

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, January 12, 2024

A Message from Mo. Maria McDowell

The Nicene Creed: a new(ish) translation

This Sunday, you may notice a change in text of the Nicene Creed. Developed over the fourth century at a series of councils ([click here for a theological timeline](#)) the Creed connects us to the wisdom of our ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The text we are using is from the [English Language Liturgical Consultation](#), which was approved for use at the 71st General Convention of The Episcopal Church, is included in [Enriching our Worship 1](#) (a supplement to the BCP), and will be the translation included in the next publication of the BCP.

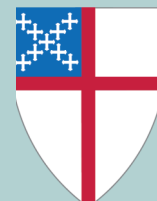
There are two major reasons I find this translation compelling for our common use.

The most important is the shift from Jesus Christ who “was made man” to the one who “became truly human.” This shift rightly de-emphasizes Jesus’ maleness, which was almost never the focus of early church conversations regarding his humanity. More importantly, it concisely encompasses a rich theology of becoming *fully human* (a better rendering of the Greek phrase) as an essential way of understanding our salvation as ever-changing growth towards who we are, and are created to be. To be fully human, as was Jesus, is to engage in a life of *becoming*, of growing into the likeness and image of one whose loving practice was the full embodiment of justice and mercy in everyday life. This is also what it is to be fully God, a fasci

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Upcoming Events

- Second City Chamber Music Concert, **January 12**
- An Evening of Gratitude, **January 13**
- Coffee with Mo. Maria, **January 14**
- Parish Office Closed for MLK Day, **January 15**
- Vestry Meeting, **January 16**
- Coffee with Mo. Maria, **January 17**
- Coffee with Mo. Maria, **January 18**
- Third Friday Concert, **January 19**
- Greening Parish Meeting, Monthly Reading Group, **January 21**
- CSLT Meeting, **January 23**
- Coffee with Mo. Maria, **January 24**
- Choir Rehearsal, NA Meeting, **January 25**
- Coffee with Mo. Maria, Veterans' Village Food Prep **January 28**



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??

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 Bill Garriott; Elaine Stafford; Al Buck; Gwen Horner Gryskevich; Alex Gryskevich; Mark Morris; Chaundra Pospychala; Carolyn Guppy; Judy Cullen; Sonsaray; Robert Reeves; Robyn Potter; Miri Hindes; and Dick Gregory.

We commend to your mercy those who have died:

All those who have died, especially the many who continue to perish in Gaza, Ukraine, and South Sudan.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Good Shepherd, Federal Way • St. Columba's, Kent

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Church of the Province of South East Asia

Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma *Weekly* Newsletter

The Rev. Maria McDowell, Rector, The Rev. Samuel Torvend, Associate Priest

Deborah Hope Breneman, Editor/Design and Layout. Photo Credits: King Schoenfeld and Don Johnson.

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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Worship and Formation

Continued from page 1.

nating twist in late-ancient theological anthropology. Here, the language of the Creed underscores what the East calls *theosis*, our participation in God's nature (2 Peter 1:4).

The second reason is more ecumenically than theologically important. In the sixth-century at a regional synod meeting in Toledo, Spain, the phrase "and the son" was added to the clause regarding the Holy Spirit. It was added in good faith, out of the belief that the liturgical repetition of the phrase, "who proceeds from the Father and the Son" would remind believers influenced by Arians, a group who denied the full divinity of Christ, that the Son was fully God. Its insertion into the original Creed became the norm in the West, so much so that later Anglican Divines went to great lengths to justify its deletion by the Greeks. The continued use of the *filioque* has been a point of tension between Eastern and Western Christians for centuries. In 1976, the Anglican members of the Anglican-Orthodox Joint Doctrinal Commission published an Agreed Statement that the *filioque* should not be included as it had been introduced without the authority of an Ecumenical Council. In 1994 the 71st General Convention affirmed the intention of the Episcopal Church to remove the *filioque* clause at the next revision of the BCP.

I know that changing the language of something many of us are used to saying by rote is difficult. I am happy to discuss these changes with you. After all, one of my favorite topics of Spiritual Formation is the Nicene Creed, and I hope to be able to engage with you about my love for it and the beautiful theology that underlies it.

~Mo. Maria

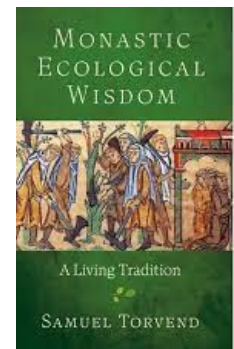
Monthly Reading

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](#).



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](#).

Annual Meeting Notice

Our 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 4, 2024, in Wells Hall**.
More information to come!

Community



Respiratory Virus Update: There has been a gradual increase in the incidence of COVID hospitalizations and influenza and RSV cases in Pierce County over the past several weeks. You may have noticed more people are masking in church, grocery stores, and in other public areas. This is a good idea if you are at higher risk or are feeling sick. If you don't feel well, stay home, worship online, and take good care of yourself!

If you have actually been diagnosed with a respiratory virus please follow your healthcare provider's advice about masking and quarantine. Thanks to everyone for your doing your part to protect us all!

If you have questions please [email](#).

~Van Hardison, PhD, RN, for the Medical Advisory Team

Breathing Green

In 1913, poet Joyce Kilmer wrote his most famous Poem, "Trees." Many of us may be aware of the opening lines: "I think that I shall never see/ A poem as lovely as a tree." While Kilmer addresses the beauty of trees and their sheltering qualities, we must consider the impact they have on the quality of our urban environments. An aspect of the North End of Tacoma that I love is the tree canopy, and one of the characteristics that is most disconcerting about South Tacoma is the absence of trees, especially in some of the new developments that cover what used to be farmland. The builders go for density over beauty, and houses are built close together with no trees. Poor air quality in South and East Tacoma is a factor in the lowered life expectancy of those who live there ([click here](#)), and we know that trees can help. A City of Tacoma program that aims to address this is Grit City Trees ([click here](#)). The application process favors neighborhoods that are short on tree canopy, but anyone who has space on the parking strip may apply. As we look for ways to improve the prospects for our planet and our neighbors, tree planting may well be a fruitful method to consider.

—Ann Welton



CHRIST CHURCH GREENING

Meet Mo. Maria—

We currently have two ways to meet Mo. Maria: *Group Coffee Hours*--sign up in the Narthex or contact the [Parish Office](#) to join one of these sessions, which are held Wednesdays at 10:00am and 4:00pm throughout January. *Small Group Dinners* are also being arranged, and Jane Bertolin is kindly scheduling these. Mo. Maria is looking forward to meeting everyone, but as time will not permit individual meetings for everyone all at once, she hopes to see you at one of these sessions.



SECOND CITY CHAMBER SERIES

CONCERT IV:
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024
AT 7:30 PM

Christ Episcopal Church
 310 N K Street
 Tacoma, WA 98403

CAROLEAN
Coronations

Join us for the music of the coronations of Charles I, Charles II, & Charles III of Great Britain, featuring the music of Orlando Gibbons, Henry Purcell, & more!

Zach Lyman & Sarah Viens, trumpets
 Danielle Lemieux, horn
 Scott Hartman, trombone
 Paul Evans, tuba

GET TICKETS AT
SCCHAMBERSERIES.ORG
 \$35 PLUS SERVICE FEE
 STUDENTS FREE WITH STUDENT ID



TUSEN TAKK



*Fr. Samuel
 &
 Christi*

THANK YOU!

SAT **13** 5 PM
 JAN

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

RSVP: 253.383.1569 X 101
 OR
ADMINISTRATOR@CHRISTCHURCHTACOMA.ORG

Community

Mother Maria McDowell has arrived at the shores of Whulge, the Salish Sea, in Tacoma to serve as rector at Christ Church. One of her first official duties as she began her ministry with us was to bless the waters in an Epiphany liturgy at Owen Beach in Point Defiance Park. Recalling the primal waters of Creation, she led a band of two dozen participants as we processed down the beach to the water's edge singing to Jesus in celebration of his baptism.

There, with a passing pod of orcas in the depths, she stepped into the waves to scoop up a bowl of ocean water and lifted it up just as John the Baptist raised the shell above the Savior's head. Then, using a cedar branch, she sprinkled us as we participated in the blessing.

We received vials of the blessed water and returned to the pavilion overseeing the waters where we fellowshiped over cookies and enjoyed the spectacle of the orcas breaching and cavorting in the distance.

~Don Johnson and King Schoenfeld, photo credits to Don and King



Christ Church blessing circle singing the liturgy at Owen Beach on Epiphany, January 6

Community



Above: Singing the liturgy at the water's edge; below: Mo. Maria and the blessed sea water.



Above: Mo. Maria emerging from the shoreline with the bowl of sea water; below: Shelby, joyfully blessed.



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

January 14, 2024

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church

Bulletins

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

Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:

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



Christ Episcopal Church

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Tacoma, Washington 98403

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO:

