

KTF 2025 July 3

Dear Ones,

This country celebrated our bicentennial the summer I turned 9. I remember dressing up in a costume that came straight out of *Little House on the Prairie* and walking in a parade waving a little flag until the heat got to be too much for me. We went home and I gleefully ran through the sprinkler on the front lawn until it was time for a hamburger off the grill. By the next summer I had begun taking trumpet lessons and made my first—but not last!—trip along the parade route on the back of a flatbed truck, playing marches and patriotic songs.

In recent years, the word patriotism has too often been co-opted by those whose beliefs and behaviors conflict with my deeper fidelity to God. I wrestle with how to appropriately give thanks for this country of ours while being honest about the many ways in which we continue to fail to live up to our potential. I miss the youthful optimism I felt 49 years ago. It feels like a betrayal of that little girl's hopes to sing the "national songs" in the back of our hymnal, knowing how often they are sung by people who wouldn't recognize Jesus if he stood in front of them.

In place of those songs which all seem to assume God is on our side, I have come to love the one we will sing on Sunday. One that calls on us to praise God for the blessings we have received, while at the same time acknowledging and giving thanks for the ways in which God is at work throughout the world.

This is my song, O God of all the nations. A song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

As you celebrate all the good things about this country we call home, I ask that you say a prayer that we as a nation commit ourselves to the care of others which is the mark of a true follower of Christ.

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

Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 * Psalm 30 * Galatians 6:7-16 * Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

CREATION CARE TIPS

LASAGNA GARDENING

Lasagna gardening is a funny term that's used to describe the layering of materials in the garden. In this case one of the materials is cardboard. Better Homes and Gardens magazine published an article that offered nine environmentally friendly things to do with cardboard. (They disappointed me when they left out sliding down a snowy hill on a refrigerator box - no plastic saucer or inner tube required.)

Here's a brief rundown: Transform a section of lawn by layering food scraps, mulch, compost, soil, and cardboard where you want a garden. The cardboard will help kill off the weeds and grass under it, and the other layers will enrich the soil. This same technique can be used in raised beds – the kind that sit on the ground, rather than the kind that stand waist high on sturdy legs. You can eliminate weeds by laying cardboard on them and waiting. (If your weedy area is on a windy hilltop, like mine is, you'll need to weigh it down with rocks or pieces of windfall branches.) A three to one ratio of cardboard to food scraps and other green materials makes a good blend for your compost bin. Just be sure to reduce the size of the cardboard pieces so they decompose quickly. Toilet paper rolls can be used to start seedlings. To begin, just fold one end in by pushing the edge with one thumb, and continue around the rim, creating a slightly leaky "plant pot" and fill it with dirt. This 'plant pot' can be used to protect seedlings from cutworms (alias grubs) when

transplanting. Paper towel tubes (also foil, parchment paper, wax paper, plastic wrap, and gift wrap tubes) can be split lengthwise and slipped around tender stalks, to keep the seedlings upright until they strengthen. No staking and tying necessary.

If your green thumb itches long before the last frost date, and you plant too early, you can cover tender seedlings with cardboard when the forecast warns of a frosty night ahead. Once all danger of frost has passed, save some of the cardboard to make slug traps. If you notice slug damage, lay the cardboard on the ground, and wait. Check every day or so and collect the slugs that congregate under it. Then do them in! (An aluminum pie plate of salty beer will also attract them and kill them, but since there's no cardboard involved, the magazine skipped this tidbit of information.)

Perhaps your new and improved garden won't win awards, but you'll be keeping cardboard out of the waste stream. Why is this important, if cardboard is recyclable? Because cardboard can only be recycled a few times before it is too processed; then it becomes waste.

Happy gardening!

— Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

Credit is duly given to *Better Homes and Gardens*, "Don't Toss That Box—9 Genius Ways to Use Cardboard in Your Garden," published June 23, 2025.

CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE COMPLINE THIS EVENING (7/3)

SUN:	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Eucharist
	1:00 PM	Martha Eaton Funeral
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline
SUN:	12 Noon	Interment Marcia Pottle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **funeral service for Martha Eaton** will be Sunday, July 6, at 1:00 PM at Christ Church. We need people to help set up the Guild Room and downstairs ahead of time (Saturday afternoon, ideally); ushers for the service; people to take communion stations to the livestream rooms, and people to help take everything down after.

Summer Garden Maintenance We are looking for volunteers to maintain the gardens in the front—mostly weeding and maybe a little trimming. Would you like to help?

Summer Sunday School Sunday School attendance is a little hit-or-miss during the summer months, but we like to offer something for any children who are here. We welcome any of you to help us out with Sunday School this summer. We are especially interested in sharing skills—knitting, baking, building, music, art, storytelling, reflecting on history...we can surely find some Bible story to go with it!

Ministries Schedule Liz is working on the list of ministries for the coming months. This now includes coffee hour scheduling. If you know of Sundays when you will not be in church, please let her know ASAP. Thanks!

Rector's Vacation Nancy will be on vacation July 28 through August 11.