



Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, March 24, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

Spiritual tourists or pilgrims?

This past Wednesday, March 22, I joined 500 other people for a presentation at PLU by Rick Steves, the foremost North American authority on European travel. In his engaging and at times humorous talk, Mr. Steves discussed “Travel as a Spiritual Act.”

In his presentation, he mentioned three different forms of travel: as *tourists* who simply want to “consume” what they’re viewing; as *travelers* who want to meet and learn from the people of a region or a country; and as *pilgrims* who want to seek out the gifts of their own spiritual tradition or that of another spiritual tradition. Mr. Steves indicated that to be a pilgrim is the mark of a maturing spiritual person. To view Rick Steves’ presentation: <https://youtube.com/live/PeK44vsW8do?feature=share>

On Wednesday evening, March 22, Muslims throughout the world began the feast of *Ramadan*, a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection. On the evening of Wednesday, April 5, Jews throughout the world will begin the week long keeping of *Passover*, the feast that commemorates the liberation of the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery. And on Thursday, April 6, Lent ends and the *Three Great Days* of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday begin: the passover of Jesus - and us with him - from death to new life.

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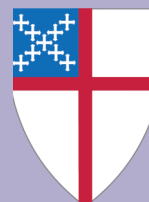
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Upcoming Events

- Funeral Liturgy for Deborah Oakman, **March 25**
- Adult Formation: Water, Light, and Life Lead Us to the Three Days, **March 26**
- Veterans Village Dinner Prep, **March 26**
- Veterans Village Dinner Service, **March 27**
- Evening Prayer and Soup Supper, **March 29**
- Easter Week Rehearsal, **April 1**
- Palm Sunday, **April 2**
- Maundy Thursday, **April 6**
- Good Friday, **April 7**
- Holy Saturday, **April 8**
- Easter, **April 9**

Click Here to Donate
to *Deck the Halls*
(Wells Hall)



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:

Betsy Buck; Al Buck; Tammy Creley; Liz Heath; Robert Reeves; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Dick Gregory; Bill Garriott; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Melissa Glick; Ginny Peterson; Morrie Stafford; and Jim Pierson.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Lloyd Albert and Lois Garriott.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Trinity, Seattle • Apostles (COTA), Seattle

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Anglican Church of South America

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 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 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



Worship and Formation

Continued from page 1.

In our keeping of the Three Great Days, will we be tourists or pilgrims?

Will there be time to learn something of the feasts kept by Muslims and Jews?

For more on Ramadan: <https://ing.org/resources/for-all-groups/calendar-of-important-islamic-dates/ramadan-information-sheet/>

For more on Passover: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/passover-history-and-overview>

Worship 101

Those palm branches!

For over a thousand years, Christians have received blessed palm branches on the last Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday. As blessed branches, they have been and are treated with reverence. Christians are encouraged to take their palm branches home and place them behind sacred images or art, crosses, or crucifixes - and keep them there until the following



Shrove Tuesday when they will be burned for use on Ash Wednesday. They are never thrown away in the garbage. If not used, there are to be burned and the ashes buried.

In the Philippines and in Spain, palm branches are transformed into works of art by worshippers who weave them into elaborate creations. In Germany, boxwood branches and red roses are intertwined with small palm branches.



Funeral liturgy

The funeral service for **Deborah Oakman**, beloved spouse of Doug Oakman, will be celebrated on **Saturday, March 25**, at 10:30 AM in the church. A light lunch reception will follow in Wells Hall.

Wednesday, March 29 at 6:00PM

Evening Prayer at Table

Trinity House Library

Join us for evening prayer and a simple soup supper: a time for common prayer, good conversation, and delicious soup. If you plan to come, please *sign up* on the sheet at the glass table in the church entryway on *Sunday, March 26*. Evening prayer with soup supper will continue each Wednesday in Lent.

Worship and Formation

Save these important dates

April 2: *Palm Sunday*, one liturgy at 10:30 AM beginning in Wells Hall with the blessing of palms

April 6: *Maundy Thursday* at 7:30 PM in the church, the Institution of the Lord's Supper

April 7: *Good Friday* with Stations of the Cross at 12 Noon, and Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 7:30 PM in the church

April 8: *Holy Saturday*, the First Eucharist of Easter at 8:00 PM beginning in the courtyard with the New Fire and the blessing of our new Paschal Candle

April 9: *Easter Sunday*, one liturgy at 10:30 AM in the church

Sunday March 26

Water, Light, and Life

lead us to the Three Days

11:45 AM in the Parish Library

In this final gathering, we will discuss how the image from the Sunday's gospel invites us into a closer relationship with Christ, each other, and the world in which we live - with art, music, and spiritual reflections.



Sunday, April 30

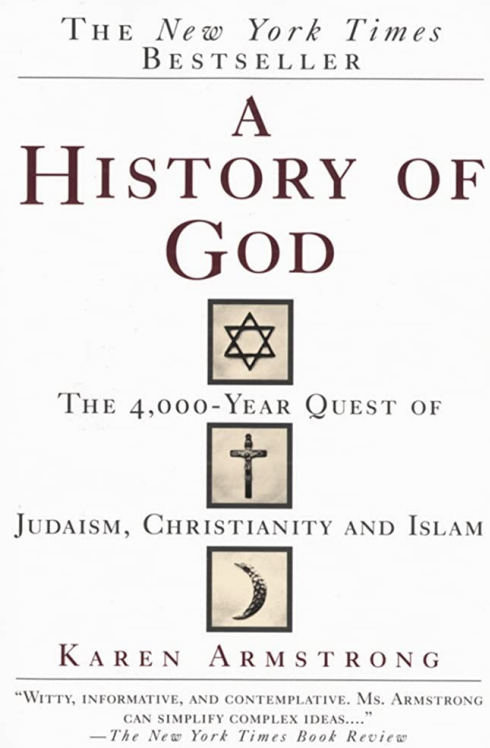
Monthly Reading Group

Meet at the home of King and Dee Schoenfeld to discuss chapters 7-11 of *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong. Newcomers are welcome!

Questions? Contact [Don Johnson](#).

Godly Play, our Children's

Formation, is now every Sunday through mid-June. Meet in the Narthex at 10:30 am to travel to Wells Hall together on Sundays.



For almost a year, Christ Church has provided a monthly hot dinner to the residents of FOB Hope – aka Veterans Village. Each month we cook and deliver a meal of a meat dish, side, salad, rolls, beverage, and dessert. Shopping and cost are done by CSLT; the rest is done by the Veteran's Village core team and other volunteers.

Do you want to be part of our effort to feed these veterans? There are many ways to help. Each month, we can use:

- ♦ 1 person to plan the meal and line up volunteers;
- ♦ 2-3 people to help cook. Sometimes the cooking is done at home, and sometimes we cook in the church kitchen after services;
- ♦ 2-4 people to deliver the meal to the Village and lay it out. In warmer weather, we'll stay around, serve the food and chat with the residents. In the colder weather (like now), when few people are hanging out in the mess tent, we just set up the food buffet style, chat for a bit, and leave.

In all cases, there are the awesome volunteers on our core team that you will work alongside.

If you'd like to be involved, but none of these opportunities sound like a fit for you, then each month we will be asking for donations of desserts. Each dessert should feed 6-8. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, so you can join us once to try it out or become part of our core team. Up to you!

Our next meal is on March 27; with cooking in our kitchen after the 10:30 service on **March 26**. We'll be making King Ranch Chicken Casserole. This is a gooey, cheesy dish with a Tex-Mex flair. Yummy!! ~**Deacon Donna Arellano**



Service

With increasing demands on our facilities, the role and work hours of our Sexton have changed. The Vestry is grappling with how to provide coverage for all the work that needs

to be done. While we are considering a lawn service, we would like to hear your feedback first on whether mowing the lawn, edging, and maintaining the hedge could be done by a calendar of volunteers during the growing season. Hiring a lawn service is an unbudgeted expense and we believe it is prudent to explore the feasibility of all other options first. The dedicated, hard-working Garden Committee can commit to taking care of the flower beds by weeding, planting seasonal flowers and mulching. They can do some occasional projects such as power washing the reflecting pond and other areas that need it in the enclosed garden. However, regular maintenance of our grounds is beyond

their capability. If we are unable to create a dedicated calendar of volunteers, the Vestry's decision on this topic is an easy one.

Calling all
LAWNMOWERS
WE NEED YOU



How many Episcopalians does it take to change a lightbulb?*

Whatever the answer is, we are hoping for some help with changing a particularly **important** bulb—the one over the font in the church. If you have a few free moments and are unafraid of heights, please let us know! {We hope to do this asap, thank you!}



Looking for some fun exercise? Want to meet some new church neighbors? We have just the thing for you. We need to get the word out about our upcoming Easter Egg Hunt, and are hoping for some help handing out flyers this week and/or next. Just let us know if you are available, and thank you.



Come join us on Palm Sunday in Wells Hall as we stuff Easter Eggs with goodies during the coffee hour. This goes quickly with just a few helpful folks and is loads of fun!



*It takes three: One to call an electrician, one to mix the drinks, and one to talk about how much they liked the old one.

Community

We are now fully into the Saintry 16! Joanna and Florence have already made it through to the Elite 8 (yea for the women!). This week started with a queen vs a king, neither of whom we know much about. Which is why we love Lent Madness! Now we know a bit more about each of them.

Later in the week we had some interesting match-ups: Bach vs. Hooker; Blandina vs. Brendan; Jonathan Daniels vs. Josephine; and finally Chief Seattle vs. John Donne. Music vs. Theology; Martyr vs. Adventurer; Civil Rights Advocate vs. Slave; Indigenous Leader vs. Preacher and Writer. The members of the 'Supreme Executive Committee' referred to the Bach vs. Hooker contest as a "deliciously absurd pairing." Indeed!

I am enjoying this year's slate of saints. Some well-known but deserving of more recognition; other less well-known. What have you learned?

I hope you are enjoying this journey through "saint-dom," and are learning a bit about the people who have contributed to our story over the centuries. Ours is certainly a full, rich, and varied history. ~Deacon Donna Arellano





Tacoma Method: Speaking Truth to Power— In the Voice of a Woman

From the sworn deposition of merchant Lum May in the matter of the expulsion of the Chinese community from Tacoma, Washington Territory, on November 3, 1885: he was about 51 years old, had lived in the U.S. for 11 years, and had kept a dry goods store near the corner of present-day Commerce and 9th Streets for 10 ten years, when a mob of white men, armed with guns and clubs, broke into his house to force him and his family to leave. “My wife refused to go,” said Lum, “and some of the white persons dragged her out of the house. From the excitement, the fright, and the losses we sustained through the riot, she lost her reason, and has ever since been hopelessly insane. She threatens to kill people with a hatchet, or any other weapon she can get hold of. The outrages I and my family suffered at the hands of the mob have utterly ruined me... My wife was perfectly sane before the riot.”

It was when she read this deposition in the course of her research that librettist Zhang Er said to herself, “Oh, now we have an opera!”

Zhang Er is the internationally acclaimed poet collaborating with composer Greg Youtz to create the new opera *Tacoma Method*. She and the composer recently discussed their creative process at the Tacoma Public Library. Zhang explained why discovering this deposition was a defining moment for her: while the conventional operatic “mad scene” is often a pretext for a soprano’s virtuosic vocal display, Zhang found in it an opportunity to give Mrs. May—Lum’s

wife—a voice. Zhang elaborated: much of her poetic work is about giving voice to women whose voices are otherwise denied by patriarchal society. (Wheelock Branch, 11 March 2023)

Zhang heard a very specific voice for Mrs. May: that of the California-born, New York-based Chinese-American mezzo-soprano and composer Hai-Ting Chinn. In 18th- and 19th-century operas, the mezzo-soprano (the register between soprano and contralto) typically sings the female roles of queen, mother, and wise woman. Chinn’s rich, robust voice conveys passion and authority as Mrs. May resists the thugs who put her out of her home.

During the height of the pandemic, Chinn explained, especially as incidents of anti-Asian violence were rising in the U.S., she understood Mrs. May as “mad” in the sense of being righteously angry, rather than deranged: “Am I mad?” Mrs. May sings. “This [situation] is mad. You are mad, and you, and you. The world is mad.” “Madness” gives Mrs. May the permission structure to speak truth to power. (Conversation with Greg Youtz, Zhang Er, et alia, YouTube, Symphony Tacoma 25 April 2021)

Basing her libretto on documents and photos, Zhang Er wrote scenes depicting the lived experience of the Tacoma Chinese community in the months before the expulsion, including a New Year festival they shared with their white neighbors. The Chinese community were not hapless drifters: before the expulsion they had productive and meaningful lives and real roots in Tacoma. They were crucial to the city’s economy, comprising about 10% of the population at a time when Tacoma was the most populous and prosperous city on the Puget Sound.

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Community

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Composer Greg Youtz's musical score conveys a sense of place by integrating the sounds of Chinese instruments, especially recognizable percussion and plucked string instruments; he avoids the exotic caricatures so common when European and American composers write "Oriental" music. The preview concert at Symphony Tacoma (Feb. 25) demonstrated that *Tacoma Method* will be theatrically and musically engaging as well as honest and respectful to its subjects.

Opera may seem inaccessible to some, but many of its stories are based on historical or biblical events with social justice implications, refracted through the individual experiences of the protagonists. For example, Verdi based *Nabucco* (1841) on biblical accounts of the Jews being driven from their homeland by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar. Its most famous number is the Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, "Va pensiero." The story of *Tacoma Method* is very

much in keeping with that Verdian tradition as well as part of our own story.

It is a great privilege that we have our adventurous, accessible community institution, Tacoma Opera, to bring us this important story in an aesthetically satisfying way.

The world premiere takes place at the Rialto Theater on March 31, followed by performances on April 1 and 2. And you don't need to feed the Ticketmaster beast to attend: call City Theatres box office directly (253) 591-5894 or visit them at the Pantages Tuesday–Friday, 12 noon–4 pm. For specially priced student tickets, call the Tacoma Opera office (253) 627-7789.

~**Elizabeth L. Keathley, PhD**

Professor Emerita of Music History and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Faculty Fellow, Lloyd International Honors College,
University of North Carolina, Greensboro



Community

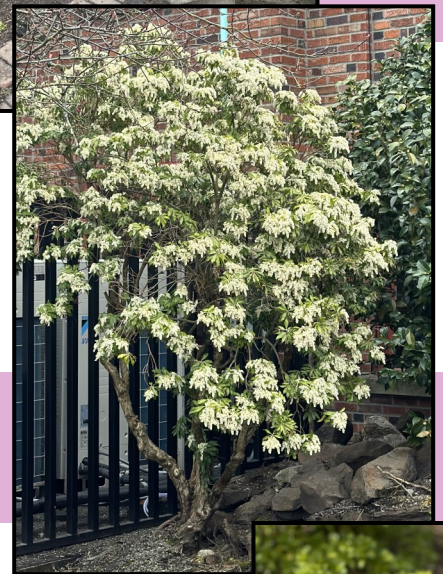
Wells Hall Renovation Updates this week...



Left: The “cage” pieces around our new furnace unit in the courtyard have now been installed, and the chain link fence units removed. Below: The final cage at last! The Wells Hall HVAC system is complete.



Above: Tony and crew from Inca Construction work on sanding the Green Room floors. Right: Gorgeous almost-complete floor in the Green Room.



Above and right: a tiny bit of beautiful spring at Christ Episcopal Church.



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](https://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar)

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

March 26, 2023:

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



Bulletin for 10:30am

Visit [Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar](https://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](#)

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TO:

