

# Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, November 10, 2023

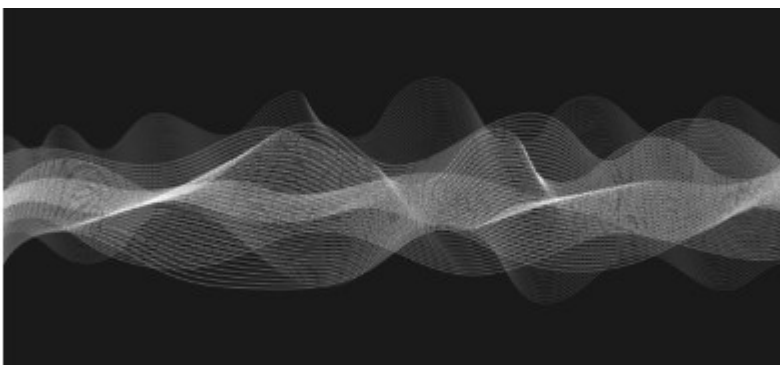
## A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

### *Frustrated yet Living in Hope*

In comparison to a weak sound system in the church on October 8 and 15, there was some improvement on October 29, after the installment of a temporary system on loan from Unity of South Puget Sound. The system also worked well on November 2 at the All Souls Holy Eucharist.

But, then, on November 5, All Saints, the presider's mic did not work well. What we discovered was this: the temporary system was fiddled with by an unknown person. It was frustrating to discover this after the 10:30 liturgy and frustrating to discover that many could not hear well.

Two points of improvement. First, we will test the sound system *before* every 10:30 liturgy to ensure that it's working as well as it can. And second, we have received word from Point Source Audio - the group preparing a proposal for an effective sound system that actually works well in the church - that they will be able to improve our temporary sound system. More to come on this issue at the Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, November 12.

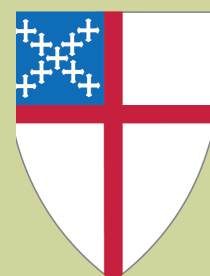


## Upcoming Events

- Veterans Day, Parish Office Closed **November 10**
- Town Hall, **November 12**
- Choir Rehearsal, NA Meeting **November 16**
- Third Friday Concert, **November 17**
- Memorial for James Harris, **November 18**
- Greening Parish Meeting, **November 19**
- Vestry Meeting, Choir Rehearsal **November 21**
- Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist **November 23**
- Thanksgiving Potluck, **November 25**
- Veterans Village Prep, **November 26**
- CSLT Meeting, **November 28**
- Choir Rehearsal, NA Meeting, **November 30**



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.

**Bring comfort and healing to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:**

**We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:** for Chaundra Pospychala; Carolyn Guppy; Bill Garriott; Mary Smiley; Jeremy Bacon; Judy Cullen; Sonsaray Robert Reeves; Cameron Frisch; Elaine Stafford; Robyn Potter; Miri Hindes; and Dick Gregory.

**We commend to your mercy those who have died:**

James Harris; Patricia Trytten; Josh Hundley; and the many who have perished in Gaza and Israel.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Christ Church, Seattle • St. Andrew's, Seattle

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

## 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. Photo Credit: King Schoenfeld.  
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

## The Feast of Christ the King, the Reign of Christ

On Sunday, November 26, we join millions of Christians throughout the world in marking the end of this year of grace as we celebrate the Reign of Christ. On the following Sunday, we begin the beloved season of Advent. The gospel reading for the Reign of Christ is Matthew 25:31-46. Take a look at this reading before coming to church: it has served as the charter of Christian social action for close to 2,000 years.

November 26 also serves as the Ingathering of Pledges that will sustain our budget in the coming year. If you have not returned your pledge card to the parish office or placed it in an offering plate, bring it with you to church.

## You bring forth wine to the gladden the heart

Living in a wine culture, the psalmist knew that wine is a gift from God, a gift to be used wisely and joyfully. It is also our spiritual drink through which we encounter the Presence of the crucified and risen Christ and receive the spiritual energy he offers us. On **Sunday, November 26**, bring a bottle or two of **ruby port** to church: our annual gathering of the fortified wine we use in the holy communion.

**The memorial service for James Harris** will be celebrated on **Saturday, November 18, at 11 AM** in the church. A reception will follow in Wells Hall.

## Greening Parish and People

**Sunday, November 19, 12 noon in the Library**

Join us as we consider how our greening initiative will grow in the months ahead.



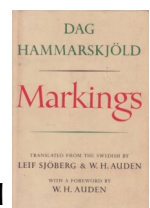
## Advent Quiet Morning: An Early English Advent Saturday, December 2, 10 AM to 12 Noon in the church

During the weeks of Advent, our Anglo-Saxon spiritual ancestors sang, prayed, and spoke of Christ as the hero and the precious stone (an inspiration for JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit*). They spoke of the Blessed Virgin Mary as "the noble woman." In this Quiet Morning, we consider how their medieval English Advent sheds light on our American keeping of this beloved season. Three short presentations with each followed by silence and stillness for meditation, prayer, writing in one's journal, or taking a meditative walk with Anglo-Saxon Christian artwork. Listen for the Anglo-Saxon playing of the O Antiphons as you enter the church. Free and open to all. Donations will be gladly received at the door. Artwork: "Virgin and Child," The Benedictional of St Æthelwold, 963 AD

## Monthly Reading Group Sunday, December 3

6:30 pm

The Monthly Reading Group will meet at **6:30pm** at the home of Don and Wanda Johnson to discuss *Markings* by Dag Hammarskjöld. Questions? Contact [Don Johnson](#).





## Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

The good and lengthy work of preparing our Parish Profile and then reviewing applicants for the position of rector has come to a wonderful end: the Parish Vestry has approved the candidate presented by the Search Committee, and the Bishop Diocesan has approved the candidate.

It is with great joy that I announce the calling of **the Rev. Dr. Maria McDowell** as Rector of Christ Episcopal Church Tacoma. The Rev. McDowell comes to us from St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church in Portland, Oregon. I have included her professional and personal biography. Mother McDowell will begin to minister among us on Thursday, January 4, 2024, and will be present among us in church on Sunday, January 7.

*The Celebration of a New Ministry*, the official installation of Mother McDowell by Bishop Provisional Melissa Skelton, will take place in the Spring.

The Rev. Dr. Maria McDowell has lived in Los Angeles, Iowa City, and Boston, but is always drawn back to the blue green trees, mountains, and ocean of the Pacific Northwest and her hometown of Portland, Oregon.

Maria was raised in the Russian Orthodox Church. In college, she joined a social justice

oriented InterVarsity group in Los Angeles, and attended Fuller Theological Seminary where she recognized a calling to public ministry and realized she was not an evangelical Christian in either theology or temperament. After seminary, she pursued a PhD in Theological Ethics at Boston College while returning to her Orthodox roots where she served as a choir member, chanter, youth minister, educator, and occasional preacher; essentially any form of church ministry open to women within Eastern Orthodoxy. She met her wife, Elizabeth, in the Orthodox Church: they were subsequently asked to leave the church. Maria then followed Elizabeth to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (Portland) where they were immediately invited to exercise their gifts as welcome participants in a vibrant community.

In the Episcopal Church, Maria found a home where worship was a joyful and life-giving experience of hope, welcome, and delight in the

uniqueness of all God's creatures. In 2018, almost twenty years after leaving seminary, Maria was ordained to the priesthood, and then served as Rector of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church. Elizabeth joined Maria in her ministry at St. Philip, helping start Godly Play and leading music, all the while completing an LPN degree and then working with the elderly at Providence Elderplace.



Continued from page 4

Maria loves gardening and woodworking and her prayer life involves conversing with God with busy hands or while writing. She has always been a bit of tech geek, and often relaxes with a video game or two. She and Elizabeth like to camp, kayak, bike, and eat good food. Maria is a fan of the Portland soccer team, the Thorns.

~Christi McCarren, Senior Warden



The Rev. Dr. Maria Gwyn McDowell, with her wife Elizabeth .

## Memorial Service for The Rev. Patricia Trytten

A service will be held at Good Shepherd in Federal Way on Monday, **November 13, at 3:30pm**. Please continue to keep Pat and all who love and care for her in your prayers.

In Christ,

**The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton**





## Update on sound system

### Implementing the Assisted Listening System

Muddy gremlins tweaked the sound system bass Sunday to the dismay of many who wanted to listen to Samuel and his sermon. Listen to Samuel's sermon from 11/5 here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/oGNw01nBDuE?si=PtooQl66asJy8wEl&t=1405>

It has always been part of the plan to implement an assisted listening system when we put in the livestream capability. While many mics were installed for the livestream, it is only the presenter's mics that come through the assisted listening. Over the last few weeks a select few folks have tried it.

Now we can have a few more try it. We have just twelve FM receivers with various ways of listening. They came with an over the ear single earphone. It hangs on the back earlobe, so you can hear the room with the other ear. We also have six compatible headphones. The advantage is a more comfortable experience. Any basic stereo wired headphones (no microphone) will work if you want to bring your own. Also we have two neck loops for those with compatible T-Coil Switch Hearing Aids.

Somehow I think there may be more than twelve people who might want to use it. So - the system also will be ported through an app for both Apple and Android devices (phone or tablet) connected to our dedicated hearing WIFI. The WIFI will take a bit to get going, but once it is, you can bring your own device with your favorite headphones or ear buds. Stay 'tuned' for more info.

~Winfield Giddings

### A Quick Newsletter Favor—

If you are turning in news articles or information to the office for printing in our Weekly news, we ask that if possible, they are formatted in a Word document as an attachment, so that we don't need to completely re-format the text. Unfortunately our program does not translate email text, which means it takes a vast amount of time to re-create your information—and there is potential for human error in the translation.

*Thank you in advance for your help!*

A purple-themed poster for a Town Hall Meeting. The background features a blurred image of people seated in a hall. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says 'Christ Church Parish'. Below that, 'TOWN HALL MEETING' in large, bold letters. To the right, 'Sunday, November 12'. Below that, '12:00 noon Wells Hall'. In the center, 'OPEN TO ALL' with the subtitle 'Everyone is invited to attend'. At the bottom right, 'Topics of Discussion:' followed by a list: 'General Updates', 'Safety and Security Plan', and 'Progress Toward 2023 Parish Goals'. At the very bottom, the church's address and contact information are listed.

Christ Church Parish

## TOWN HALL MEETING

Sunday, November 12

12:00 noon  
Wells Hall

**OPEN TO ALL**  
Everyone is invited to attend

**Topics of Discussion:**  
General Updates  
Safety and Security Plan  
Progress Toward 2023 Parish Goals

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

## *third friday* concerts at Christ Church

Join us on Friday, November 17 at 12:10pm for a performance by organist **Una Hwang**, featuring works by Langlois, J.S. Bach, Franck, and Dupre. Donations will be gratefully received at the door.

### **Episcopal Women of Pierce Co.**

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

#### Epiphany Brunch

January 6, 2024 9:30am-1:00pm

Wells Hall  
at Christ Church Parish



Organist Una Hwang will perform November 17

### **ECHOES: Music of Loss and Love**

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

6:20PM - Pre-concert Talk

7:00PM - Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

Tickets: \$20 presale -

\$25 @ door, Students FREE

<https://store.wellspringensemble.org/>

In this winter program, we've designed an arc that speaks to the season a little differently. The season is busy, hearts might be tired or lonely, and above all, most are looking to be uplifted. The program will involve setting the tone with that of the loss and heart-ache we might feel in our own lives: distance between families, illnesses, or lost loves; the commonality of humanity and its, at times, heavy reality.

Not all is lost though. We will introduce pieces that will bring us together through love, help us reminisce, and bring smiles to faces. It is our intent to do touching and heartfelt music this winter by resonating with things we have in common.

ECHOES is a concert you will not want to miss this winter!

# ECHOES

*Music of Loss and Love*

**DEC 2ND: SATURDAY**  
Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma  
6:20PM: Pre-Concert Talk  
7PM: Concert

**DEC 3RD: SUNDAY**  
Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, Seattle  
3:20PM: Pre-Concert Talk  
4PM: Concert

**TICKETS: \$20 PRESALE - \$25 @ DOOR, STUDENTS FREE**

**WELLSPRING ENSEMBLE**  
SEATTLE, WA | EST. 2014  
[WWW.WELLSPRINGENSEMBLE.ORG](http://WWW.WELLSPRINGENSEMBLE.ORG)

## 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)

## Worship at Christ Church

### Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma November 12, 2023

8:30am Holy Eucharist in the 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:

