

KTF 2025 January 30

Dear Ones,

I like the season of Epiphany because it reminds us not only that Christ is our light, but that we are called to carry that light, in his name, into the dark places of the world. I have been thinking about all the ways you do that. Some of you advocate for the marginalized who feel particularly vulnerable to forces beyond their control right now. Some of you are passionate about creation care. Some of you are faithful in prayer in all its forms. Some connect with our neighbors through the food pantry, community meal programs, AA groups and volunteering in ways I don't even know about. Each one of those is a candle in the darkness for someone.

February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation. When Feb. 2 lands on a Sunday, it takes precedence over the Epiphany 4 readings we would otherwise use. The Feast of the Presentation marks the moment when Mary and Joseph bring the 40 day old Jesus into the Temple for both the ritual of Mary's purification and the act of redeeming the firstborn. (Want to know more about that? Come to church on Sunday!) It is also the occasion at which Simeon sang his beautiful song many of us may know from Evening Prayer or Compline:

Lord, you now have set your servant free, to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

In the language of Rite 1, the first line is "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word" and it always brought to mind a faithful lay leader from my youngest days in church. I remember how fervently he prayed these words as he grew old, hopeful that God would grant him the grace to "go in peace" without fear. Even as he neared death, he found a way to be a light to others, to reflect hope, peace, and even a kind of joy.

On Sunday I will bless some candles I found in a drawer here. Some have been burned before, some are still in a cellophane wrapper. All are able to carry the light. I invite you to take them home with you. Whenever you are feeling overwhelmed by the darkness, I encourage you to light it and remember that Christ is and will always be our light. None of us are so old and worn out that we can't find some way to be carriers of the Christ light.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4 * Psalm 84 * Hebrews 2:14-18 * Luke 2:22-40

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Allan Mulandi (2/6)

Jenna and Allan Mulandi (2/7)

Jan Wall (2/8)

PARISHIONER'S NEWS

Rosemary Laban shares:

Museums of Bethel Historical Society's 2nd Annual Havens Candies Valentine's Day Fundraiser

\$30, all proceeds benefit MBHS. Place an order at bethelhistorical.org/havens or call 824-2908 or email info@bethelhistorical.org.

CALENDAR

SUN: 9:30 am Sunday School
10:15 am Eucharist/In-person and online
Following worship: Annual Meeting
Annual Reports on table by coat rack
WED: 9:00 am Eucharist/Bible Study
THU: 9:00 am Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
7:15 pm Zoom Compline

CREATION CARE TIPS

Maine's Environmental Impacts – Good News and Bad News

Some people like to hear the good news first, some like the bad news first. It's that half full, half empty glass thing that I never seem to understand. To me, half is half.

The bad news arrived in an article from MainePublic.org, with a beautiful picture of wildflowers and a tranquil pond in the background. The entire foreground of the scene was dotted with bubble-bath-like dollops of foam. The background showed a wide expanse of that same foam, several feet deep. It looked like a laundromat and a car wash had a party. The scene was the result of a very large and dangerous PFAS fire fighting foam spill in Brunswick. Not surprisingly, fish from the area were tested and found to have elevated levels of PFAS. Maine DEP said forever chemicals in shellfish – softshell clams, blue mussels and oysters – continue to test far above acceptable levels. A new round of testing is expected to be finished and results released in March.

The second news article, from TheCoolDown.com, concerned the easternmost city in the US, Eastport, Maine. The island is plagued by power outages caused by storms, because it relies on electricity generated on the mainland. The island's back-up system runs on diesel fuel, and the residents have decided that a change for the better was due. Soon, electricity will be powered by tidal and solar energy during outages, removing the noise and harmful emissions of the diesel generator. A grant from the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership allowed the plan to be put into place. Being so close to the Bay of Fundy, Eastport's 20 foot change in tide height makes it a good place to add tidal power to solar power.

– Patty

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Outreach Project

Our Christmas outreach project was so successful, we have decided to continue working cooperative 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.

Candles Today is officially the Feast of the Presentation, but it is also traditionally called Candlemas, as it was the time when people would bring their supply of candles to the church to be blessed. You are invited to take one of the candles blessed in today's service home, as a reminder of the light of Christ that we carry into the world.

Safe Church certification If you are one of the people who is safe church certified, it's time to renew! Speak to Nancy for more information.