

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, October 13, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

Peace for Jerusalem?

In praying the Daily Office, a number of psalms encourage us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers” (Psalm 122:6-7). And yet, as of this past Saturday morning, there is no peace in Jerusalem, Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank: no peace, no security whatsoever. There is only armed conflict, the deaths of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, and the specter of growing suffering and death as the Netanyahu government promises to destroy Hamas, the political and military leadership in Gaza, a plan that will include additional civilian deaths.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we prayed this last Sunday, October 8, for our sisters and brothers in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. This diocese counts Arab Episcopal members who, according to their archbishop, the Most Rev. Hosam Naoum, encounter challenges every day to their ministries, challenges mandated by the Netanyahu government.

The Jerusalem Diocese supports the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza where bombing strikes have hampered the ability of hospital staff to offer emergency medical assistance to civilians wounded by Israeli airstrikes. As the hospital director, Dr. Suhaila Tarazi, notes: “At this stage, our only hope is in God for a miracle in the midst of this scenery of death.”

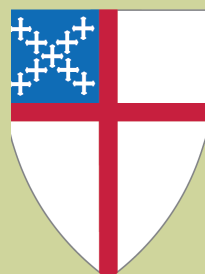
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Upcoming Events

- Adult Formation, Parish Library Open, Singing with the Earth, Monthly Reading Group, **October 15**
- Vestry Meeting, **October 17**
- NA Meeting
Choir Rehearsal, **October 19**
- Third Friday Concert, **October 20**
- Tacoma Contra Dance, **October 21**
- Adult Formation,
Parish Library Open, Veterans Village Prep, **October 22**
- NA Meeting
Choir Rehearsal, **October 26**
- Adult Formation, Parish Library Open
October 29
- Evening Prayer at Table,
Choir Rehearsal, **November 1**
- Feast of All Souls, NA Meeting,
November 2
- First Friday Kids Night Out,
November 3



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:

Judy Cullen; Sonsaray; Robert Reeves; Cameron Frisch; Elaine Stafford; Robyn Potter; Barbara Pasi; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; and Dick Gregory.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Patricia Trytten; Josh Hundley; Meredith Alvord Noll; and the many who have died in Israel, Gaza, and Afghanistan.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Bishop Skelton and the bishop's staff • All Commissions, Committees & Programs of the Diocese

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Anglican Church of Kenya

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.

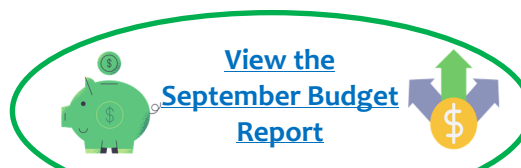
Please visit our website at Christchurchtacoma.org to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

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



Formation and Service

Our former bishop, the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, is the chair of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. American Friends is asking for donations that can be funneled to the Ahli Arab Hospital so that it can continue its ministry of healthcare to wounded civilians in Gaza. Our household has made a donation; I encourage you, within your means, to support this center of hope.

The Sound and the Fury

Good people of Christ Church: the church sound system was transitioned from the sacristy to the mixer that controls our livestreaming capacity during the week before October 8. As those of you who were in church on October 8 know, the sound system has not reached its full potential. There was a muddiness and loss of sound when using the microphones during worship. A number of worshippers indicated that they could hear very little of what was spoken. Thank God for our outstanding choir, organ, and congregational singing. We are in the process of retooling the sound system and trust that we might have improvement by this coming Sunday, October 15. Part of our challenge is that we have only one speaker in a

very large space that needs more than one speaker, and we need speakers in front of microphones (not behind them). All this is to say: **thank you for your patience.** Work is being done to improve the sound.

Click [here](#) for Fall and Winter Adult Formation Schedule.

Monthly Reading Group Sunday, October 15

6:30 pm

The Monthly Reading Group will meet at 7:00pm 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](#).



Food Pack Party October 22, noon in Wells Hall

Next Sunday is the day! Come on over to Wells Hall after the 10:30 service, and squeeze into the assembly line. Enjoy chatting, perhaps with someone you have not met before, and help prepare food for those in need.



Join us for
Evening Prayer at Table,
November 1 at 6:00pm in
Wells Hall.

Let us know you'll be there by
signing up in the Narthex or
[contact the Parish Office](#).



What an outpouring of gifts of food these last Sundays. That's been said before, but worth repeating. Thank you! In times like these – wars, disruptions around the world and in our own land, it is easy to get distracted. Very easy. But it's important to remember there are things to do to help in our immediate surroundings. We help the hungry around us. So simple: pick up a bit of non-perishable food from your pantry and place it in the basket in the hallway just outside the entry to the church. It will be blessed and will be a blessing to the hungry.

singing with the
EARTH

EVENING PRAYER
with the
Christ Church Choir

OCTOBER 15 AT 4:00PM

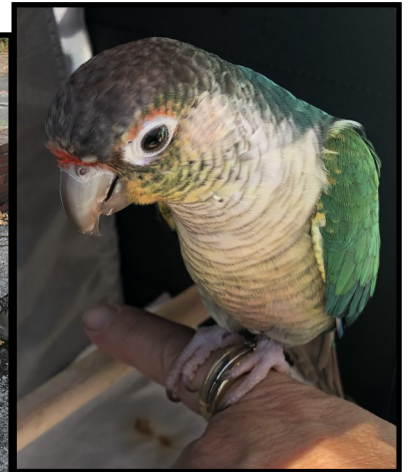


Christ Church Parish
310 North K Street | Tacoma, WA 98403
253.383.1569 | christchurchtacoma.org

Community

Blessing of the Animals

October 8, 2023



“IN WAR WE LIVE HOUR BY HOUR” American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Saturday, October 7, 2023 is a day that will forever live in infamy in the hearts and minds of the people of the Holy Land. Since we first wrote to you with an emergency appeal from the front lines of war in Gaza by Ahli Hospital Director Suhaila Tarazi, the situation has deteriorated significantly. The humanitarian crisis is dire, and the casualties among the 2.3 million civilian Gazans caught in the crossfire is increasing exponentially. According to the Ministry of Health at the time of this writing, almost 1,000 are dead, 260 of them children, and thousands are injured as a result of the relentless bombardment on Gaza’s crowded enclave.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to each and every supporter who has made a donation in the wake of this recent conflict between Hamas and Israel thus far – your generosity has been a critical lifeline for Ahli Arab Hospital during these perilous times. In partnership with our dedicated supporter base, we’ve raised over \$150,000 for Ahli Hospital since this violence began. Your contributions are making a vital difference in Ahli’s ability to respond to this senseless violence – thank you.

Suhaila has remained in communication with AFEDJ, and continues to give us heart-breaking updates as she is able. At the time of this writing, she has shared with AFEDJ that the situation is horrific, and changing hour by hour. **There is no water, no electricity, no food, no fuel reserves, and no safe place to shelter.** The heavy shelling since the weekend in Gaza has forced over

125,000 inhabitants to flee their homes, using the United Nations Relief and Work Agency’s (UNRWA) schools as a shelter. Unfortunately, three staff members of Ahli Hospital have thus far lost their homes completely during the bombardment of the Al Rimal area – among them, Ahli’s Medical Director, Dr. Maher Ayyad. Thankfully, they were at the hospital saving the lives of the injured, and not in their residences at the time of the air strikes.

“At this stage, our only hope is in God for a miracle in the midst of this scenery of death.” -Suhaila Tarazi, Director of Ahli Hospital

Ahli’s doctors and nurses are working non-stop, persevering in impossible conditions to serve the casualties of war: those maimed, burned, and injured. They’ve had to appoint extra staff (doctors, nurses, and technicians), open many more beds, and increase ICU capacity. The ongoing crisis demands Ahli’s critical attention and your generous support, as all patients during war are treated at no cost to them. Humanitarian first, Christian-led Ahli Hospital treats all people regardless of gender, race, or religion.

Please give generously in support of this important humanitarian mission and help Ahli Hospital continue to keep their doors open 24/7 in response to this horrific humanitarian crisis. Your generosity embodies the spirit of compassion and solidarity, demonstrating that even in times of strife, humanity’s collective desire for peace and well-being shines brightly. Donations of any amount allow Ahli Hospital to extend their capacity to treat as many people as they

Continued on page 7.

Community

can throughout this crisis. Through your generous support of Ahli Arab Hospital, you join AFEDJ in a vital partnership, helping Ahli save lives during these perilous times.

Your prayers and continued support are needed — please donate to Ahli Hospital today.

DONATE

third friday
concerts at Christ Church

Our next Third Friday concert will be Friday, October 20, at 12:10pm, featuring organist David Lim.

David has performed solo recitals at notable churches including the Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee, WI, Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley, CA, and here at Christ Episcopal Church. He has played for masterclasses led by David Briggs, Jeffery Brillhart, Douglas Cleveland, Wilma Jensen, and Stephen Tharp. In 2017, he led worship for the North Central Regional AGO Convention and in 2021 collaborated with the University of Oklahoma Wind Symphony's recording Solace. Donations are gratefully accepted at the door.



Advertising Christ Church Events

We've had several requests for electronic versions of our posters so that they can be sent out to friends and family members, or posted on social media. *We love this idea!* We will make an effort to include copies of all event posters on the day of the event in our website calendar. Simply click on the poster, save to your computer, and send away.

If this does not work for you, please feel free to contact the office for posters.

Thank you for helping to get the word out!



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

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma October 15, 2023

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

Christ Church Parish



Library
AND ARCHIVES

Christ Episcopal Church

310 North K Street
Tacoma, Washington 98403

p: 253.383.1569

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO:

 CHRIST
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH