

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, April 28, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

Table, Food, and Waiter

This past Wednesday, I participated in a Zoom meeting with our bishop, the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton. As the co-chair of the diocesan Commission on Liturgy and the Arts, I was asked to discuss what the Commission will be up to in the months ahead now that parishes have returned to in person worship.

One point of discussion concerned the use of expansive language for God. Bishop Skelton was clear on this: we'll not be dropping the traditional baptismal formula of Father, Son, and Spirit, but we will seek more images that - and here's the point - expand our understanding of the Holy Three, images found throughout the Scriptures and in the Christian tradition.



Saturday, April 29, is the feast of **St. Catherine of Siena**, a 14th century Italian mystic and social activist who received messages from the Holy Trinity collected in her famous work, *The Dialogue of Divine Providence*. Faithful in praying the Daily Office, she was inspired

to compose her own prayers, one of which expands the image of the Holy Trinity:

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Upcoming Events

- Celebrating the 90s Potluck
Monthly Reading Group, **April 30**
- Evening Prayer and Soup Supper,
May 3
- Choir Rehearsal, **May 4**
- Northwest Repertory Singers
Concert, **May 6 and 7**
- Choir Rehearsal, **May 11**
- Jason Schroedel Funeral, **May 13**
- Vestry, **May 16**
- Choir Rehearsal, **May 18**
- Wellspring Ensemble Concert,
Esoterics Concert, **May 21**



SCAN ME



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:

Sean Horner; Patty Botkin; Betsy Buck; Al Buck; Liz Heath; Robert Reeves; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Dick Gregory; Stephen Behr; Danielle Olsson; Melissa Glick, Ginny Peterson; and Jim Pierson.

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

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Stephen's, Oak Harbor • St. James, Sedro-Woolley

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Episcopal Church

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.

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Bishop Rickel's Blog



Worship and Formation

Continued from page 1.

I shall clothe myself in your eternal will,
And by this light I shall come to know
That you, eternal Trinity,
Are table
And food
And waiter for us.
You, eternal One,
Are the table
That offers us as food
The Lamb, your only-begotten Son.
He is the most exquisite of foods for us,
Both in his teaching,
Which nourishes us in your will,
And in the sacrament
That we receive in Holy Communion,
Which feeds and strengthens us
While we are pilgrim travelers in this life.
And the Holy Spirit
Is indeed a waiter for us,
Who serves us this teaching
By enlightening our mind's eye with it
And inspiring us to follow it.
It is the Spirit who serves us charity for our
neighbors
And a hunger for the salvation of the world.
Prayer 12

For more on Catherine of Siena, go to http://satucket.com/lectionary/Catherine_Siena.htm

Worship 101

Indebted to the Jewish Community

The farther Christians stray from their Jewish origins, the greater our ignorance of the debt we owe to the Jewish community. After all, the One to whom we give thanks in the liturgy was and is a **Galilean Jew**:

in his resurrection from the deathly tomb, Jesus did not shed his Jewishness and suddenly become an Anglican Christian! And speaking of Easter - or better yet, **Pascha**, the original name for this feast - we know that its date shifts each year, influenced first by the dating of the Jewish feast of **Passover** which takes place on the first night of a full moon after the Spring equinox. We follow this pattern: Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox. And have you noticed the text we sing as the Easter Fraction Anthem: "Christ our Passover"?

Indeed, the Christian sense of time in the Great Tradition follows the Jewish sense of time: the **day begins with sunset** and ends with sunset the following day. The day does not begin at midnight or at dawn. Thus, Christmas begins with sunset on December 24; the Three Days begin with sunset on Maundy Thursday; and Pascha begins with sunset on Holy Saturday at the Vigil. And then there are the Fifty Days of Easter rooted in the Jewish keeping of 50 days that flow from Passover and conclude with the Jewish feast of **Shavuot**, an agricultural festival marking the ingathering or harvest of wheat. Pentecost: from the Greek for "the fiftieth." Yes, we keep Fifty Days of Paschal or Easter rejoicing as we discern each year what it might mean for us to "walk in newness of life."

And, of course, there is this: it's a challenge to understand the meaning of the New Testament, the Christian Scriptures, if one does not read and study the **Hebrew Scriptures**, the matrix in which the gospels and letters emerged. As Christians, we owe much to the ancient Jewish community: our sense of time, many of our cherished rituals, the Daily Office, and our primary text, the Bible. As Christians, we do well to honor our "older" brothers and sisters who have persevered in their faithfulness to the covenant God made with them at Sinai, a faithfulness that has been tested, tragically, but much Christian antisemitism.

Worship and Formation

Wednesday, May 3, 6:00 pm

First Wednesday Evening Prayer at Table

We're continuing the practice of Evening Prayer at Table started during Lent, when many gathered at one table to enjoy quiet community, prayer, fellowship and... delicious soup!

So put first Wednesdays on your calendar and plan to join in for community and conversation in the context of prayer and worship. And, in the spirit of community, please feel free to come early to help set up!

Sign up in the narthex on Sunday, April 30 at the glass table or let **Rod Blackburn** know you'll be coming.

Formation

Sunday, May 14

12 Noon in the Parish Library

A lonely resurrection?

Western depictions of the resurrection of Jesus tend to portray him by himself (well, with a few Roman soldiers knocked out at his feet). Among Eastern Christians, however, we find a much different portrayal: he is never depicted on Easter morning and he is never by himself. Join Fr. Torvend as we explore the Byzantine icon of the resurrection and how its color, movement, and content can shape our spirituality during the Fifty Days of Easter. A nice deal: a color image of the icon for each participant!

Sunday, May 21

12 Noon in the Parish Library

Images from the East

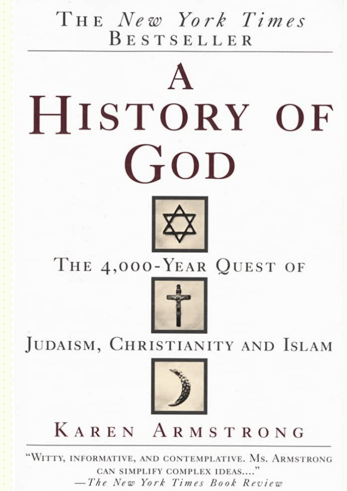
During their travels, Floyd and Lani Frisch, Christ Church members, have collected a remarkable treasure of icons. Join them as they show us and discuss these precious images from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. Floyd is a retired Episcopal priest and attorney-at-law and Lani a seasoned interior designer.

Sunday, April 30

6:30 pm

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.



Emergency Food

Network is kicking off Pierce County Hunger Awareness Month with the 43rd annual Hunger Walk! Our congregation has been a faithful participant in this important community event for many years. We have the opportunity to make contributions **now through May 31**. We invite you to join this year's event by making a financial donation to our Christ Episcopal Church Tacoma team.

Please make a donation at:

[Christ Church Tacoma Hunger Walk](#)

- ♦ Select Donation (top of page)
- ♦ Select Team Fundraiser (scroll down on right)
- ♦ Select Christ Episcopal Tacoma (scroll down until you locate)
- ♦ Donate

To date our Christ Church Tacoma team has raised \$485.00! Thank You for those who have been able to contribute so far.

I would also like to note that for those who are interested in walking on Saturday May 6th, we plan to meet at the starting line at 10 am – Fort Steilacoom Park. Please do let me know you will be walking so that I can look for you! Dogs on leash can join us too! If you have any questions or would like to sign-up to walk as part of our Christ Church team, please contact Linda Johnson at 253-802-6824 or lljbrownspt@gmail.com.

~Linda Johnson

HUNGER WALK



Service and Community

Veterans Village April Meal

On Monday, April 24, Christ Church served a meal featuring a hearty hamburger casserole and tossed green salad accompanied by assorted beverages. Pie and cookies were provided as dessert.

Much thanks to **Deb Nastaj** for doing the shopping for the meal provisions and to **Doug Worth** for donating the pies. Additional thanks goes to the April kitchen team which was comprised of **Lisa Mason, Ronn Johanson, and Len Johnson.**

Donna Arellano, along with **Linda** and **Len Johnson** delivered the meal to the village and set it out for serving. It was a wonderful experience watching as village residents eagerly filled their plates with casserole and salad!

If you are interested in being involved in the Veterans Village meal ministry, there is a sign up sheet on the glass table in the narthex at all 10:30am Sunday services. If you attend the 8:00am Sunday services, you can contact [Len Johnson](#) or [Donna Arellano](#) or just go by the glass table in the narthex after the early service ends.

~Community Service Leadership Team (CSLT)

Join Northwest Repertory Singers on a musical journey traversing from “the round earth’s imagined corners” to the landscape of the Red River Valley to the Shenandoah. Enjoy as we share the tender beauty of “A Red, Red Rose” and the boisterous adventures of “The Wellerman.”

Please join NWRS on **May 6 at 7:30 p.m. and May 7 at 3:00 pm** right here at Christ Church. This extraordinary setting is the perfect location for our choir to share the final two concerts of our 22nd season. We look forward to seeing you May 6 and 7!

Northwest Repertory Singers
Kyle Haugen, artistic director | Marjorie Skreen, collaborative pianist

Songs of **Land, Sea
& Sky**

May 6 | **May 7**
7:30 PM | 3:00 PM

Christ Episcopal Church 310 North K Street Tacoma, WA | TICKET SALES NWRS.ORG



A person between the ages of 90 and 99 is referred to as a “nonagenarian.” There are already some of you in the congregation and others who have or are going to join this exclusive club in 2023. Parish Life would love to celebrate you young folks at the next Christ Church Potluck on **Sunday, April 30, in Wells Hall**, following the 10:30 service.

A-L please bring a salad and/or bread, M-Z please bring a luncheon entrée. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided.

~Parish Life Committee

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

April 30, 2023

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

Christ Episcopal Church

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO:

