

KTF 2025 February 20

Dear Ones,

A friend's husband is a wildlife biologist for the state. He offered this perspective on our recent weather pattern: "Every day, more tick eggs die!" I appreciated it, both because it gave me a way to endure the present bitter cold and snow, and also reminded me of the promise of warm days and green grass in our future.

The readings this week challenge us to trust in God's goodness and faithfulness, no matter the circumstances. Remember that "God is good...*all* the time." God is good even when people aren't. It is our job as Christians, as citizens of God's kingdom, to continue to do the right thing, the good thing, and not respond to evil with more evil. That doesn't mean being passive or walking through life with blinders on. It means not allowing the enormity of all the injustice to overwhelm us, and instead focusing on doing the next right thing.

Several years ago I kept repeating the phrase, "Jesus dealt with the one in front of him." Over the last few months, people have echoed it back to me as a reminder that we can't fix the entire world's problems. Expecting that of ourselves only leaves us feeling defeated and powerless. But we can do so much good, by paying attention to what appears in front of us, pleading for justice, mercy, kindness, generosity.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 * Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42 * 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 * Luke 6:27-38

CREATION CARE TIPS

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Last Sunday's Prayers of the People, from *Sundays and Seasons 2025*

Yes, problems exist everywhere we look. But we can do something about many of these problems, if we look for solutions and find the courage to bring about positive outcomes. Australia has found solutions for some of their invasive species. An Australian television network airs a show called Eat the Invasives. Two episodes have showcased common North American and European mammals and their destruction of natural ecosystems. Domestic cats, introduced with the first European emigrants, have become feral (wild, on their own, not fed by or cared for by humans) and have decimated native populations of several species of birds, reptiles, small mammals, and amphibians. The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DEECCW) estimates that cats that have been let loose kill 1.5 billion (yes, that's a B!) native animals each year. Likewise, twenty-four rabbits were imported by a wealthy landowner in the 1800's; they have reproduced like bunnies and spread from the north to the south, pushing native species out of their native habitats. These cute little critters now threaten the existence of 300 native species, by taking over their habitats. Twenty-seven million rabbits became hasenpfeffer yearly in the 1940s. Some groups are campaigning to encourage people to put rabbit back on the menu.

And in an all too common scenario, poisonous cane toads, introduced in 1935 to control beetles that were eating and damaging sugar cane, have spread far and wide. And by that I mean 2,000 miles to the south and 2,000 miles to the west. No, they don't give people warts. They secrete toxins, killing native animals that encounter them and wrongly consider them edible. One activist group, calling themselves Women Against Cane Toads (or WACT), arm themselves with gloves, buckets, and headlamps; they hunt for toads on golf courses. Once their buckets are full, they refrigerate the toads to put them to sleep, then transfer them to the freezer for

“eternal sleep.” This may sound harsh, but check out the list of symptoms of bufotoxin poisoning, and you’ll agree that these animals need to go!

Blessed is creation. But human interference has changed environments and affected the balance of nature. Let’s consider what we can do to help nature regain her balance. – Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper
Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

CALENDAR

SUN	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Eucharist/In-person and online
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember in your prayers the family of Nancy Rideout, who died Feb. 7. Her service will be held at 1st Baptist Church on Paris Hill at 10:00 AM, February 22.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Chapel Kids Theater presentation, March 4, 5:30. Join us for a fun Mardi Gras event this year, with just a hint of Purim thrown in! We need donations of the ingredients (pancake mix, bacon and/or sausage, etc.), cooks (Peter Hammond has volunteered but he’ll need help), set up and clean up teams... There will be some fun activities for the kids leading up to their performance of the story of Esther. (See Sandy’s note below)

The Chapel Kids will be presenting a play about Queen Esther at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4th. These two roles require adult participation: 1) Mordecai – a wise, middle aged man; 2) Haman – a pompous advisor to the king. Please rest assured that, if you volunteer to participate in the play, you are NOT required to memorize your part. Dressing up in an appropriate costume is not required but, hey, it could be a lot of fun. Speaking of costumes.... The play takes place a palace in ancient Persia. We are looking for costume items – robes, tiaras, crowns, togas, guards’ shields and helmets, etc. If you have anything that might be useful, please let us know ASAP.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. The Ash Wednesday liturgy at 9 AM and Noon includes Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist. Imposition of Ashes is also available to any walk-ins from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Daily Lenten Meditation (email). If you would like to receive Nancy’s daily Lenten meditation/reflection email, please let her know. Rumor has it Jenna, Jen and Allison may also be reading Benjamin Cremer’s Lenten devotional, *When Love Gets the Last Word*. Speak to any of them about details.

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.

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/>