

KTF 2025 May 22

Dear Ones,

You may have noticed already that I'm sharing the pulpit a lot more than usual. I will get back to preaching soon. I am finding it hard to focus on sermon writing right now, and am deeply grateful for those in our parish who can step in for me. If you missed Sandy's sermon last week, please go and watch it on our Facebook page while it's still available. It was the best she has preached so far!

I am grateful for your concern for me and your questions about my mom. If I sometimes deflect your questions on Sunday morning it's because I need to stay focused on the morning's worship service. I will try to provide updates occasionally. Please know that your love and care mean the world to me. I give thanks for it every day.

My mom's decline has slowed a bit, but we are still making sure she has round-the-clock companionship. She isn't up for a lot of company, but she has chosen Sandy as her chaplain. Family members cover Tuesdays through Thursdays and Sunday mornings. For now, I will be working from home on Fridays. Please do not hesitate to call me if you need to! If I can't pick up when you call, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

What you may now know is that my brother, Eric, will be having major surgery tomorrow for colorectal cancer. The chemo and radiation regimen he endured for the last six months did a good job, but not a complete one, and they need to go in and surgically remove the remainder of the tumor. It will be a lengthy recovery. He and his wife Marty live in Hebron. I think Marty wishes she could split herself in two so that she could be with both Eric and my mom, with whom she has very close relationship.

I ask your prayers and your patience as we move through these days and weeks. I am so grateful for all of you.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 16:9-15 * Psalm 67 * Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 * John 5:1-9

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jen Lehr (5/28) * Marg Means (5/30) * Bella Long (5/31) * * John Habecker (5/31)

PARISHIONER'S NEWS

Ask Rosemary about this year's program for kids at the Bethel Historical Society—it's always a fun time!

CREATION CARE TIPS

A Mountain of Trash

I found an interesting article in the *Smithsonian Magazine*, about Earth's tallest mountain, Mt. Everest. The reason I searched for it was an article that rankled me, about Kenton Cool (I kid you not), 51, from England, who has ascended the mountain nineteen times, more times than any other person who pays to do so. His Sherpa, Kami Rita, has ascended the mountain 30 times. (Gee, and I thought one mountaintop experience would suffice.)

Many statistics were given, including how many people have died (340 in one account, 400 in another) attempting to reach the peak or return to the bottom. About two hundred are still there. That includes 16 Sherpa guides who were caught in an avalanche in 2014, and 19 who were caught in an avalanche in 2015, the result of an earthquake; and the man who famously said "Because it's there," who died on Everest 101 years ago next month. (His body was discovered in 1999.)

Since 1953, when Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay became the first humans to reach the summit, thousands of hikers have attempted to do the same. 7,200 have completed this adventure, and 1,600 of them have done it at least twice. And they have left a mountain of garbage behind. In the past few years Nepal has enacted laws governing what climbers must do when climbing this famous mountain. Requirements include wearing a chip for tracking purposes, paying a \$15,000 fee, and carrying one's own human waste back to the base camp for disposal. The Smithsonian article reported that since 2019, Nepali troops have been dispatched to clean up the messes climbers have left behind. Last year, they removed 22,000 pounds – ten metric tons – of trash, as well as five bodies. That was about 25% of the trash, and three or four percent of the fallen climbers, most of whom are in inaccessible places.

One ascent costs approximately \$40,000, years of training, and possibly one's life. I wonder if any of these climbers, who seem content to spend many thousands of dollars for each ascent, have given thought to other ways their excess money could be spent. Schools for the sherpas' children, waste disposal facilities to counteract some of the littering and polluting they have done, or a hospital or two, for the country whose wealth is ranked 110 out of 119 countries in the world all come to mind. To me, that would be a small price to pay for having desecrated the tallest mountain on this beautiful, precious planet. Hurt not the mountains!

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

CALENDAR

SUN NO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK
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

Copies of A Rogation Day Liturgy available—a great way to give thanks for this place we call home!

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.

Potluck Coffee Hour Next Sunday's coffee hour will be potluck.

A note of thanks from Community Concepts for the **Mother's Day Pampering Kits**. "Was able to brighten the days of two moms and one single dad...gave one of those beautiful scarves my Afghan mom, she was so happy...gave Walmart and Hannaford cards to the mom from Angola...in dire need....thank you so much. It's everything to these mamas. I think what we have given them is a sense of dignity and joy...thank you...the world feels SO dark and heavy and this is a small way to bring light."