

Christ Church Parish • Friday, January 13, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

The Parish Search Committee

On Sunday, January 15, at the 10:30 Holy Eucharist, we will ask God's blessing and guidance on the Parish Search Committee. This is the group of Christ Church parishioners, appointed by the vestry, who will review applications, interview potential candidates, and recommend to the vestry a priest to become our next rector. Theirs is serious work that asks for our prayer in the months ahead.

At the same time, their work is **their work**: not our work. This means two things. First, we should not ask questions or offer comments to members of the Search Committee regarding their work. This would count as undue interference. And members of the Search Committee are bound to keep silence with the parish, family members, and friends regarding their work (with one exception: the committee chair can offer to the wardens an update on their progress). Second, their work is **confidential**: absolutely confidential in order to protect applicants who have not divulged to their parishes (or bishops) that they are applying for this position at Christ Church. The committee needs to protect applicants and the process from undue interference.

At the conclusion of their search, the Committee will offer one recommendation to the vestry who will consider it and then vote on it. It is the senior warden who will announce to

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 Choir Returns
 Town Hall: Budget Meeting
 Adult Formation:
 Exploring Common Life
 Monthly Book Club
- Adult Formation: Anglican Spirituality in the PNW January 16
- Vestry Meeting, January 17
- Third Friday Concert, January 20
- Adult Formation: Anglican Spirituality in the PNW January 23
- CSLT Meeting, January 24
- Wells Hall Work Party, January 28
- Parish Potluck Lunch, January 29
- · Annual Meeting, February 5



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 <u>Fr. Torvend</u>.

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:

John Marklin; Shannon Marklin; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Roby and Marie Dodd; Dick Gregory; Lois Garriott; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Melissa Glick, Ginny Peterson; Elin Gratton; Morrie Stafford; and Jim Pierson.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Barbara Bertolin; Doralin Burrows; Therese Day; Andre Radandt, and Jessie Van Vorhis.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. John's, Kirkland • St. Thomas, Medina • Emmanuel, Mercer Island Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

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 <u>Christchurchtacoma.org</u> to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

Christ Church Calendar

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

Articles must be submitted by Tuesdays 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





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the parish the successful completion of the search and the name of the new rector. We will then move toward preparing the celebration of the Holy Eucharist that will include the Celebration of a New Ministry: the official welcome of the rector presided over by the bishop provisional.

In the months ahead, let us be sure to hold the Search Committee in prayer, beseeching the Spirit's guidance as we continue to move forward in faith. Let us let them do their good work on our behalf.

Worship 101

Announcements?

Imagine yourself, pre-pandemic, watching a movie in a theater. Half way through the film, the manager stops the projection booth, turns up the lights, and lets everyone know what's for sale at the concession stand and what movies will be showing in the coming weeks. The lights then go down and the movie starts up from where it had stopped. Frustrating? Oh my gosh, Yes.

What blunder did the manager make? He stopped the people's engagement with the narrative flow of the film: a narrative that had been carefully crafted by the screenwriter, director, actors, and cinematographer. In a really good film, the screen writer, director, actors, and cinematographer hope that the narrative - the story - is actually doing something to those who are watching it.

A really great film is able to raise questions that percolate afterward in the hearts and minds of the audience, inspire people or give them a sense of hope, or demonstrate how others have faced and worked their way through obstacles. When the story is disrupted, the people are forced to start all over once the film begins again: the power of the story is diminished.

It is little different when we gather to worship. A narrative has been set that draws us into a story we not only watch but also participate in through words and actions. That participation in the story is what anthropologists call **ritual flow**. It moves from gathering as one people, to the setting forth of the story in word, song, preaching, and prayer, to the actual encounter with the one who is at the center of the story: the risen Christ who gives himself to all at the eucharistic table.

As Episcopalians, our weekly story is laid out for us in the Book of Common Prayer. Note, **common** prayer: not individual prayer, not breaks to highlight individuals, or breaks in the flow for notices about upcoming events, the quality of the coffee served after church, telling jokes, or watching stuffed animals tell us to get our pledges in. As one parishioner recently said: "I'm an adult who comes here seeking God. I don't come here to be entertained."

Our worship is actually set up to effect some measure of **transformation** in us, that is, when we attend to the flow and give ourselves over to it: when we allow the flow to work its way into our hearts and mind; when we stay with the flow and don't break



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it up half way, forcing us "to start over."

So, announcements at the very end - where they actually have a better chance of remaining in people's memory, without interrupting the most important thing: our gathering together as one Body in the presence of the awesome Mystery of God - of God who seeks to inspire us, offer us a sense of hope, and strengthen us for the days ahead.

Epiphany Schedule

Sunday, January 15: Epiphany II 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the church with Blessing of the Search Committee

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 Chris-

tian faith and life? If so, join Fr. Torvend in the Parish Library right after the 10:30 Eucharist.

Sunday, January 22 The Land is in the Church

At the conclusion of the 10:30 Holy Eucharist, fetch a cup of coffee or tea in

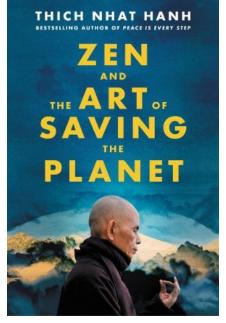
Wells Hall and then join Fr. Torvend in the church as we explore the various ways in which our local ecology - our land and water and more—is present in the space where we worship: a follow up from our discussion of monastic ecological wisdom.

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.

Sunday, January 15 at 6:30pm Monthly Reading Group

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.







Godly Play, our Children's Formation,

is now every Sunday through mid-June. Thanks to Ann Welton and David Pierce for their assistance with this Montessori-based Sunday

School program. Meet in the Narthex at 10:30 am to travel to Wells Hall together on Sundays.

Daily Office/Morning Prayer at Christ Church

June, 2021: The church was closed, "Keep Out" signs posted on every door, the court-yard overgrown and untended. But the sun was shining, and a gathering of people stood in a circle listening to the prayer, "Where two or three... or fourteen... are gathered together in his Name, you will be in the midst of them."

Hearing the clear and immediate tones of an un-microphoned voice – while standing next to others – brought tears to many eyes. The first in-person meeting of the Morning Prayer group decisively broke the spell of over a year of enforced pandemic isolation.

Since then, in addition to Monday and Thursday gatherings on Zoom, the Daily Office group has continued to meet each Saturday morning at 9:00 at the church. Depending on weather, the group meets outside, in the narthex, or in the church itself. Attendance over the past months has waned however, and the Daily Office group faces a collective question: Are the people of Christ Church interested in continuing the practice of in-person morn-

ing prayer on Saturdays?

The idea for inaugurating a daily office group was hatched in the bleak early months of the pandemic, when so many opportunities to gather, let alone worship communally, were shut down. The initial goal of the group was to provide daily opportunities for structured liturgical prayer sponsored by Christ Church so as to augment the Eucharist and provide more opportunities to pray together. (The spiritual practice of *lectio divina*, which takes place via Zoom each Tuesday morning at 7:30, is also part of this effort, although it is not considered a daily office.)

Praying the daily office is used as a way to read the Bible. By following the lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer over a two-year cycle (rather than the three -year lectionary cycle of the Eucharist), most of both the Old and the New Testaments is read. Morning prayer has deep roots in Anglican spirituality starting from the pre-Reformation Benedictine monastic communities and parishes of the British Isles, as well as in Thomas Cranmer's first Book of Common Prayer (1549). For centuries Anglicans-Episcopalians have been praying a version of Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer and lectio divina on Zoom have attracted a dedicated group of followers, not just from Christ Church, but from other churches in Tacoma and even a devoted participant from California. But the weekly in-person practice on Saturdays has been languishing of late. In order to make Saturday morning prayer a sustainable offering, we need a broader base of participants. Please consider joining us some Saturday morning, augment your spiritual life and experience the quiet joy of praying in community. ~Mary Hanneman

Service

December Veteran's Village Meal

On December 27, members of Christ Church prepared and delivered our monthly dinner to the veteran residents at the FOB Hope Veteran's Village in Tacoma. This time the menu was hearty beef stew, rolls, salad, dessert and tea. As always, the residents were happy and appreciative to have this home-cooked, delicious meal. On these cold evenings, a hot nourishing meal is so important, and it lets the residents know that we care about them. This is truely what being disciples of Christ to those on the margins looks like.

Special thanks to the Schoenfelds and the Johansons for cooking and delivering our feast. I want to especially mention Debra Nastaj. Debra does our shopping each month, but this month posed an additional twist. Usually we all get together after services and cook in the church kitchen. But this year due to the holiday this wasn't feasible, so we each made a batch of stew at home. So after shopping,

Debra separated all of the ingredients into individual portions which we picked up. It was like getting one of those boxes with everything pre-measured. A huge thankyou to Debra for this extra effort!

Christ Church delivers a dinner to the Village each month – the next date is January 23. We'd love to have more folks join us. You can plan a meal, help cook, or deliver. Please reach out to Deacon Donna if



you'd like to be involved. You can learn more about the Veteran's Village, located at 82nd & Pacific Ave, at www.fobhope.org.

~ Deacon Donna Arellano



The need for food has gone on, almost at emergency levels, for quite some time. People are taking the canned goods, energy bars, ramen noodles, and other nourishment from our pantry almost as quickly as it goes out there. Our volunteers for this program are much appreciated. The parishioners and others in the community are donating generously. Thank you to everyone who has helped on this effort.

~Jim Limerick for CSLT

Wells Hall Work Party Save the Date!

Sign-up sheets will be available this Sunday for our upcoming **Wells Hall Work Party** on **Saturday, January 28, from 9:00am— 5:00pm**

We will need help loading items onto a truck, organizing the kitchen, moving furniture, cleaning the Children's Chapel woodwork, and more. Come for an hour or stay for the day. More information next week!

Weekly Altar Flower Donations Available

Please sign up in the Narthex to donate to our altar flower fund. Your donation toward our altar flowers allows us to have beautiful floral arrangements each week.

Living Situation Needed

One of our congregation members has called to inform us that her landlord is ready to move her out of her apartment, along with her little dog.

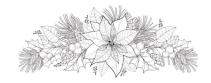
She is asking if anyone at Christ Church can help find a room for her for a few days, and then an apartment. Please contact Fr. Torvend if you have any information about a possibility.

Town Hall Meeting This Sunday

If you are interested in learning more about the parish budget for 2023, come to Wells Hall after the 10:30 Eucharist ends on **Sunday, January 15.** The wardens will lead this informative discussion of the budget with plenty of time for questions.

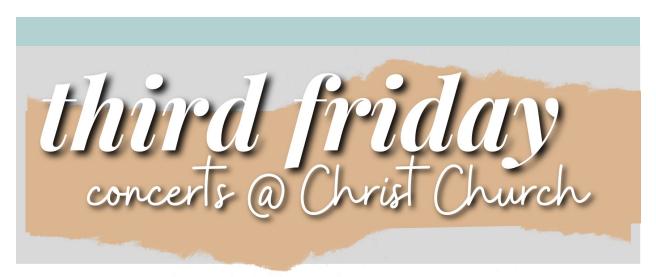
Christmas Poinsettias Available

Please feel free to take home one of the Christmas poinsettias that are now in the Narthex.



Funeral Eucharist for Barbara Bertolin

The Funeral Eucharist for Barbara Bertolin, mother of Christ Church member and chorister, Jane Bertolin, will take place on Saturday, January 21, 4:00 PM, at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 345 South 312th Street in Federal Way. Christ Church members and friends are warmly invited to join Jane and family for this liturgy.



Our next **Third Friday Concert** takes place on **Friday, January 20, at 12:10pm** in the church. This concert—the first of 2023—will feature the *Christ Church Choral Scholars*: **Larissa Gaulke, soprano, Rae Hyra, mezzo, TJ Wheeler, tenor,** and **Jack Burrows, baritone**.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, Christ Church developed a Choral Scholars program, which was modeled on the English university and cathedral tradition. Qualified young musicians studying at area universities were offered what is essentially an apprenticeship in practical church music, working as section leaders and soloists in the Christ Church Choir. This has allowed them a unique opportunity to gain experience in singing diverse choral literature from across the centuries in a worship context, chanting psalms, as well as gain exposure to a large body of hymnody, and experience the riches of the Anglican worship tradition as practiced at Christ Church.

Our Choral Scholars have had the opportunity to serve as cantors and soloists, to develop skills as composers, arrangers, conductors, instrumentalists or accompanists for the liturgy as befits their specific interests and abilities. We began with three talented young people filling the positions: Soprano, Alto, and Bass, and added tenor TJ Wheeler this fall.

We look forward to hearing these singers in this concert, which will feature works by Dietrich Buxtehude, Gabriel Fauré, Henry Purcell, and Thomas Tallis. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door.



potluck

/pät 'lək/

noun: a meal or party to which each of the guests contributes a dish



Sunday, January 29, 2023 following the 10:30am service

please bring: A-L main dish M-Z salad

Bring your dish to Wells Hall before the service if you would like.

Sundaes and toppings will be provided.



First Bann

The Parish Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 5, 2023,** immediately after the 10:30 Holy Eucharist, in Wells Hall. In order to have a quorum to conduct business, we encourage all members of the parish to mark the date and participate in the meeting. A light lunch will be served.

COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING

Jam and release stress in this community drumming event. No musical experience required.



Instruments provided or bring your own djembes, tambourines, drums, buckets, or noise makers to jam. Tuesday 1/17 11:00 am-11:50 am or 12:05- 12:55 pm

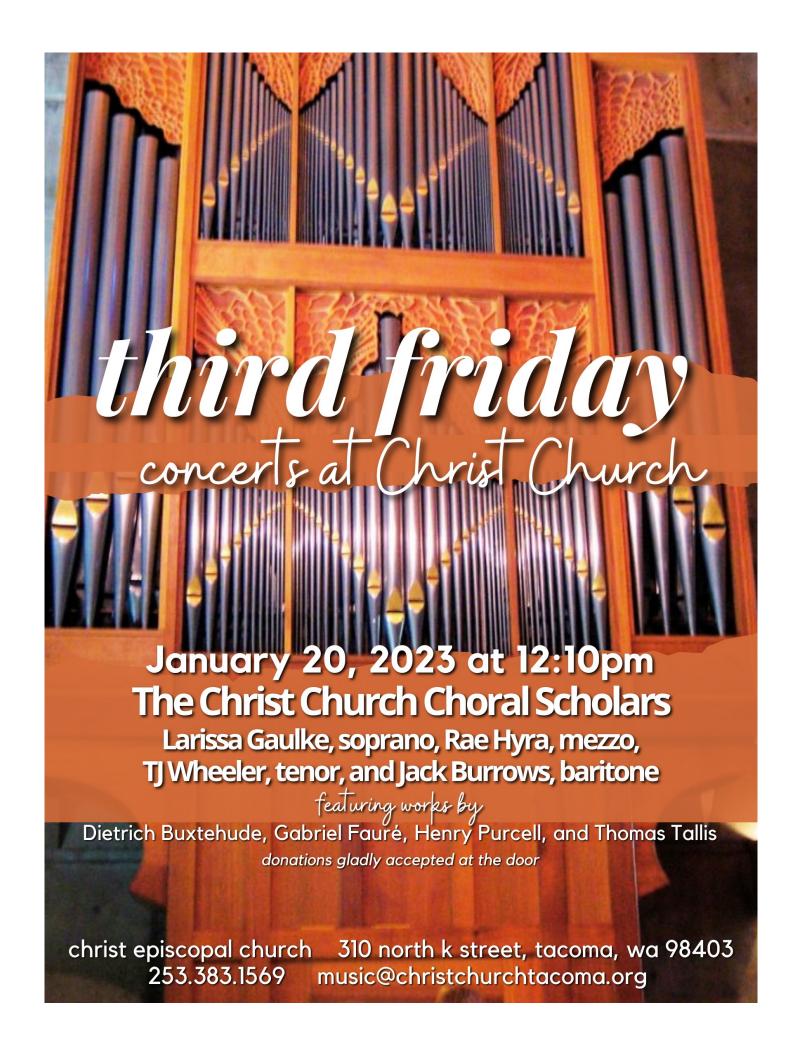
Led by Sherina James at the South Sound YMCA



Please note:

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 16, in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.





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

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma January 15, 2023:

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

Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:
Forward Day by Day | Episcopal Church Weekly Reflection

Christ Episcopal Church

310 North K Street
Tacoma, Washington 98403

p: 253.383.1569 info@christchurchtacoma.org <u>christchurchtacoma.org</u> PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

TO:

