

Christ Church Parish • Friday, December 15, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

A Relevant Gospel?

If there is any time in the liturgical year when Christians focus on the child, it is at Christmas. Luke highlights Mary and the announcement of the birth of Jesus to shepherds; Matthew focuses on Joseph, the visitation of magi, the threat to murder the newborn child, and the displacement of Jesus, Joseph, and Mary in Egypt.

These birth stories share an uncanny resemblance to

the current conflict in the Middle East. The Director General of the World Health Organization reports that more than 7,000 children have died in Gaza due to Israeli bombing, and another 800,000 children are now displaced with little or no access to food, water,



shelter, and rudimentary medical assistance.

The UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East reports that "the killing and maiming of children, abduction of children, attacks on hospitals and schools, and the denial of humanitarian access constitute grave violations of children's rights. Even wars have rules. Civilians must be protected – children particularly."

Continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

- NW Repertory Singers Concert,
 December 16
- Advent III
 Greening Parish Meeting,
 NW Repertory Singers Concert,
 December 17
- Vestry Meeting, December 19
- Winter Solstice and First Flaring
 December 20
- Choir Rehearsal, NA Meeting,
 December 21
- Advent IV
 Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist,
 4:00pm and 9:00pm
- Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
- Parish Facilities Closed
 December 26-30
- New Year's Eve Party
 December 31
- Parish Facilities Closed
 January 1-2



Christ Church follows guidance published by the CDC, the Washington Dept. of Health, and the Tacoma-Pierce Co. Health Dept. These guidelines may change based on new evidence or new protocols issued by public health authorities. We respect everyone's ability to make the best decisions for themselves, including when to wear a mask, while honoring our Christian commitment to protect others through our actions. Christ Church will continue to provide face masks and hand sanitizer.

NEED HELP??

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.

To add to our

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; Pam Vidan; Judy Cullen; Sonsaray; Robert Reeves; Cameron Frisch; Robyn Potter; Miri Hindes; and Dick Gregory.

We commend to your mercy those who have died:

Jonathan Rodriguez; Gary Crippen; Mary Ann Altman; George Trachier; and the many who have perished in the Middle East.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Stephens, Longview • St. Peter's, Seaview

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

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 Credits: King Schoenfeld.
The Weekly is a publication of Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma.

Please visit our website at <u>Christchurchtacoma.org</u> to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

Christ Church Calendar

To submit an article to the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the <u>Parish Administrator</u>.

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

Continued from page 1.

What can we do?

Our diocese has a close relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. It is the Jerusalem Diocese that sponsors Al Ahli Anglican Hospital in Gaza and is the only hospital open in Northern Gaza offering medical assistance to wounded children. Indeed, our former bishop, the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, serves as chair of the trustees of American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.



As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, kindly consider these two possibilities: **bring your check** to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, made out to "American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem" and place it in the offering plate OR **donate online** at https://afedj.org/operating-alone-in-northern-gaza/.

Winter Solstice and First Flaring Wednesday, December 21 at 4 PM in Wells Hall

Join Fr. Torvend in Wells Hall as we mark the Winter Solstice and First Flaring—the emergence of our universe—with light. Candles will be blessed to take home for Christmas and yummy treats will be served. We'll be done before 5 PM, in time to return home for supper.

Advent III, December 17

8:30 a.m. Contemplative Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Advent IV, December 24

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24 4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 p.m. Carols and Anthems with the Christ Church Choir 9:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, with incense

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Formation and Community

Christmas Flower Donations

If you would like to make a donation toward our Christmas Flowers, please fill out **this form**, (also available in the church) and put it with your check for any amount in the collection plate or mail to the church office at 310 North K Street, Tacoma, WA 98403.

Forms received by noon on **Tuesday, December 19** will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

Parish Facilities Closed for Holidays

The Parish Facilities will be closed from Tuesday, December 26—Saturday, December 30, and again both Monday and Tuesday, January 1st and 2nd. The Office will reopen Wednesday, January 3, and our Sexton, Tim Williams, will return on Thursday, January 4. Happy holidays to all!

Episcopal Church Women Epiphany Luncheon January 6, 2024 at 9:30 am

Cost: \$15

Registration begins at 9:30am in the church entryway; the Liturgy starts at 10:00am. Luncheon will begin in Wells Hall following the Liturgy. Please make reservations by January 3rd by talking to Roxy Giddings in person, by phone at 253.537.3075, or by email.

A celebration in honor of Fr. Samuel Torvend and Senior Warden Christi

McCarren will be held on **Saturday, January 13, at 5:00pm in Wells Hall.** As this event will be catered, there is a suggested donation of \$30/person, but please know that all are welcome to share in this gathering! RSVP to the Parish Office, 253.383.1569 x 101, or by email.

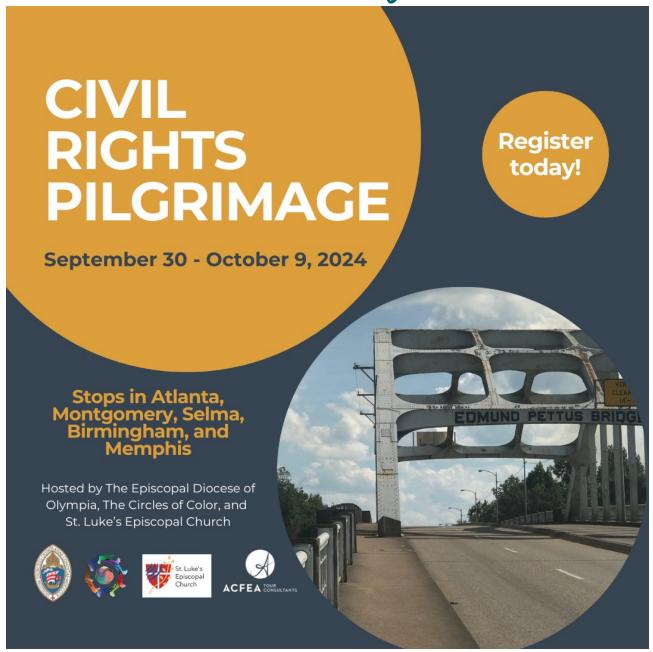
Monthly Reading Group Sunday, January 21 at 6:30pm

The Monthly Reading Group will meet at 6:30pm at the home of **Sandy** and **Ronn Johanson** to discuss Father Samuel Torvend's new book, *Monastic Ecological Wisdom*, with him. Everyone interested is welcome. Questions? **Contact Don Johnson**.

New Parish Directory in 2024!

We are fortunate to have so many new additions and changes to our address book that we need a new list already. If you have moved, or if you know you're not on our list, please let us know ASAP by calling 253.383.1569 x 101 or emailing the Parish Office. We will begin working on a new directory by the end of January.





All are welcome to join The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson, The Rev. Canon Britt Olson, and The Rev. Bryon Hansen in October 2024 for a transformative 10-day Civil Rights Pilgrimage! This pilgrimage is rooted in the movements for racial justice and the people of courage who have gone before us. We will walk in their footsteps from Atlanta to Memphis as we strengthen our own commitment to "strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being." Trip itinerary, cost, and registration information can be found on the trip website here: https://circlesofcolor.org/crpilgrimage/.

Community

A Stewardship Update from the Senior Warden

As our Season of Stewardship draws to a close, I felt it was important to provide an update. Here's the short version: we are nowhere near our target of \$400,000. This may in part be explained by the significant number of fewer pledges than last year at this time. For those of you who have already pledged, I thank you for your continued support of our mission in this community. For those who have not pledged yet, I hope you will prayerfully consider doing so. As our expenses increase year after year, it takes all of us financially supporting Christ Church through whatever means we have.

I remain hopeful that we will find ways to close the revenue and expense gap that we have at this point in the 2024 Budget. None of us wants to consider a reduction in the programs that we provide. The Vestry will be addressing the short fall next week at their December meeting. Blessings,

~Christi McCarren



Pledges Received so far: 67

Total Amount: 336,946

Goal: \$400,000





As part of our Safety and Security program

at Christ Church, we conducted the first annual evacuation drill on November 19th. The purpose of the drill was to gain direct information regarding the procedures we have designed to evacuate the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time from the sanctuary in the event of an emergency. For all those who participated, a sincere thank you for treating this drill as important and deserving of your attention. The congregation was able to clear the sanctuary and reach the emergency assembly location, safely, orderly and promptly. If you have comments or personal observations to share about the evacuation drill, please email Junior Warden Truman Coggins.





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THANK YOU!

SAT 13 JAN 5 PM

A celebration in honor of Fr. Samuel Torvend and Senior Warden Christi McCarren

RSVP: 253.383.1569 X 101

OR

ADMINISTRATOR@CHRISTCHURCHTACOMA.ORG





Three Dimensional Creation Care

Creation Care – our taking responsibility for the portion of life on earth allotted to us – has three dimensions that work together as our response to the Creator of all, the source of love.

A green footprint. First there is the task of deliberately choosing to meet our needs through conserving the resources we need to do this. This means reducing our "footprint" on the elements that sustain us and all life in our environment. What lifestyle choices allow us to use and consume so that we minimize what we take from nature so that it can most naturally renew itself in our wake?

Political activism. Second there is the call to take action in our political systems. We need to work together with others to shape our governmental structures so that they support and encourage the common good, the good of all life forms and the good of all human societies. What can we do to help shape government policies – local, regional, national, and international – with the goal to make our human cultures best synchronized with the biosphere that is our home for the mutual flourishing on this planet which is our home?

Compassionate nurturing. Third, compassion for our fellow humans and the natural order means helping to meet the needs of those whose lives have been damaged by climate disasters and also to take steps to repair life systems that have been put in disarray by human selfishness or negligence regarding the health of the biosphere. How can we reach out to those put in need or displaced by climate change? How can we repurpose and repair habitat when it has been compromised or destroyed by human actions?

~Don Johnson

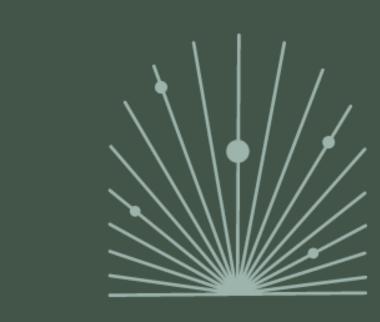


Above: The Christ Church One Parish One Prisoner team received a blessing from Fr. Torvend on Sunday, December 10. Team members are Fran Blair, Peach McDouall, Elin Gratton, Barbara Williams, Sandy Johanson, Linda Johnson, and Deacon Donna Arellano. Not pictured: Vikke Pierson. Photo: King Schoenfeld.

The Northwest Repertory Singers will be performing **"Sing Noel,"** their 2023 Christmas concert here at Christ Church on **Saturday, December 16 at 7:30pm,** and **Sunday, December 17, at 3:00pm. Tickets are available online or at the door.**



Community



WINTER SOLSTICE

AND FIRST FLARING

The blessing of Solstice lights

DECEMBER 20 | 4:00 PM WELLS HALL



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 17, 2023

8:30am Holy Eucharist in the Chapel 10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



Bulletin for 10:30am

Visit Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar

Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:

Forward Day by Day | Episcopal Church Weekly Reflection

Christ Episcopal Church

310 North K Street Tacoma, Washington 98403

p: 253.383.1569 info@christchurchtacoma.org <u>christchurchtacoma.org</u> PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

TO:

