

KTF 2025 March 6

Dear Ones,

It will come as no surprise to many of you that Lent is my least favorite liturgical season. And yet this year, I find myself welcoming it. Lent is the season when we acknowledge things are not as they should be, face the ways in which we contribute to the not-rightness, and ask for the Holy Spirit to transform us and guide us into a closer walk with Christ.

After yesterday's Ash Wednesday service, I shared a song that comes to mind every year. It is called Beautiful Things, by a band called Gungor. It begins with an expression of frustration, pain, sorrow, despair. As I listen to it, I picture in my head all the scenes of devastation around the world, caused by war, violence and natural disaster. So much dust and ash. *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

But then the song swells into a prayer of hope:

*You make beautiful things, You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things, You make beautiful things out of us*

God is ready to make beautiful things out of the dust. And us.

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

(Here is a link to a YouTube video of the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpOPkzplHRw>)

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 * Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 * Romans 10:8b-13 * Luke 4:1-13

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce Watts (3/9)

Cathy Bickford (3/12)

Lynn Brown (3/14)

PARISHIONER'S NEWS

Flightless Honor Flight for Owen Melville (Susan Glines' partner) March 15, 11-1 at the Community Activity Center at 99 Town & Country Drive. This is a way to include vets who are no longer able to fly to Washington. If you can't be present at the event, there are other ways to participate. Speak to Janet Harvey for more info.

CREATION CARE TIPS

Seeds of Hope, Seeds of the Future – Mother Nature's Little Helpers

Have you received your seed catalogs for this growing season? Have you planned your garden? Are some of the seeds you'll be planting ones that you saved from last year's garden? If you've answered yes, then you have created a tiny seed bank. Seed banks are places that collect, store, and re-distribute seeds for later plantings. Some are government-run, some are run by non-profit foundations. There are huge seed banks that keep and catalog seeds from all over the world, so that in the extremely unlikely chance that much of the world's vegetation is destroyed, it can be restored.

Every year since 2020, I have saved several types of bean seeds. This entails selecting some of the best pods on each type of plant – yellow pods, green pods with black seeds, purple pods, crescent-shaped green beans. And

each spring I plant these seeds, and select the best pods on the new season's plants to dry, to keep the best seeds for the future.

One place that seed banks make a huge difference in our world is where fires have devastated large areas of growth. If these areas are not re-planted quickly, invasive plants will be more likely to grow and prevent the restoration of native plants and the natural environment. Before the land had cooled and the smoke had blown eastward, people in Los Angeles were collecting seeds from their backyards, from the green spaces along highway shoulders, from odd places here and there, to help restore the thousands of acres that had burned. Some plants will regrow quickly. Others, like sequoias, which we usually think of as growing in Northern California, will take centuries to reach maturity.

Areas where seeds are planted by humans will not develop exactly the way they were before fire killed all the plants in the area. There are thousands of organisms in the soil, in the streams and in the lakes that will take a long time to return. But by saving seeds and replanting the known native species, things will return to normal sooner, and the areas that burned will not become wastelands filled with invasive species.

With Mother Nature doing the bulk of the work, and generous volunteers planting seeds, our countrysides will again be thriving ecosystems, even where fires have destroyed everything above the dirt and rocks. And that's something to smile about.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

PS Collecting up-to-date information on recycling in Christ Church's surrounding towns is taking longer than I expected. Please be patient while I collect and sort information from several towns.

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
SAT:	11 AM	Flightless Honor Flight for Owen Melville

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giving Thanks during Lent: Christ Church friends, though Lent is intended to be a penitential season, there is no time or season in life when it is not appropriate to keep ourselves aware of all that can make us grateful. Including intentional giving into a United Thank Offering box as part of your Lenten discipline is an easy and helpful way to keep us mindful of the people, places and experiences for which can and should thank the Lord. It is always his grace that produces these blessings. So, if you haven't already done so, pick up a UTO box on the table outside Nancy's office and start a daily practice of *giving thanks unto the Lord!*

Sunday March 23 Refugee Sunday The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maine designated TODAY as the day to observe Refugee Sunday, but we already had a lot going on today, so we are observing it on March 23. In the meantime, you can check out episcopalmigrationministries.org for more info.

Safe Church Certification If you are one of the people who is safe church certified, it's time to renew! If you have not done safe church training but would like to, speak to Nancy for more information.