

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, December 1, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

The Sound and the (Less Than) Fury

On Sunday morning, we tested the temporary sound system in church at 10:10. A number of choristers sitting in the back said, “We can hear you just fine,” while another chorister, a few feet away, said, “It’s muddy.” After the Eucharist ended, one worshipper said, “I could hear everything clear as a bell!” while another worshipper, sitting less than five feet away from the first, said, “I could barely hear anything.”

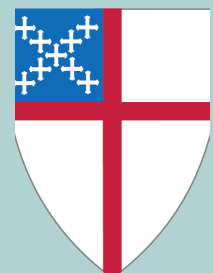
What are we to make of this difference given that we have only one sound system, not two? Is it possible that there are different capacities for hearing among us? Some worshippers have been greatly helped by using the assistive hearing devices available before the liturgy begins. And our sound expert has installed a new temporary sound system with speakers that are directed at the people: not above heads or at feet.



We live in hope as we await the proposal for a permanent and effective sound system in a space that is quite friendly to music but not to speech.

Upcoming Events

- First Friday Kids Night Out, **December 1**
- Advent Quiet Morning, Wellspring Ensemble Concert **December 2**
- **Advent I**
Advent Lessons & Carols, Monthly Reading Group, **December 3**
- Evening Prayer at Table, **December 6**
- Choir Rehearsal, NA Meeting, **December 7**
- **Advent II**
Adult Formation, OPOP Meeting Esoterics Concert, **December 10**
- Monastic Ecological Wisdom, **December 12**
- Choir Rehearsal, NA Meeting, **December 14**
- NW Repertory Singers Concert, **December 16**



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:
for 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:
Mary Ann Altman; George Trachier; and the many who have perished in the Middle East.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:
Holy Spirit, Battle Ground • St. Matthew's, Castle Rock

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
The Church of North India (United)

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 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.

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on Facebook • Diocese of Olympia
Bishop Rickel's Blog



Worship and Formation

Incense

Since 1985, thousands of churches throughout the United States and Canada have discovered that Monastery Incense is the solution to concerns over the use of incense in worship. At Christ Church, we have purchased this brand of incense because users report its pleasing and long-lasting fragrance, no choking or burnout, and few if any incense allergies. Going forward, we will note in the Weekly and in the Worship Program when incense will be used in upcoming liturgies. And we also note that when masked and/or sitting on the far edges of the worship space, one picks up very little if any smoke from the very small amounts of incense we use.

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. You are welcome to bring a bottle or two of ruby port to church and hand it to an usher as you enter the narthex.

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



Advent Quiet Morning:

An Early English Advent

Saturday, December 2, 10 AM to 12 Noon

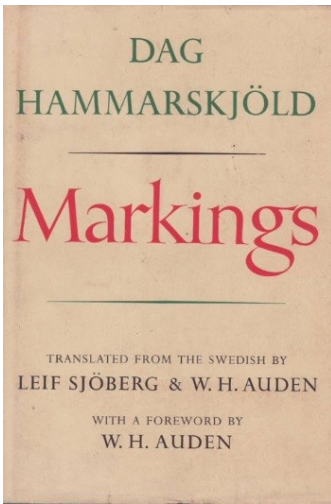
Change of venue to Trinity Chapel

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.



Community



Monthly Reading Group

Sunday, December 3 at 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](#).



Join us for

**Evening Prayer at Table,
December 6 at 6:00pm in Wells
Hall.**

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Epiphany Luncheon

January 6, 2024 at 9:30am

Once again the Women of Christ Church have the honor of hosting the Epiphany Luncheon. If you are new to this tradition, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus with the three Magi as they follow the star and bring their gifts. Last time we celebrated here was in 2015. We are well equipped with warm spaces and warm hearts ready to welcome our ECW neighbors.

So far, the 10 churches have been notified by email to "save the date." Please make reservations by **January 3rd** to [Roxy](#) or phone 253-537-3075.

We reminded the churches which of the Symbols they drew and inserted a note listing the Symbol with its assigned task. Three years is a long time between times. We are hopeful we can hear their Symbol Report at the luncheon. Christ Church drew the RING Symbol. This group provides the Epiphany Cake for the next luncheon. Our Symbol Report will be superflavorful excellent and delicious.

We then listed all the people from their church who attended the last luncheon at St. Mary's in 2020. Attendees from Christ Church Tacoma were as follows: Betsy B., Roxy G., Teresa G., Debbie O., Virginia O., Barbara P., Sue S., Laura G. was the speaker and she brought Scott P., Paul K., Nancy T., Ricky D. from the L'Arche Community.

And to everyone we said, "We look forward to celebrating Epiphany with you January 6th. Please Come."

The Diocese of Olympia has ten Episcopal churches in Pierce County called the Rainier District. We meet each year on or near Epiphany but not during a world war or during world-wide pandemics. Deducting those years, this year will be our 95th year.

If you consider yourself to be a women in the Episcopal Church, you are invited to attend.

~Roxy Giddings

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CHRIST CHURCH GREENING

Most of us very likely grew up seeing “nature”—the world around us—as separate from ourselves. But cultures the world over and through millennia have believed that a god is present—immanent—in every part of creation. Poets and philosophers have urged us to see our connection to all natural things. Now the climate crisis has forced us to see that we are indeed connected with the natural world, like a newborn to its mother.

Christian faith gives us a further vision of ourselves. Our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us that the God he called his father also works within us as the presence of Christ on earth. That is, Jesus leads us all to faith: that union with God whereby we live as evidence of God's immanent love and care for each other and for the creation that sustains us daily and richly.

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over all things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (BCP, p.827)

~King Schoenfeld

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/>

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
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The Esoterics: Shadows & Sun

A calendar of light

Sunday, December 10, 2023

7:30pm

In December, The Esoterics will mark its 30th anniversary with a weekend of concerts featuring the world premiere commission -- **A calendar of light** -- by Los Angeles composer Dale Trumbore. Dale has enjoyed a fantastic career since winning The Esoterics' POLYPHONOS composition competition in 2014, and the group is excited to share her most recent work with you. To create this

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"calendar," Trumbore collaborated with the Pennsylvanian poet, Barbara Crooker. Trumbore's cantata of 24 movements that takes the shape of a cyclical calendar year, and is modular -- featuring multiple starting points that allow the piece to begin or end in the same month as the piece is performed.

In *A calendar of light*, our relationship to change is mirrored in our relationship to the changing seasons. These range from small and personal changes -- our own daily triumphs and artistic failures - to the wide-ranging, devastating consequences of climate change. Crooker's stanzas ask resonant questions: "Is it impossible to plant change?" "How can we let it all slip through our fingers?" In the end, Trumbore and Crooker's calendar holds us accountable for embracing change and for altering our relationship with the earth for the better. Their piece calls for reflection and action, with recurring refrains and call-and-response movements that invite the **audience** to sing with the ensemble.

Not only are The Esoterics hosting Dale and Barbara for the weekend of their world premiere, we are also hosting a grand ***gala reception*** after each concert -- in Seattle and Tacoma. We hope that you all can join us as we celebrate our pearl anniversary!

Tickets: \$25 at the door, [\\$20 advance purchase](#).

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 re-

veals how monastic

environmental practices

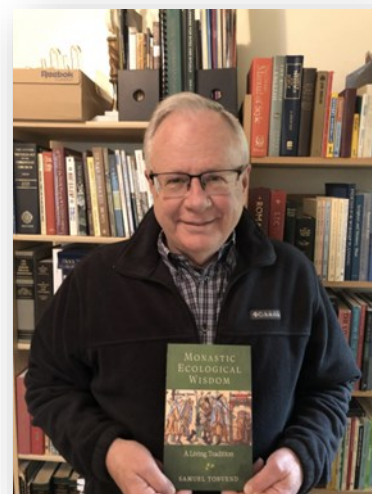
can help us live in harmony

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!



how can we let it all slip through our fingers look how the light is beginning
to dim there's so much to love in this undoing crocus cut their teeth in
perennial beds spring holds her breath white-throated sparrows whistle up
the sun every day another cup of light let us believe in the resurrection of
the earth the late day sun shines through the pink wisteria with its green
and white leaves as if it were starlight in an ordinary summer
afternoon sitting under a tree with a full moon and a suit too much for
us to pick i love the poem i've been trying to write for months it's still
summer and the breeze is full of sweetness spilled from a million petals it
wraps around your arms and the sun is on the back of your neck the first
night you step outside and the moon is still shining six more weeks to frost
and you know you can't wait enough to fall a few fireflies punctuate the
night's black text and the moon is still shining you could swim in it until
you reach the other side where the moon is still shining gold ask me if i've done
enough to deserve this life i've been given when the sky turns blue as the
robes of heaven ask me if i've made a difference these winter nights are
never black and dense but white starlight dancing off the land and then the
luminous dawns the pearled skies full of hope no matter what else we know

SHADOWS & SUN

A calendar of light

Save the Date

January 13, 2023

5:00pm - 7:30pm

Wells Hall

Tusen Takk, Fr. Tørend



Soaring to new heights
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD

Pledges Received so far: 59

Total Amount: \$312,680

Goal: \$400,000

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/**

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

December 3, 2023

8:30am Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

Visit **[Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar](https://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar)**

Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:

[Forward Day by Day](#) | **[Episcopal Church Weekly Reflection](#)**

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO:

