

# Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, November 17, 2023

## A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

### ***Generosity has no season***

In late October, I attended the Emergency Food Network annual gala where hundreds of people raised funds to support the central distribution center for the county's food pantries and meal programs. More than 10% of our neighbors suffer with food insecurity: not knowing if there will be a next meal. For those of us who have sufficient food, the incredible anxiety of not knowing how to feed one's children may not be a part of our experience. Yet every tenth person in the county lives with such distress.



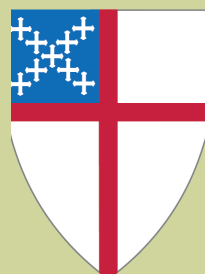
At Christ Church, our commitment to care for those who are hungry flows directly from the Holy Eucharist: we are fed freely from the generosity of Christ who labored for a just distribution of food among the many poor. While the seasonal call to ensure that all people have ample meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas has begun, we know that generosity has no season: people need food year round. Our Little Food Pantry, the monthly meal for veterans, and individual contributions to EFN make a difference each and every day. Let us not lose zeal in doing good.

## **Upcoming Events**

- 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**
- First Friday Kids Night Out, **December 1**
- Advent Quiet Morning, Wellspring Ensemble Concert **December 2**
- **Advent I**  
OPOP Meeting  
Advent Lessons & Carols, **December 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](#) before Friday, or the Rector from Friday through the weekend. 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 Esther Kjesbu; Mark Morris; Chaundra Pospychala; Carolyn Guppy; Bill Garriott; Mary Smiley; Jeremy Bacon; Judy Cullen; Sonsaray; Robert Reeves; Cameron Frisch; Robyn Potter; Miri Hinds; and Dick Gregory.

**We commend to your mercy those who have died:**  
James Harris; Josh Hundley; and the many who have perished in Gaza, Israel, and South Sudan.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**  
St. Luke's, Seattle • St. Stephen's, Seattle

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**  
The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

## 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.



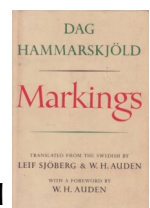
## Advent Quiet Morning: An Early English Advent Saturday, December 2, 10 AM to 12 Noon in the church

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](#).





# Community

## Stewardship Season

The Season of Stewardship is the time we express as a congregation our gratitude for all God is doing in our midst. Celebrating God's abundance and God's grace is a defining quality of our community's destiny.



*Soaring to new heights*  
**ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD**

To those of you who have already sent in your pledge cards, I thank you. To those still in discernment, I hope you will consider a gift. Every contribution we receive serves to sustain the breadth, health, and future of our many ministries.

God's Blessing,  
~Christi McCarren, Senior Warden

**Pledges Received so far: 30**

**Total Amount: \$173,880**

**Goal: \$400,000**



~The Rev. Jay Sidebotham © 2002  
The Church Pension Fund.

# Community

## ONE PARISH || ONE PRISONER

In our latest learning module, your OPOP team learned about the cost of re-entry for people leaving incarceration. If you've ever moved to a new town where you needed to find a place to live, furnishings, transportation, and a job without having a cash cushion to draw on, you have an inkling of the challenges our partner, Sonsaray, faces.

The goal of our team is to gather resources to 'roll away the stone' and allow Resurrection to happen for this young woman. Resurrection is a home, a job, transportation, and community. The stone, for most released inmates, weighs an average of \$3,000.

We have some excellent ideas for fun fundraisers that will not only raise money but also raise the Christ Church profile in our community – a priority for our Senior Warden and incoming rector, so win/win! If you thought about participating in the One Parish One Prisoner team but couldn't make a two-year commitment, here's your chance: partner with Peach McDouall in planning and executing one or more fundraisers, and help us roll away that stone for Sunni. If you're interested, please see Peach at coffee hour.

We also love folks who write checks for any amount and put OPOP on the memo line! If you want to, specify the OPOP COMM FUND or OPOP RE-ENTRY FUND.

~Peach McDouall, OPOP

Christ Church Parish

# Thanksgiving

# P O T L U C K

November 25th | 4:00 PM

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## Wells Hall



Sign up in the Narthex and bring a side dish or dessert.  
Turkey, gravy, and beverages provided.

# Community

## Book signing and presentation

Tuesday, December 12

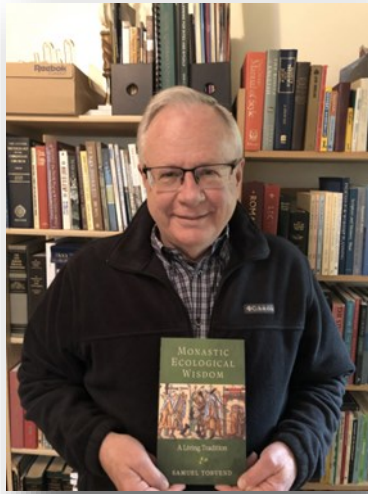
7 PM in Wells Hall

Greening Practices

From the Monastery to Us

Join Fr. Torvend for a short presentation on his latest book, *Monastic Ecological Wisdom: A Living Tradition*, the first book published in English that reveals how monastic environmental practices can help us live in harmony with the natural world.

And to add to this festive moment, adult beverages and treats will be served. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at \$20. Bring that Jackson with you!



The livestream has not been up to standards these last few weeks. Various issues have come into the mix. One week Google/YouTube was being difficult, and the stream would not properly start. When something like that goes sideways, it distracts, and the timing of the audio and video suffers.

With the changes in the audio in the sanctuary, there are changes in how the mix is done. Changing it up after some 80+ streams increased the difficulty level. If a missed cue happens, there is a delay in getting the video shot changed, or a missed un-muting of the microphones. It all should flow better as it

becomes familiar.

**Now for the tips for listening at home.** The stream is set up to limit dynamics between the spoken word and the choir and organ and congregational parts. However, if there is a quieter organ piece or the choir is singing softly, it will be quieter on the stream. The presenters mics will come through louder and more distinct than the past (except maybe for the Gospel reading when a mic can't be used).

1. If you listen using only your phone or tablet or laptop speakers:
  - a. This will be the most difficult way to hear the full audio spectrum of the organ and choir. There is also a chance that you will not be able to turn the sound on the device loud enough to hear everything. Using a Bluetooth powered speaker or headphones would improve your experience.
2. If you are on headphones / earbuds etc ...
  - a. You should be able to hear most everything without changing the volume too much. We do have quiet periods followed by full volume in a few places in the service, so that may be startling.
3. If you have a laptop or other computer with wired or wireless Bluetooth external powered speakers:

## A Great Town Hall Meeting

This past Sunday, November 12, we had a full house (though there were extra chairs if needed) for the town hall meeting. The clarity and good order of that meeting were due to the hard work of our senior warden, Christi McCarren. Christi worked diligently to create an engaging power point presentation, conferred with many people in Christ Church leadership about the content of the town hall, and led the meeting with grace and good humor. After working in the church for the past 50 years, I can say it doesn't get any better than this. Kudos to our gifted and hardworking senior warden: big shoes to fill!

~ Fr. Samuel Torvend

## Update on Sound System and live stream listening tips

The assisted listening system seems to be working OK on the FM receivers. Ask an usher if you need one. It will be awhile before the app-based portion is live.

Continued on page 7





Sound System continued from page 6

- a. This would be a good option especially if you have had issues hearing in the past with just your internal laptop or tablet speakers.
4. Smart TV with YouTube app
  - a. This all depends on the quality of the internal TV speakers. Many TV models may not be loud enough, or have the clarity to hear the spoken word. Again, using external speakers will improve your experience.

We do read all input concerning the stream. We have taken steps when possible to improve your experience. I hope these tips will help too.

~Winfield Giddings

**Episcopal Women of Pierce Co.**

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

Epiphany Brunch

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

Wells Hall

at Christ Church Parish

**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/>

A poster for 'ECHOES: Music of Loss and Love'. The title 'ECHOES' is in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, 'Music of Loss and Love' is in a white, script font. The background is dark with blue and white bokeh lights. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'WELLSPRING ENSEMBLE' with 'SEATTLE, WA | EST. 2014' and 'WWW.WELLSPRINGENSEMBLE.ORG'. Below the logo is a QR code. On the left side, there is text for two events: 'DEC 2ND: SATURDAY' at 'Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma' (6:20PM: Pre-Concert Talk, 7PM: Concert) and 'DEC 3RD: SUNDAY' at 'Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, Seattle' (3:20PM: Pre-Concert Talk, 4PM: Concert). At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS: \$20 PRESALE - \$25 @ DOOR, STUDENTS FREE'.

## 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 19, 2023

8:30am Holy Eucharist in the 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:

