

# Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

## A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

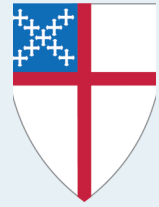
**T**homas Merton, OCSO, the New York journalist turned Cistercian monk, was a keen observer of two things: the feasts and seasons of the church year and their significance for modern Americans. Merton did not view Christmas as a colorful time filled with parties and lively music, in and outside of church (though he was not in any way opposed to parties and music). Rather he recognized in the Christmas Mystery what becomes apparent in the life of the adult Jesus: his companionship with those who do not fit into society's understanding of who is "acceptable" and "unacceptable."



Thomas Merton, OCSO

He writes: "Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited. But because he cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, and yet he must be in it, his place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, tortured, exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst."

## Christ Church Parish



Friday, December 23, 2022

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Community.....	6-19
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### Upcoming Events

- **Christmas Eve Liturgies  
December 24**  
4:00pm Holy Eucharist  
9:00pm Carols and Anthems  
9:30pm Festive Holy Eucharist
- **Christmas Day Holy Eucharist  
December 25, 10:30am**
- **Holy Name of Jesus  
January 1**
- **The Baptism of Our Lord  
January 8**  
Adult Formation: Monastic  
Ecological Wisdom
- Secular Book Club, January 13
- Adult Formation: Exploring  
Common Life, January 15  
Monthly Book Club
- Adult Formation: Anglican  
Spirituality in the PNW  
January 16
- Vestry Meeting, January 17

We strongly encourage masking during worship, mindful that we worship among people who need added protection. Masking not only protects us but also our neighbors.

### Need Help??

To add to our prayer list, email the [Parish Administrator](#). 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 [Deacon Gen Grewell](#) 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:

Dick Gregory; Bill Giddings; Lois Garriott; Edith Abicht; Lani Frisch; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Melissa Glick; Ginny Peterson; Elin Gratton; Leslie Brooks; Morrie Stafford, and Jim Pierson.

**Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them:** Therese Day.

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Dunstan's, Shoreline • St. David Emmanuel, Shoreline

### Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Anglican Church of Melanesia

## 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 [Christchurchtacoma.org](http://Christchurchtacoma.org) to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

### Christ Church Calendar

To submit an article to the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the [Parish Administrator](#).

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](#)



## Worship 101

*Why does the priest or deacon pour water into wine at the altar?*

It was a common household practice in the ancient Mediterranean to add wine (viewed as pure) to water (viewed in a stagnant form as less than pure). And then water was mixed with wine to dilute it for children and the very elderly (though you'd think some people of a certain age would be fortified with a straight sip of wine or brandy). In time this practice, which had taken place at the Lord's Supper throughout the Mediterranean, became spiritualized and its ordinary dimension was forgotten. The wine represented the presence of Christ (his divinity) while the water represented humanity. To mix the two together was to express the human and divine nature of Christ but also to suggest that in receiving the consecrated wine at communion was to receive the divine within oneself. The priest would say, "By the mixing of this water and this wine, may we come to share in your divinity as you came to share in our humanity" - what some commentators called a "happy exchange."

## Christmastide Schedule

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve  
4 PM Holy Eucharist in the church  
9 PM Carols and anthems with the choir  
9:30 PM Holy Eucharist in the church

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day  
10:30 Holy Eucharist in the church

Sunday, January 1: The Holy Name of Jesus  
10:30 Holy Eucharist in the church  
The Rev. Catharine Reid, presiding and preaching

Sunday, January 8: The Baptism of Our Lord  
8:30 AM Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the church

## Christmas Eve and Day

We expect to have visitors among us on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM and on Christmas Day at 10:30 AM. Might you keep your eye out for visitors who might be unfamiliar with our form of worship and gently offer to point them to the Book of Common Prayer or Hymnal 1982? A nod of the head or introducing oneself at the end of the Eucharist are simple but meaningful ways to welcome people to Christ Church. Indeed, newcomers report that one of the reasons they return to Christ Church is the gentle welcome they receive from regular worshippers.

# Adult Formation

**Sunday, January 8**

## **Monastic Ecological Wisdom: A Resource for Contemporary Christians**

Join Fr. Torvend after the 10:30 Eucharist in the Parish Library for a discussion of his new book on how monastic practices can help modern Christians live in harmony with their local ecology and other creatures. Get a cup of coffee or tea in Wells Hall and then come to the library for what will be a good time!

**Sunday, January 15**

## **Exploring our Common Life and Prayer at Christ Church**

Might you be wondering what informs and guides our distinctive, inclusive, questioning, and socially-committed form of life? Do you wonder why we worship in the way we do? Do you have thoughts about affiliating with Christ Church and the Episcopal form of Christian faith and life? If so, join Fr. Torvend in the Parish Library right after the 10:30 Eucharist.

**Mondays, January 16 and 23**

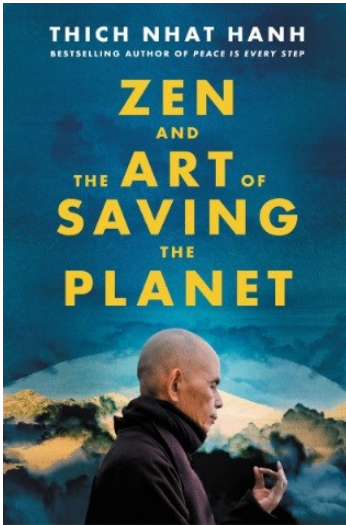
## **Anglican Spirituality in the Pacific Northwest**

In Fall 2022, we explored the influence of regional culture on church life in the Pacific Northwest. Indeed, portions of those presentations have informed our soon-to-be-released Parish Profile. Now we look to core values in Anglican spirituality and how those values and practices might speak to the spiritual hungers of our regional culture. We'll gather on Zoom at 7 PM. For those interested in participating in what will be an enlightening discussion of our distinctive spirituality, send an **email to Fr. Torvend** no later than **Wednesday, January 10**. In the subject heading of your email, type **Anglican PNW**. You will then receive the essay and Zoom link.



*The Christ Church Weekly  
will be on hiatus  
for next week. We will return  
January 6*

# Adult Formation



## Monthly Reading Group

**Sunday, January 15 at 6:30pm**

Meet at the home of **Sandy and Ronn Johanson** to discuss *Zen and the Art of Saving the Planet* by Thich Nhat Hanh. Newcomers are welcome! Questions? [Contact Don Johnson](#).

# Service

## Little Pantry

The Little Free Pantry continues on course: depleted one day—yes, the need is chronic—and then happily filled the next day. Our parishioners have been so generous in donations of non-perishable food. A variety of community members have also given donations. Everything has its purpose, and with food ready to eat, we are taking an important, caring action for those who are lacking or in short supply. We could use another couple of volunteers. The goal is to have someone responsible to fill the pantry every day from our supply of food in the church kitchen. Anyone available Tuesdays or Fridays? Contact [Jim Limerick](#) if you can help!



MOVING  
*forward*  
CHRIST CHURCH TACOMA

**Number of Pledges:** 76  
**Total Amount:** \$338,090

# DECK THE HALL

*Wells Hall. that is...*

## ***We need your help.***

We have exhausted our capital funds with our new Wells Hall HVAC system. At the same time, we are beginning to see increased reservations of our space. At best, Wells Hall is “shabby.” We believe we would get more rentals if the space was more appealing. We are planning a parish-wide work party in January to clean up the space, but more is needed to put our best foot forward.

**We desperately need capital donations to accomplish the following work outlined in the table on the next page. Any and every donation, regardless of amount, will help us move forward with refurbishing Wells Hall.**

As an added feature, with your donation, your name will be entered into a lottery for a small “Mending” cross made by Jean Tudor. These small crosses are replicas of the Mending Cross hanging in the narthex. It seems appropriate at this moment in our communal life that we offer these crosses as “gifts.” They serve as a reminder of our shared journey through the last several turbulent years. Jesus has walked beside us every step of the way and we are wiser and stronger as we reemerge and live into God’s Plan for Christ Church Parish.



## **Wells Hall Capital Campaign**

### **Donations totaling \$30,000 allows us to:**

- Refurbish both Bathrooms on main floor
- Purchase new Stage Curtains & Rigging
- Purchase additional Cutlery, Dinnerware (to rent out)

### **Donations totaling \$52,000 allows us to:**

- Complete all of the above, plus
- Paint First and Second Floors
- Refurbish 2nd Floor Bathrooms (1 near Fireplace Room and 2 Children’s Bathrooms)

### **Donations totaling \$85,000 and greater allows us to:**

- Complete all of the above, plus
- Update Kitchen (floor, countertops, cabinets)
- Refurbish Green Room or Recarpet Fireplace Room



The background of the entire poster is a photograph of several lit candles. The candles are in various stages of being lit, with bright yellow and orange flames. The background is a deep blue, and the light from the candles creates a warm, glowing effect. The text is overlaid on this background.

# Christmas <sup>at</sup> Christ Church Parish

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm Holy Eucharist

9:00pm Carols and Anthems

9:30pm Festive Holy Eucharist

## CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30am Holy Eucharist

## THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

January 1 | 10:30am Holy Eucharist

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 8

8:30am & 10:30am Holy Eucharist

A Season of Light at Christ Church Parish  
A welcoming parish in the Stadium District

310 North K St | Tacoma, WA 98403  
info@christchurchtacoma.org | 253.383.1569

**christchurchtacoma.org**

# Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma  
The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, December 25, 2022:  
10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

Visit [Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar](http://Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar) for weekday Morning Prayer,  
Lectio Divina, and Conversation & Compline Service Schedule

*Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:*

[Forward Day by Day](#) | [Episcopal Church Weekly Reflection](#)

## Daily Office at Christ Church

◇ Monday 9:00am\*  
[Morning Prayer](#)

◇ Tuesday 7:30am\*  
[Lectio Divina](#)

◇ Thursday 7:30am\*  
[Morning Prayer](#)

◇ Saturday 9:00am  
Morning Prayer

\*zoom link available at  
[christchurchtacoma.org/calendar](http://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar)

## Christ Episcopal Church

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

TO:

