

KTF August 28, 2025

Dear Ones,

On Tuesday, I met with Sandy, Jim and Br. Matthias. Together we are trying something new, and I am very excited by it. We have planned out a preaching rota, so that one Sunday a month, one of them will take the pulpit in my place. I am looking forward to seeing how a variety of voices opens our eyes, ears and hearts to new ideas and new challenges to be God's people in this place. I will sometimes use that Sunday to do some teaching with our Chapel Kids, but mostly I am looking forward to being on the receiving end of the day's sermon.

We also agreed to each take a Sunday in Advent, to offer different perspectives on what it means to be waiting for Emmanuel. We are also working on a special series for Lent, in which we look at the events of Holy Week from the perspective of different characters in the story.

This will also help us work out how to cover a sabbatical which I hope to take later in 2026. Many of you will remember that in early 2023 I had started planning for one which was postponed because it was time for Mom to move in with me. I hope that the world settles down enough that I can pursue this opportunity!

I am so grateful to each of these ordained leaders for their generosity, and to God for blessing us with such abundance.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 2:4-13 * Psalm 81:1, 10-16 * Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 * Luke 14:1, 7-14

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Henry Stewart 9/2 * Liz Hamilton 9/6

Allan & Mary Crane 8/31 * Tom & Alison Whitney 8/31

Jeff & Holly Stuhr 9/1 * Br. Matthias & Carolyn Tanner 9/4

CREATION CARE TIPS

Devastation doesn't get to have the last word. - Reverend Canon Nancy L. Moore

I don't know, maybe the stars are aligning just so, but some thoughts that I collected recently – from diverse places – just seemed to converge into one solid lump of hope on Sunday. I've held onto two articles from reasonstobecheerful.world for a few weeks; they were augmented by the reading from Isaiah and hammered home by a phrase in Nancy's sermon. Did you hear it? "Devastation doesn't get to have the last word."

I wrote last winter about hope in Aroostook County, where the Native Americans have planted hemp to remove PFAS from the soil. The land was given to them by the US government, after the military base there contaminated the land with PFAS in the form of fire-fighting foam. The process will be slow, taking many growing seasons and harvests, but devastation will not get the last word in that place.

And in Zion National Park, the smog is gone. This was reported in Reasons to be Cheerful, a site that emails me happy thoughts on a somewhat regularly erratic basis. How did this change occur? The private vehicles of park-goers have been banned from the roads in Zion, replaced by electric tour buses that each carry ninety people. (Let's see, if most cars hold five sightseers, and a full bus holds 90 people, that removes 18 cars, SUVs and trucks from the park roads, replaced by one electric bus.) The pollution from eighteen internal combustion engines was removed from the air quality equation for every 90 or so visitors. Multiply the savings (what else

would you call the replacement of polluted air with cleaner air?) by the number of visitors – 2.4 million in 2000, 5 million visitors last year – and you can see why the air is cleaner. (The program was optional in 2000, so we'll say up to 100,000 cars in 2000, and a mandatory 277,777 cars removed in 2024!) Devastation — in the form of air pollution – didn't get to have the last word in Zion, either.

Back on the Atlantic side of the country, Chesapeake Bay is undergoing a transformation underwater. In the twentieth century, over-harvesting of oysters, two devastating diseases, and nutrient pollution all contributed to a steep downward spiral in the oyster population. How steep? More than 99% gone, that's how steep. But a project spearheaded by NOAA is rebuilding reefs and oyster beds to make this the largest reef restoration project in the world. Empty oyster shells are being introduced to sprats (baby oysters), and together they are being "planted" in the bay, restoring the population that once fed millions of Marylanders. Devastation will not get to have the last word on the Chesapeake, either.

That reading from Isaiah? It includes that very hope-filled phrase. "You shall be called repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in."

Maybe each of us can be a repairer of some small breach, making God's creation one baby step closer to what God intended our island home to be. Let's each hear the postcommunion prayer anew, "...Send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you, as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

May it always be so!

– 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
WED: 9:00 AM Eucharist/Bible Study
THU: 7:15 PM Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Picnic and Dragonboat Ride September 7 Immediately following church on Sunday, September 7, we will go to the lake for a picnic and a dragonboat ride for our church kids, their friends (please invite them!) and anyone else interested. Speak to Sandy for more information. We are considering an outdoor service that day, so stay tuned!

Let's Talk About: The Nicene Creed the Thursday morning Zoom book group has invited Jim Christoph to lead them in a discussion about the Nicene Creed on September 11th. ANYONE is invited to join in! Speak to Br. Matthias Tanner for more information and the Zoom link.

School Supplies In past years we have collected school supplies in the late summer, to be given to one of the local schools. We can do that again, but I suggest we extend our collection time into the fall so that they have a 'second harvest' just as the things donated for beginning of the year have run out.

Cleaning and sorting Choir, Eucharistic Minister and Acolyte robes You are invited to be part of a team that will go through all the lay ministers' robes and create an organizational system that will help everyone find the robe that fits them (as well as help our growing acolytes figure out which ones fit them when). This project begins with washing them ALL. Can you help?

MINISTRIES LIST

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE CHANGES FROM PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED LISTS

This week:

Lector 1:	Michelle C
Psalmist:	Fran Martin
Lector 2:	Br. Matthias
Acolyte:	Patty Watts
Euch. Minister:	Patty Watts
Shepherd:	David Mering
Usher:	Tom Knight
Altar Guild:	Marg Means
Coffee Hour:	Fran M & Cathy L
Counter:	Carolyn Tanner
Closer:	David Mering

Next week:

Lector 1:	Bruce Watts
Psalmist:	Bella Long
Lector 2:	Nancy Mering
Acolyte:	Bella Long
Euch. Minister:	Mary Bickford
Shepherd:	Sue Glines
Usher:	Peter Bickford
Altar Guild:	Jen Lehr
Coffee Hour:	Allison Long
Counter:	Mary Bickford
Closer:	Jen Lehr