

# Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, June 9, 2023

## A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

*It's never too late for good news*

I am in Houston as I write this, speaking at a conference on higher education as the temperature outside is edging toward 93 degrees with high, high humidity (don't you just love living by the Puget Sound with our usually moderate summer temperatures?). Last week, I received this note from Mike Collier.

*I wrote this on Easter Monday after worshipping with your community for the Easter Vigil. The Great Vigil of Easter was wonderful. Standing in the dark rain outside of the stone church, watching the Easter fire, and hearing the entreaties to come set the mood. Processing into the dimly lit sanctuary with tall tapered candles flickering allowed for a mystical and worshipful experience. This was the 38th time I have attended, assisted as a worship leader, or presided at the Easter Vigil: first in Latin, then German, and finally English. It never ceases to amaze me to hear the ancient text of the Exultet that starts the service proper. The cantor who chanted this at Christ Church struck just the right note. The setting of the stone church and the musical proclamations of the choir were perfect! The deep pastoral care of the newly baptized encouraged the congregation towards celebration of this milestone event for both the recipient and the Church at large: I have always loved this service. Being a part of Christ Church's Easter Vigil really fed my soul. Sorry this took so long to get to you. I have been traveling for my work, consulting with congregations.*

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## Inside this issue

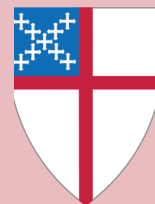
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## Upcoming Events

- Symphony Tacoma Voices, **June 10**
- Third Friday Concert, **June 16**
- Tacoma Contra Dance, **June 17**
- Farewell BBQ for Archdeacon Gen Grewell, **June 18**
- Vestry Meeting, **June 20**
- Sanctuary Tour, **June 25**
- CSLT Meeting, **June 27**
- Tacoma Contra Dance, **July 1**



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:

Steve Oakman; Dylan Hays; Greta Johnson; Tammy Hess and Family, Tim Williams; Patty Botkin; Liz Heath; Robert Reeves; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Dick Gregory; Stephen Behr; Danielle Olsson; and Jim Pierson.

**Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them:** Natasha Oakman; Betty Sporrer; Steve Skramstad; Dori Conklin, and Ann Combe.

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Christ Church, Puyallup • St. Matthew's, Browns Point, Tacoma • All Saints, Tacoma

### Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia

## 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 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

Continued from page 1.

Thank you, Mike, for your note. Meetings, rehearsals, physical labor, and collaborative preparation among musicians, artists, ushers, altar guild members, liturgical ministers, and leaders - many hours of good work - make for a liturgy that simply flows without interruption or hiccups and thus invites people to enter in and be *transformed* in ways small or great.

## Worship 101

*It's common prayer, not my prayer*

A longtime member of Christ Church asked me recently if we could have a chat concerning the Nicene Creed. For a second, I thought it might concern the content of the Creed but, in fact, this member raised another concern: "It seems that some people rush through the Creed as if it's something to get done and over with rather than something to contemplate, to take into one's being."

There is a good measure of truth in her comment given that one can hear some voices speaking quite quickly and others speaking at a more measured rate the common texts we share. Honestly, at times it can sound like we are praying on different speeds - 33 1/3 rpm, 45

rpm, and 78 rpm - rather than praying with one *common* voice. It can be jarring to hear some in the assembly finish speaking a text while other finish 5 seconds later. Is that *common* prayer?

Her concern raises questions: Are we listening to each other, moderating our pace with others?

Are we just rattling off well-known texts or engaging in prayerful consideration of the texts and their meaning? Consider this: commas and periods in a text invite a brief pause, a catch your breath - no different than singing.

But, then, one might say, "I just want to get out of church in 60 minutes. Who cares if we speak quickly?" Well, there are plenty of churches that rush through worship: why not try one of them? (But keep this in mind: one of the strongest criticisms by members of Generation Z of Christian worship is "rushing to get through it, as if the words have no meaning"). As one vestry member noted in our discussion of this question: "At Christ Church, we take the time needed. We neither rush it nor do we unnecessarily prolong our common prayer."

### Guided tour of Christ Church

Many of you might remember the Holy Eucharist on December 11, 2022, when our Bishop Provisional, Melissa Skelton, presided, preached, and confirmed David Pierce and Ann Welton. You might

also remember that she said how delighted she was to worship in what she considers *the most beautiful worship space* in the diocese: no small thing to say given the 100 parish churches of the diocese.

The building is not only a place where we gather together in the presence of the Triune God; it also proclaims in design, color, art, vessels, and layout the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On **Sunday, June 25, at 12 Noon**, Ron Fields, Professor of Art History Emeritus at UPS, Christ Church member, and a leader in our Liturgical Arts Team will give a **guided tour** of the space. If you have time, join Ron for this walk through our amazing *beton brut* space.

### Save the Dates

Sunday, October 8: the annual **Blessing of Animals** in the afternoon in the courtyard. On Sunday, October 15, Christ Church will host **choral Evening Prayer** with music and readings focused on the creation. This will be the first choral Evensong we've sponsored in a long, long time. Other Episcopal and local parishes will be invited to join us.

# Formation and Service

**Sunday, July 9**

**11:45 am in the Parish Library**

## Earth Ministry

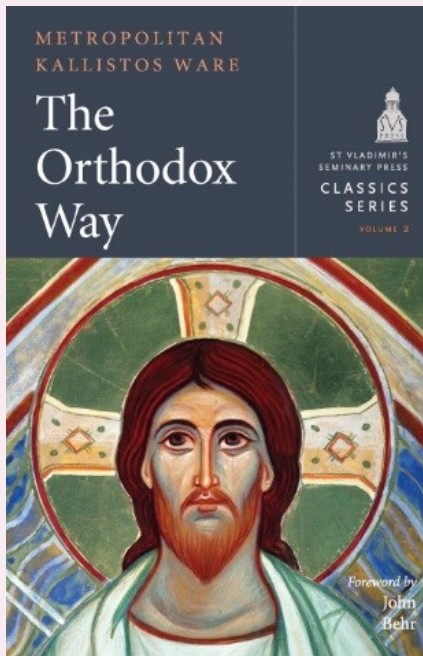
Join Keah Callucie who will discuss the benefits of Christ Church becoming a partner parish with Earth Ministry in our ongoing work to become Green Parish.

**Sunday, July 23**

**6:30 pm**

## Monthly Reading Group

The Monthly Reading Group will meet next at **6:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 23**, at the home of Sandy and Ronn Johanson to discuss *The Orthodox Way* by Kallistos Ware. (There will be no meeting in the month of June.) Questions? Contact [Don Johnson](#).



**A Car is Needed**—A member of Christ Church who has been diagnosed with Multiple Melanoma and has many medical appointments is in need of a used vehicle for trips to Seattle and Tacoma clinics. If you can make a gift of a car or know someone who is capable of doing this, please contact [Deborah Breneman](#), Parish Administrator, as soon as possible, thank you.

## Summer Choir

For the Sundays through September 10, I'm hoping to provide musical leadership with instrumentalists from the congregation and with a pick-up choir for each Sunday.

If you play an instrument and would like to share your musical gifts with the congregation, please email me, and we can set up a meeting to look at options.

If you'd like to participate in the pick-up choir, there is a sign-up [here](#) where you can put your name for the Sunday(s) that you can participate. The sign-up is also available in hard-copy in the narthex. There is a separate sign-up for each Sunday.

If possible, please sign up by the Friday prior to the Sunday(s) that you'd like to participate, so that I can plan for the people that will be there that Sunday. We will have a quick rehearsal at 9:30am before

the service on Sundays.

*So please sign up if:*

- ♦ you're a regular choir member and would like to keep singing;
- ♦ you don't want to commit to an entire choir season, but love to sing occasionally;
- ♦ you were never sure whether you would like singing, so want to try it out;
- ♦ you can think of any other reason to sign up!!

Thanks!

*~Paul Tegels, Interim Director of Music*

## Call for Volunteers!

*Are you looking for a once-every-five-weeks job with big impact?* Coffee hour teams would benefit from a few extra people! These teams set up for coffee hour, bring goodies to share, and help clean up afterwards. If you would like to join a team, please contact Sandy Johanson by text 252-905-1051 or by [email](#).

## Flower Donations

We have some spots available for altar flower donations in the upcoming weeks. The sign-up list is located in the Narthex. Once you sign up, you will be contacted by the Parish Office for your flower acknowledgement, which will be printed in our weekly bulletin. *Thanks so much!*



# Service and Community

## Wells Hall Clean Up Day

**We need you!!**



**The next phase of cleaning out  
Wells Hall is upon us.**

We are now tackling the “foosball” room and various storage rooms to take items to the dump.

We are hoping to take away another 2,000 pounds of our unused items and clean up our spaces right away.

**We are looking for a few strong people on June 24 from 9:00 am-noon.**

*Please sign up in the Narthex on Sunday!*

## Contra Dance in Wells Hall

For many years, Wells Hall has been the site of contra dancing,

usually held on the third Saturday of each month. The events include a live band and caller, and many dancers. This is a great chance to have fun. Our next dance is on June 17, and all are welcome!

Contra dancing is done in long lines. You and your partner form a small circle with a neighboring couple. The caller prompts you, such as “circle left,” “circle right,” “do-si-do” (back-to-back), and “swing your partner.” After about thirty seconds, the tune starts again, and you and your partner meet new neighbors, and do the same recurring pattern of moves. After a while, you have danced with every-

ARTHUR & **SUPERB** YOUNG OPERA SINGERS

# Father's Day Concert!

Where **ELVIS** Meets *Mozart* & More

**June 18 Sun 3pm** Fox Island United Church of Christ

*Benefit for Arthur's Chicago Summer Opera*  
**Free Admission. Reserve seats via Eventbrite**



Jinshil Yi



Lindsey Hansen



 Arthur Keast - Music



Ellie O'Brien



Jack Burrows



Caitlyn Babcock



# Service and Community

one in the long line.

The dancers range from teenagers to age 80. A half-hour workshop for newcomers is held each month starting at 7:00 PM. We then dance from 7:30 to 10:00. The regular dancers are very welcoming to new dancers. Come alone, or come as a couple. We like to change partners every dance.

Contra dancing started in England as “country dancing” in long narrow halls. It was the height of fashion in 18<sup>th</sup>-century England, and came to America in colonial times. The Virginia Reel is an 18<sup>th</sup>-century dance. Washington and

Jefferson were avid contra dancers.

Contra dancing is similar to ceilidh dancing in England, Scotland, and Ireland—but much easier, because we have a caller to guide us through the dance, and we don’t do a clogging step while dancing. We just walk in time to the music. Easy and fun!

The monthly contra dance is sponsored by the Tacoma Country



SYMPHONY TACOMA VOICES

## 2023 SPRING CONCERT

JUNE 10 | 7:30pm

American  
Contemporary Classics  
Christ Episcopal Church

Get tickets and info  
at [symphonytacoma.org](http://symphonytacoma.org)



Tacoma Contra Dancers in Wells Hall

Dance Society, a non-profit organization. Our website, <http://tacomacontradance.org>, has good photos and videos.

The band on June 17 is the Raccoon Carnival, led by Sarah Comer, a superb fiddler. She first played in Wells Hall in 2005, when she was a teenager. Her band has about 15 members who play exciting tunes made for dancing.

Contra dance is a thriving subculture in the United States. Come join us in Wells Hall on June 17!  
~Matt Temmel

Courtyard  
**BBQ and FAREWELL  
PARTY**



you're invited to join us  
as we celebrate the retirement of

**Archdeacon Gen Grewell**

**Sunday, June 18**  
12:00noon

Please sign up in Narthex to bring a side dish;  
we'll provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and  
condiments!

**Christ Church Courtyard**

310 North K Street | Tacoma, WA 98403  
253.383.1569 | [info@christchurchtacoma.org](mailto:info@christchurchtacoma.org)  
[christchurchtacoma.org](http://christchurchtacoma.org)

## Worship at Christ 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)

### Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

June 11, 2023

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

### Christ Episcopal Church

310 North K Street  
Tacoma, Washington 98403

p: 253.383.1569  
[info@christchurchtacoma.org](mailto:info@christchurchtacoma.org)  
[christchurchtacoma.org](https://christchurchtacoma.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

TO:

