

KTF 2025 January 23

Dear Ones,

Last Sunday, Sandy and I guided our Chapel Kids in a conversation about the wildfires in California. We wanted to get to a question one of them had asked a parent, "Why does God let these fires burn? Why doesn't God do something?" We had a good discussion of what theologians call theodicy, the problem of evil, and then Sandy invited them to create a prayer to be added into the Prayers of the People.

What moved me most deeply was that they responded with compassion. They immediately went to a request for mercy. Mercy for those who were fighting the fires, those who were displaced by them, those who were injured or killed, the animals who lost their habitats...and mercy for any who might have had a hand in starting the fires. I started to say that I wasn't sure there was any proven indication of arson, but then I realized I needed to let the moment be. They were offering mercy and forgiveness, and that was beautiful.

The next generation is continuing the Christ Church tradition of being kind, loving and truly Christian people. Thank God for you all.

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 * Psalm 19 * 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a * Luke 4:14-21

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Michael and Bonnie Trundy (1/30)

CALENDAR

SUN: 9:30 am Sunday School
10:15 am Eucharist/In-person and online The Rev. Sandy Williams preaching
WED: 9:00 am Eucharist/Bible Study
THU: 9:00 am Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
7:15 pm Zoom Compline
SUN 2/2: 9:30 am Sunday School
10:15 am Eucharist/In-person and online
Following worship: Annual Meeting

CREATION CARE TIPS

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Sometimes, a song fragment bounces around in my brain for days at a time. Quite often it's the recessional we sing on any given Sunday. ("Lift High the Cross" has rumbled around for years!) But last Sunday's simple recessional song has been my guiding light through a very troubling week. "Longing for truth, we turn to you. . . Longing for Peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. . . Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst."

And here I'd like to clarify something Nancy mentioned in her sermon last Sunday – those 180 gallons of water which is attributed to each of us every day, that's not what you and I use at home. That's what's done on our behalf, in producing food, cars, and barrels of oil, by farmers, factory workers, chefs and doctors in hospitals. Remember the confession we used for the Season of Creation -- "The evil we have done, the evil done on our behalf?" Well, washing cars when others are thirsty, syphoning off water from rivers to accommodate a newly planned luxury housing development where water is already too scarce, (in order to make a wealthy developer wealthier) that's some of the evil done on our behalf. What about prewashing denim, then sanding, bleaching, and ripping the jeans to make them look 'broken-in,' even before the zippers, rivets, and buttons are added and the jeans are hemmed? If it makes the garment wear out sooner, increasing the demand for fabric, jeans, buttons, zippers, and the water to produce them, that's the evil done on our behalf, too.

The hymn continues – "Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. . . Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come!" It's time for us to be broken apart, scattered about Oxford County and beyond, to help bring light into the dark, to help people see hope, to cherish and protect this fragile Earth, our island home. And then to come back to Christ Church to be fed, again and again, so that we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

"Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light, Shine in your church, gathered today.

– Patty Watts, Earth Keeper for Christ Church

Hurt not the Earth - neither the sea - nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

PS Tuesday was squirrel appreciation day. If you missed it, don't go nuts, just feed them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Potluck Coffee Hour

We're trying something new—potluck coffee hour! Once a quarter, you are invited to bring a snack foods to share. Examples: crackers, cheeses, fruits, yogurt, nuts, pretzels, bread, Jello, cookies, etc. We will try again on April 6.

Annual Meeting is February 2 following worship. Copies of the Annual Report are on the table by the bathrooms.

Outreach Project

Our Christmas outreach project was so successful, we have decided to continue working cooperatively with Community Concepts. Their greatest need at present is diapers and baby wipes. Diapers of all sizes are welcome. If you would prefer to give money or a gift card toward the purchase, that works too—Jenna Mulandi has offered to be a shopper with any funds we gather.

For ongoing and up-to-date information about diocesan activities and news, as well as news from other congregations, sign up for **the DioLog**. <https://episcopalmaine.org/newsletter/>