

KTF 2025 May 15

Dear Ones,

Several times lately I have been in a conversation with someone which led to us trying to clarify what each of us meant by some theological term—grace, salvation, temptation, sin—because it was evident we did not have the same working definitions.

In the months to come, I would like to find a way for us to have conversations about what those words mean to us. I'm not suggesting we narrow it down to a single, "correct" definition. Quite the opposite actually. I think we might benefit from hearing each other's ideas, and allow the terms to grow fuller and richer.

So what words would you like to include? I've already mentioned four: grace, salvation, temptation, sin. What other words would you like to explore? Let me know.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 11:1-18 * Psalm 148 * Revelation 21:1-6 * John 13:31-35

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Susan Glines (5/19)

PARISHIONER'S NEWS

Jenna Mulandi was asked for the recipes for the two kinds of brownies she made for last week's coffee hour.

Chocolate: <https://bluebowlrecipes.com/ultra-fudgy-brown-butter-brownies/>

Lemon: <https://www.melskitchencafe.com/lemonies/>

CREATION CARE TIPS

A day in the plastic-filled life of an American

As I got out of bed this morning, I let my feet snuggle into my shearling lined suede slippers – the ones with some sort of plastic sole. And off I shuffled across the acrylic carpet, down the hallway with a hardwood floor (coated with a polyurethane or acrylic finish), to the bathroom, to brush my teeth with a plastic brush with plastic bristles. I stood on some sort of plastic rolled flooring (the modern take on "linoleum"), and squeezed toothpaste out of a plastic tube. Then I slurped some water so that I wouldn't use a plastic cup.

In the kitchen, my necessary before-breakfast pills came out of a plastic vial. I walked across the wool rug to sit with my space-age-plastic-sheathed Chromebook on my lap, and played a few word games and completed the daily crossword while waiting the prescribed half hour before eating. Then out came the frozen fruits, the granola bags, the coconut and almonds, and of course, the yogurt, for our typical breakfast parfaits. Each of those foods came in – you know by now – plastic packaging. At least the yogurt container is recyclable!

After several hours, it was lunchtime. Today's menu: PBJs – bread (from a plastic bag), peanut butter – creamy for Bruce, extra chunky for me – (from plastic jars).

Woohoo! The strawberry jam for Bruce's sandwich came in a glass jar! And my banana (I had a PBB, not a PBJ) came with its own wrapper, so no plastic was needed.

So far the tally is one wool rug, one glass jar, one fruit with no plastic. And many different plastic items. I'm sure you don't want to hear about the rest of the day, and I'm just as sure that you realize how thoroughly we are surrounded by plastics in our daily lives. I would guess you have faced the fact that we cannot extricate ourselves from our dependence on plastics.

Unfortunately, the plastics that are in our lives are also in our bodies. We breathe microplastics into our lungs when we walk down the street and smell our neighbor's fabric softener dryer sheets, because the microplastics in synthetic fabrics blow out through the dryer vent. (If you can smell the scent, you're breathing it in) We eat plastics when we heat foods in plastic containers in the microwave oven. We drink plastics when we drink from plastic water bottles, or plastic coated to-go coffee cups with plastic lids.

It will take decades to find healthier replacements for most of the plastics that we deal with every day. But let's see if we can reduce the number of plastics we encounter in our daily routines.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

Editor's note: Just after I read this, I was watching the news and an ad came up for retinol cream sold in a tube of tiny little single use plastic beads. I immediately imagined Patty's sigh and comment: lose the excess plastic and learn to love your wrinkles!

CALENDAR

TODAY: 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
5:30 PM Vestry meeting on Zoom
7:15 PM Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zoom Vestry meeting, May 22 5:30

United Thanks Offering Our next UTO collection (and one of two per year) will be Sunday, June 1st, Ascension Sunday. Most Christ Church parishioners will remember that we encourage contributing to the diocesan United Thank Offering fund as a way of reminding ourselves to be watching for the many blessings and provisions of the Lord in our daily lives for which it is appropriate for us to give thanks. Some folks like to keep their UTO box in their car for that reason, but there are many options of good places to keep a box in front of us to prompt that Attitude of Gratitude. Boxes are always available on the table in the hallway outside Nancy's office. As we say in every worship service: *Let us thank the Lord. It is right to give him thanks and praise.* Nancy Mering

Funeral for Martha Eaton will be on Sunday, July 6 at 1:00 PM. The full reception will be at the house/camp in Waterford, but we would like to offer a few light refreshments (lemonade, cookies, crackers and cheese, fruit) on the front porch here as people depart.

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/>