torvend** in Trinity Chapel for a *Longest Night Service* that focuses on the comfort God offers God's people in the midst of grief, loneliness, or struggle.

Adult Formation

Sunday, November 20 Thanksgiving Day Seen in a Different Light 11:45 in the Library

Join **Fr. Torvend** as we discuss a frequently unknown dimension of the federal holiday called Thanksgiving Day and how the Episcopal Church views this popular holiday in a different light.

Saturday, December 3
Advent Quiet Morning
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
The Rev. Jen Rude
Nature as Advent Mentor

With a spirit of curiosity, openness and learning from ancient wisdom, we'll engage some of the elements of biomimicry as spiritual practices for more deeply reflecting on and entering into the season of Advent and its themes of waiting, watchfulness, preparation, and hope.



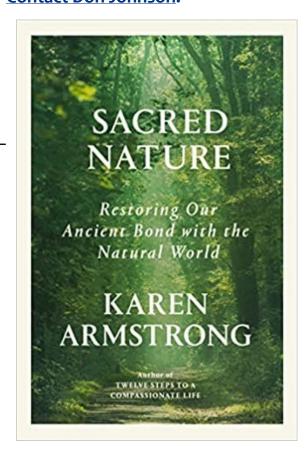
The Rev. Jen Rude presents "Nature as Advent Mentor," on Saturday, December 3 from 10:00am—noon.

Sunday, December 4 **Meeting an Adult Christ at Christmas** 12 Noon in the Parish Library

Given the sentimentality that easily obscures the deeper meaning of the Christmas Mystery, we'll spend time as thoughtful adults considering what the distinguished biblical scholar, Raymond Brown, refers to as the adult Jesus we encounter at Christmas. Get ready for a few surprises!

Reading Monthly Group Sunday, December 4 at 6:30pm Meet at the home of **Deb Hammond** to discuss Sacred Nature: Restoring our Ancient Bond with the Natural World by Karen Armstrong.

Newcomers are welcome! Questions? Contact Don Johnson.





Service

Community

A Little Pantry Model

We all love models and sometimes try to follow their paths, which is not always easy. One model of giving to the Little Pantry has come to our attention: a person without two nickels to rub together. She receives food stamps, and once a month she uses some of her stamps to buy non-perishable food for the Little Pantry. Very nice neighbor. Nice model in life.



The Coat Drive—Still Rolling

The good times keep rolling! More coats for released immigrants were donated to the church office in the last few days. Fifteen in total. Guess what? That makes a total of 60 (six zero!) jackets from Christ Church which will keep a lot of people warm when they are released from detention and are on their way to becoming citizens of the U.S.A. Many hearts say Thank You and Gracias and Merci!

~CSLT

Mid-November Update from the Profile Committee

We're happy to report that our initial draft profile has been sent and received a response (with suggested edits) from our Diocesan consultant, Maeve Wyatt. We will be fine-tuning the draft with Maeve until our draft is ready to go to the Canon for Congregational Development, Alissa Newton. There is likely to be a little finetuning with Alissa before we mutually agree that the draft is ready to be presented to the Bishop(s). Once the Bishop approves a final draft, the Profile can be submitted to the Vestry. Our committee is working like a welloiled machine and doing what we can to expedite the process, but can't predict dates for you yet. We know we are being assisted by your prayers. Thank you.

~ Vikke Pierson, Anne Avery, Ron Fields, Brianne Knudson, Don Johnson, and Sue Stibbe.



Stewardship Weekly Progress Report



Number of Pledges: 29
Total Amount: \$135,350

So many ways to pledge to **Christ Church Parish for 2023:**

... Please send by November 20...

- 1. Pick up a pledge card from the church, and
 - A. Drop it in the offertory basket or
 - B. Mail it to 310 North K St., Tacoma WA 98403
- 2. Go to christchurchtacoma.org/giving/fall-pledge-campaignfor-2023/ scroll to the bottom, and make your pledge online;
- 3. Send an email to Deborah with your pledge amount;
- 4. Call 253.383.1569 x 101 and let us know your pledge amount.
- 5. Questions? Just let us know.

Community

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

A Partnership for the Common Good

REPRESENTATIVE & SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE LAURIE JINKINS (D)

FAN
LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA
DISCUSSION

November 14 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

@Immanuel Presbyterian Church 901 N J Street Tacoma WA

NEXT SESSIONS ISSUES...
Housing

Transportation

Gun Violence

Climate Change

Q&A after

Light dinner provided!

fanwa.org



ipctacoma.org



Advent Wreaths

Advent is fast approaching and members of the Parish Life team have decided to have a doit-yourself wreath making following worship in Wells Hall on **Sunday, November 27** which is Advent I. Candles, ribbon, and forms in which to place candles will be provided. We are asking church members to donate greens and other plant material items that may be used in the wreaths. Any questions or suggestions, please contact **Carol Gregory** at 206-619-6061 or **email her**.



Forward Day-by-Day Booklets for November, December, and January

They're back! Pick one up in the Narthex on Sunday.

Each week we are including another installment of the history of Christ Church Parish written for our 75th Anniversary: "It Came to Pass," by Jessie Drummond Bronson. To access Chapters I and II, please see the Weekly from October 28. For Chapters III and IV, see the Weekly from November 4, or click here.

CHAPTER V

Great are the troubles of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of all – Psalm 35

The following letter from the Bishop of Olympia, William W. Barker, dated March 3, 1897 is transcribed:

My dear Mr. Clapham:

I have been requested by the executive committee of the vestry of Trinity parish, Tacoma, to make you the following proposition in their name:

We wish to ask you to take pastoral charge of Trinity parish for a period of six months beginning Monday, March 15, 1897. They offer as a stipend the sum of \$400 for the 6 months with the free use of what they call the office building, which stands on the church property. They will carpet this building and provide a simple bedstead, bureau, chairs, etc., and will provide, free of charge

to you, electric lights and water.

If you prefer it, the committee has also authorized me to say they will make the stipend for the 6 months \$450, and you can assume the responsibility of providing such furniture as you may need and pay the charge for the electric light and water. The choice lies with you. The vestry will cooperate with you in every way and will extend you the heartiest welcome if you consent to assume leadership. Will you notify me of your decision not later than next Saturday morning?

Faithfully yours, William W. Barker

On March 5, 1897 this is in part the answer sent to the Bishop by Mr. Clapham:

Dear Sir:

With pleasure I agree to the first proposition contained in your letter of the 3rd Inst. – that is to take pastoral charge for 6 months with the use of simply furnished office building and with electric light and water provided free of charge. I shall come with a hearty desire to do good work in the parish. I remain respectfully yours,

H. Horace Clapham

It was as if a brilliant sunrise appeared above black clouds of fading night when the Reverend Horace H. Clapham answered the call to the rectorate of Trinity Church. He was a medium tall man, white haired, ruddy complexioned. His ready smile and cordial manner soon created a warm-hearted atmosphere throughout the congregation. He became a personal friend to all the parishioners. He was never gloomy. A few lines are quoted from his first Easter sermon at Trinity:

"Religion need not be a thing of tears, but of smiles; not of self mortification, but of forgetting one's self in joy; not of downcast looks and heavy hearts, but of gladness that finds its place in healthy, wholesome souls."

His gracious wife was his helpmate and through their leadership all the organizations of the church seemed to vibrate with new enthusiasm. They accommodated themselves to meagre conditions upon arrival, but, as soon as possible, the tiny rectory was enlarged somewhat. Here, Mrs. Clapham was hostess for many guild meetings and teas, sometimes for brides, such as the one she had for Mrs. James Newbegin and Mrs. L. E. McClelland. But this affair proved to be something more than a mere social event. Mrs. Clapham was practical. There were some choir vestments to be mended, so the guests were invited to thread needles and proceed with the repairs. Thus, the Choir Guild was organized.

Of interest, no doubt, to many will be some of the items found in a copy of a weekly Parish Churchman dated March 4, 1905:

Rector—the Reverend H. Horace Clapham; Assistant:--the Rev. John B. Alaxander; Vestry—Sr. Warden—Phoenix Babcock; Jr. Warden—P. C. Stebbins; Sexton—Alexander McArthur; Sunday School—Supt., Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. James G. Newbegin; teachers—Mrs. I. J. Knapp, Mrs. C. A. Pratt, Miss Eley Miles, Miss Mary Duffy, Miss Marguerite McConihe, Miss Ellen Lawler, Miss Ford, Miss C. Ryder, Miss Bellis, Mrs. Von Rosenberg.

Incidentally, Mrs. Von Rosenberg was a German Countess and an accomplished vocalist who sang in Trinity choir. She entertained lavishly and is reported to have been a most gracious, kindly unpretentious woman.

Other organizations mentioned in this bulletin are: Altar Guild, directress Mrs. W. S. Conn; Trinity chapter, Brotherhood of St. Andrews, director, the Rev. H. H. Clapham, Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. H. D. Rawlings; St. Margaret's Guild, president Miss Anna Davis; Trinity Junior Guild, president Mrs. Von Rosenberg; Society of St. Barnabas, directress Mrs. J. H. Babbit; Trinity Guild, Mrs. C. F. Miller, president.

To indicate how steadfastly the women of Trinity Guild alone worked for the church some excerpts from their minutes are presented:

In the Spring and Summer of 1909 a rose show was the big project of Trinity Guild. Secretary, Mrs. W. Ollard, was instructed to advise the women of the parish to meet on May 12 to discuss plans for this show. At that meeting and one on June 9 final arrangements were made and the following committees appointed: Advertising—Mrs. Drew, Miss Fletcher; Decorations—Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Bergfeld, Mrs. Ollard, Mrs. Ballyntine, Mrs. Coblentz, Miss Fletcher; Flowers—Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Joseph Bell. Receiving Committee—Mrs. Hanscon, Mrs. Ollard; Candy— Mrs. Standring; Ice Cream—Mrs. Boyle; Punch—Mrs. Gillespie. Judges: Mr. J. Lawrence, Mr. Will Read, Mr. Morrisse.

It was decided to have the Rose Show on June 19th. The meeting adjourned and all were invited to take tea on the lawn at Mrs. Taynton's home.

A successful Rose Show brought crowds of people. Total receipts were \$76.60, expenses \$34.87, profits \$42.53.

The guild closed for a much-deserved vacation but opened energetically in the Fall. At the first meeting a letter was read from Mr. S. A. Perkins, owner of the Tacoma Ledger saying it was his pleasure to return Ledger and News receipted bills amounting to \$37.60, which he asked the guild to accept with his compliments.

Evidently, enthused by this kindly gesture, a motion was made and carried that the guild work to pay off the mortgage on the church. Mr. Clapham expressed much pleasure at the decision saying he wished the guild every success in this undertaking.

Immediately, a rummage sale was planned for October. A Christmas sale followed which netted \$91.57. Then a souvenir quilt sold for \$112.00, which sum helped pay street improvements. On the following Easter service, March 27, 1910, the guild placed \$100 in the collection to be applied toward church expenses. All of this exemplifies what busy guilds accomplished and continue to accomplish.

"God bless the women," Johnnie Lutrich II, now a 26-year-old lawyer, called to his mother as he arrived home from his office. She had just returned from a Trinity Guild meeting, her arms filled with aprons which needed some finishing touches for the next sale. "What would Trinity Church do without you, Mother?"

"Me," she exclaimed, adding, "You should see what Christine McLaughlin and Mollie Hagenbuch accomplish along with the other women. But, Johnnie, you men of the church are its real mainstay—the vestry, the Brotherhood of St. Andrews, and the ushers who are so cordial. I often think of your father in those early days going with other men to hotels to invite strangers to Trinity Church."

She rested on a porch chair, then asked, "Son, do you remember when Mr. Clapham first came to Trinity Church?"

"Certainly, Mother. Don't you recall that Harold Broomell and I on alternate Sundays pumped the organ which those ladies in Philadelphia sent to Trinity? That pump was like the kind on an old well. We had to stand in the small room above the organ where sheet music and bottles of sacramental wine were stored. Oh—and, do you remember...?"

"Yes, I do! The less said about that the better," she answered, emphatically, "I have always thought that was almost a sacriligeous affair. But, the poor boy! Mr. Clapham tried to help him."

She was referring to the incident which happened when both Johnnie Lutrich and Harold Broomell wanted to go on summer vacation at the same time. Who would

pump the organ? It came to pass that Johnnie II met an itinerant on the street who asked if Johnnie knew of a job. Suddenly the matter of a substitute organ pump handler entered Johnnie's mind and he asked,

"Do you know any thing about pumping a church organ?"

"Why, guess I do," the fellow replied, "I did that once in my home town church. Give me a chance."

So with much assurance and the blessing of the choir master, the stranger entered the choir loft the following Sunday. The music for the service began satisfactorily but when the anthem was sung the notes faded, spurted, faded again and disappeared. The same thing happened when the recessional hymn was sung. As soon as possible the choir master hurried to the choir loft. There on the floor in a stuporous sleep lay the stranger, an empty bottle of sacramental wine beside him.

Johnnie II sat down beside his mother, and asked, "Sighing, Mother?"

"Yes, dear. All the church women are concerned over Mr. Clapham's health. The doctor has ordered him and Mrs. Clapham to take a vacation in California."

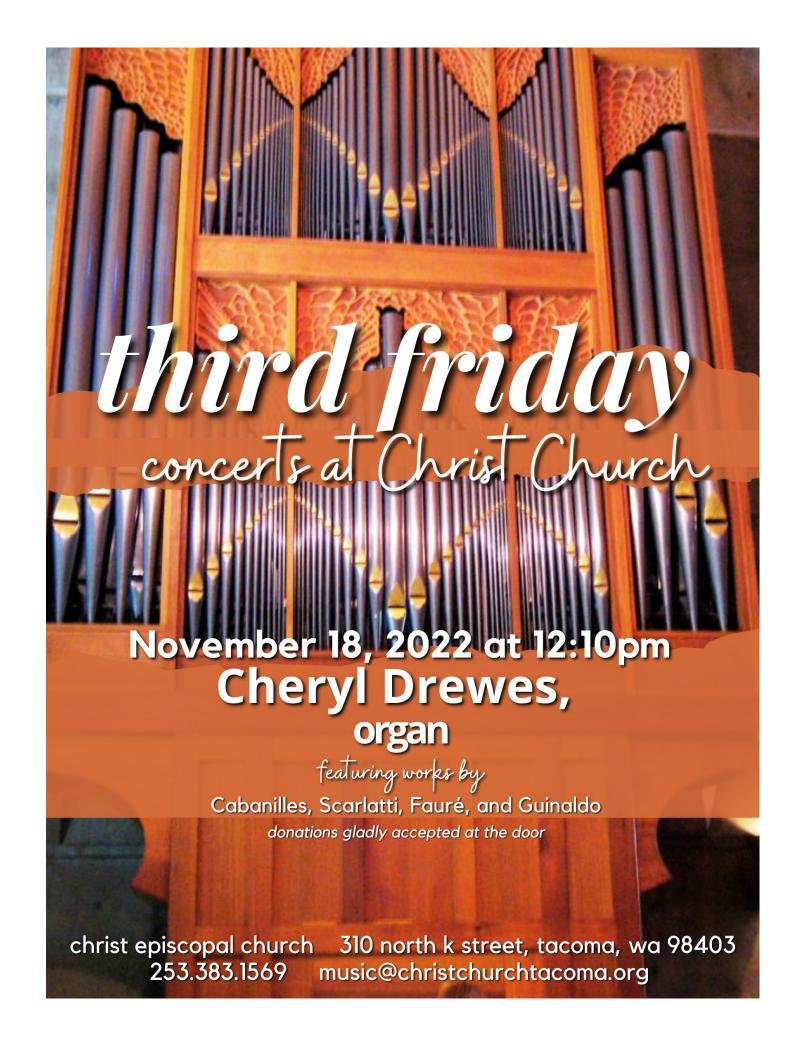
"I'm sorry he is sick," Johnnie said, seriously, then suddenly chuckled, "I have always admired his sense of humor. I met him not long ago on Tacoma Avenue. It was raining hard and he had no umbrella. I held mine over him and he said that reminded him of a quatrain written by the Bishop of London, the Right Rev. Dr. Creighton.

"The rain it raineth every day
Upon the just and unjust feller,
But, more upon the just, because
The unjust takes the just's umbreller."

Mary Lutrich laughed softly, then said, "I'm thankful that you and Jane were married by Mr. Clapham, and that your Johnnie Lutrich III was baptized by him." She hesitated, before adding slowly, "I'm afraid that Mr. Clapham is very sick."

Her fear was founded for in the fall of 1910 word was received from Santa Clara, California, that the Reverend Horace H. Clapham had died.







GUIDING

DECEMBER 3RD | 7:00 PM

PHINNEY RIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7500 GREENWOOD AVE N, SEATTLE, WA 98103

IN COLLABORATION WITH

SHORECREST HIGH SCHOOL AND RESONATE

DECEMBER 4TH | 4:00 PM
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
310 N K ST, TACOMA, WA 98403
IN COLLABORATION WITH
AUBURN RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

TICKETS \$20 ADVANCE, \$25 AT THE DOOR STUDENTS ALWAYS FREE









Daily Office at Christ Church

- ♦ Monday 9:00am*
 Morning Prayer
- ♦ Thursday 7:30am*
 Morning Prayer
- ♦ Saturday 9:00am Morning Prayer
- *zoom link available at christchurchtacoma.org/calendar

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, November 13, 2022:

> 8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel 10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



Bulletin for 10:30am

Visit <u>Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar</u> for weekday Morning Prayer, Lectio Divina, and Conversation & Compline Service Schedule

Christ Episcopal Church

310 North K Street
Tacoma, Washington 98403

p: 253.383.1569 info@christchurchtacoma.org christchurchtacoma.org PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

TO:

