

# Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, September 15, 2023

## A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

### *Keep beating a path*

When we read or listen to the gospels - in the liturgy, in lectio divina, in personal reading - we might be struck by the fact that Jesus spends time in prayer, that is, in listening to and in conversation with the One he called *abba* or father. At the conference I'm attending in Rome, one of the speakers underlined the importance of being engaged in prayer each day, "for without prayer, without awareness of the Spirit speaking to us or leading us, there can be no authentic Christian life."

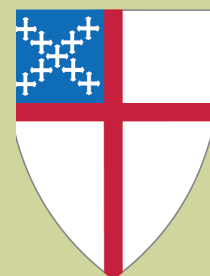
Frederick Buechner offers some sage advice on prayer, the heartbeat of a Christian's life: "Whatever else it may or may not be, prayer is at least talking to yourself, and that in itself is not always a bad idea. Talk to yourself about your own life, about what you've done and what you've failed to do, and about who you are and who you wish you were and who the people you love are. Talk about what matters most to you, because if you don't, you may forget what matters most to you. *Even if you don't believe anybody's listening, at least you'll be listening.* But, then, remember: *Somebody is listening.* Keep on beating the path to God's door, because the one thing you can be sure of is that, down the path you beat with even your most half-cocked and halting prayer, the God you call upon will finally come." Amen.

## Upcoming Events

- Tacoma Contra Dance, **September 16**
- **Gathering Sunday**  
Adult Formation,  
Parish Library Open, **September 17**
- Vestry Meeting, **September 19**
- NA Meeting  
Choir Rehearsal, **September 21**
- Organ 101, **September 24**
- CSLT Meeting, **September 26**
- NA Meeting  
Choir Rehearsal, **September 28**
- Jazz in the Courtyard, **September 30**
- Evening Prayer at Table, **October 4**
- NA Meeting  
Choir Rehearsal, **October 5**
- First Friday Kids Night Out, **October 6**
- Work Party in Wells Hall, **October 7**
- Ministry Fair, OPOP Meeting,  
Blessing of Animals, **October 8**



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**.

# 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:**

Sonsaray; Robert Reeves; Dee Schoenfeld; Cameron Frisch; Elaine Stafford; Robyn Potter; Barbara Pasi; Tammy Hess and Family, Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Dick Gregory; and Danielle Olsson.

**Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them:** The thousands who have died in Libya and Morocco.

### **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Community of the Paraclete • Little Sisters of St. Clare •  
The Third Order Society of St. Francis

### **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

## 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 and Formation

## Morocco and Libya

Here in Rome, the BBC reports thousands of deaths in Morocco and Libya. These horrific statistics are felt strongly in Italy given the number of North African immigrants in the country and throughout southern Europe. We are called to hold the dead, the wounded, and the survivors in our personal and common **prayer**. And, at the same time, our prayer rightly leads us to offer assistance to those who suffer. Donations to [World Vision](#) and [Doctors Without Borders](#) are most welcome as they already have workers on the ground in both countries.

~Fr. Torvend



CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

"All creatures look to you, O Lord, to give them their food in due season. You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things."

(Psalm 104:28-29)

Psalm 104 reminds us that God, earth's divine gardener and creator of all living things, organized nature with plants and animals in balance with one another, plants nourishing the animals, and animals facilitating the plants' reproduction; God organized nature's time into night and day, and sea-

sons for germination, growing, and gathering.

Yet, in our greed and hubris, we humans skew this Godly ecosystem with cruel and wasteful factory farming, industrial fishing, urbanization, and pollution; Chinook salmon are threatened by human-caused habitat degradation and global warming, in turn threatening Southern resident orcas.

Humans don't need to consume "everything everywhere all at once"; there is enough for all if we respect the balance of God's ecosystem.

~Elizabeth L. Keathley

## Gathering with Dr. Larry Rasmussen Wednesday, September 20 6:00 pm

On Wednesday, September 20, from 6:00 to 7:15 pm, you are invited to participate in an evening conversation with Dr. Larry Rasmussen. You are encouraged to read his book and bring your questions



as we reflect with Dr. Rasmussen on this important subject on climate change.

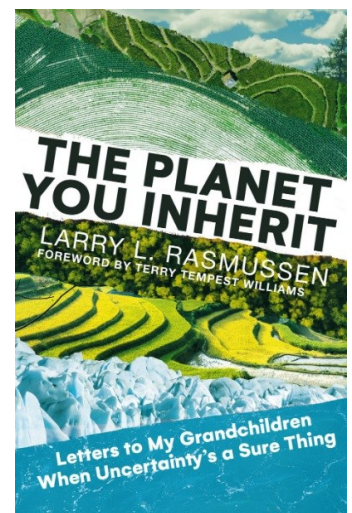
## Location of Event:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows  
6730 North 17th St.,  
Tacoma  
253.752.4966

Visit his website for more information on options for ordering the book:

<https://www.larrywrites.info/>

As an alternative to reading the book, consider watching an interview with Dr. Rasmussen at the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology: [fore.yale.edu/blogs/entry/1677004437](http://fore.yale.edu/blogs/entry/1677004437)



Dr. Rasmussen was the featured lecturer at PLU's 2012 Lutheran Studies Conference. He spoke to a packed and overflowing house: here is a summary of his most engaging presentation:

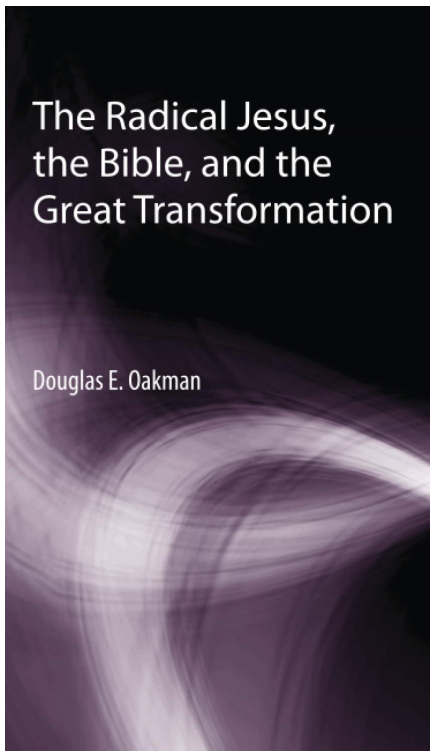
<https://www.plu.edu/news/archive/2012/09/20/voices-from-empty-chairs/>



## Monthly Reading Group Sunday, October 15

6:30 pm

The Monthly Reading Group will meet at **6:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 15** at the home of Doug Oakman to discuss Doug's latest book, *The Radical Jesus, the Bible, and the Great Transformation*. Questions? Contact [Don Johnson](#).



MATT 4: The Bible in Mediterranean Context



## Godly Play Resumes September 17th

During 10:30 Service

We welcome back our children to **Godly Play** on **September 17th at 10:30**. Unlike last year, we will not return during the service. We felt we needed more time to make this a meaningful, creative experience. The children will rejoin their families at the end of the service in either the Narthex or the Courtyard. Also new is that the Godly Play Classrooms have been moved to Trinity House (former Multicare space).

**First Friday** is a new Children and Family Outreach that we will be offering the first Friday of every month, beginning **October 6**. We are targeting children from 5-12 years. *Why would we do this?* We know parents and caregivers need a break and we have a great facility in which to offer an evening of supervised fun and activities while parents enjoy some down time, have a night out, or use it to catch up on other responsibilities. It is just one more way we are trying to increase our visibility within the city. Flyers are available in the Narthex, so tell your friends and family!

## Adult Formation

[Click here](#) for a pdf of the latest calendar for Adult Formation. Copies will be available on Sunday.

**FIRST FRIDAY KIDS NIGHT OUT**

THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH  
5:00PM - 9:00PM

**Drop Off**  
Your Children Age 5-12 years old at  
**Christ Church Wells Hall**

**FREE!**

**FOOD! FUN! FRIENDS!**

All children age 5-12 are welcome to join us for First Fridays in Wells Hall at Christ Church!  
Contact our office for more information and to sign up!

**FREE!**

**Contact Us**

310 North K Street  
Tacoma, WA 98403

Fridays starting October 6

christchurchtacoma.org

253.383.1569 x 101

# Service and Community

## ONE PARISH || ONE PRISONER

It's hard to imagine a greater contrast than the differences between Jesus' life & teaching and our culture's concept of 'SUCCESS'. If what we're doing doesn't get us promoted, appreciated, liked/shared, and well-compensated, Americans know we must be failures, right?

Every inmate gets the message daily – they're failures. Their gifts aren't needed; their work is worthless; their lives are expendable. OPOP ministry commits to compassion toward those our larger culture has discarded, in the Name of the One Whose great 'failure' was the **precondition** for Resurrection and Redemption. Re-read the taunts of those gathered to mock Jesus as he suffered on the cross. They sound so *familiar* to anyone who deals with trolls on social media!

Walking with Sunni as she prepares to return to our society is a challenge for everyone whose expectations are formed by the myth of American 'meritocracy'. Underground Ministries advisors tell the OPOP team to expect her to fall short at some point, and to prepare to forgive the worst. Will we recognize how Jesus continually does that for us? Or will we fail, in our need to 'Succeed'? Please pray for us.

The OPOP team is now learning to use the DOC versions of email and video-chat. These are very costly for inmates. Donations to the OPOP Communications Fund are welcome! Use an envelope marked OPOP for small bills (\$5 or \$10) or write "OPOP" on the memo line of your check, and place it in the Offering basket.

~Peach McDouall, OPOP



## Wells Hall Work Party Saturday, October 7 8:00am - 10:00am

Feeling strong? We are in need of some folks to help clear out our boiler room. Please [contact the office](#) if you are able to join in!



Click on the logo above to  
Register for this September 30th  
event.

## Altar Flowers

Please check the flower donation schedule in the Narthex for available dates! Thank you!



**How can we be obedient to our duty as followers of Christ?** Perhaps we remember the last prayer we say on Sundays, "And now, send us forth into the world to do the work you have given us to do." The care and feeding of the Little Pantry is one small, beautiful step in the work we are given to do. ~The Little Pantry Team

# Community



Natalie Worthy, soprano



The **Christ Church Choir** returns this Sunday, September 17 after a summer hiatus. As most of you know, we had to say goodbye to Larissa Gaulke and Rae Hyra, but are pleased to welcome two new Choral Scholars: **Natalie Worthy, soprano**, and **Lillian Gundersen, mezzo soprano**. We introduce you to Natalie this week.

Originally from Battle Ground, Washington, **Natalie Worthy** is a Junior soprano Vocal Performance major at the University of Puget Sound. There, she is a student of Dr. Dawn Padula and Adelpian Concert Choir Director, Dr. Steven Zopfi. Other than singing, Natalie loves to read, volunteer, and travel. Her recent adventures this past summer took her to Washington D.C., London, and Paris! Natalie is grateful to be working with Christ Episcopal Church and is excited for the wonderful year ahead!



**Library is open this Sunday,  
September 17  
following Adult Formation  
until 2:00pm.**



**\*and other fall fruit**

## Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has completed an interview of each candidate and will be moving forward in the discernment process to ultimately recommend one individual for Rector to the Vestry.

**~Shelby Clayson, Search Committee Reporter**

## This Sunday...

### September 17

Drop off your fall treats for Gathering Sunday Coffee Hour in the Kitchen before the 10:30am service. Thank you!



# Community

**OCTOBER 6 & 8, 2023**  
**PANTAGES THEATRE**



**TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW FOR THE MUST-SEE CARMEN OF THE YEAR**  
[tacomaopera.org](http://tacomaopera.org)

Tacoma Opera Presents  
 George Bizet's  
**CARMEN**  
October, 2023  
 Pantages Theater

## Don't miss out!!

Because Christ Episcopal Church is so critical to the success of the Tacoma Opera's production of *Carmen*, they are offering Christ Episcopal Church members a special ticket price to see this amazing production. They are giving Christ Episcopal Church members premiere main floor seating for only \$40—a savings of 50% (fees and

es are not included in this price; total with fees is \$49.50). To secure these special tickets, please contact the [Christ Episcopal Church office](#) to be placed on a list and receive payment information. The deadline to contact the office is **September 25.**

**JAZZ IN THE COURTYARD**

*featuring*  
**KATE OLSON, SAXOPHONE**  
**CASSIO VIANNA, KEYBOARD**  
**CLIPPER ANDERSON, BASS**



**Saturday, September 30**  
**7:30pm**

donations gratefully accepted

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH



**ORGAN 101:**  
 An Introduction to the  
*Brombaugh Organ*

led by Dr. Paul Tegels, Interim Music Director

**Sunday, September 24, 2023**  
 12:00 noon



## Using Wells Hall

Please make sure we have all Wells Hall activities in our calendar by checking in with the office before making plans or dropping by. This includes events that have occurred on an annual basis.

## Our office hours are

Monday—Thursday, from 10:00am—1:00pm, and by appointment. You can call 253.383.1569 x 101, or [email](#).

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## Worship at Christ Church

### *The Daily Office at Christ Church*

◇ Monday 9:00am\*  
Morning Prayer

◇ Tuesday 7:30am\*  
Lectio Divina

◇ Thursday 7:30am\*  
Morning Prayer

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

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma  
September 17, 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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Tacoma, Washington 98403

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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

TO:

