

September 11, 2025

Dear Ones,

“Where were you...?”

It’s the question we ask when these big anniversaries roll around. I remember learning in a psychology class that we have “flashbulb memories” of days like September 11, 2001. I have probably already shared that I was on my way to Blue Hill, to my very first clergy day, two days after I began my very first call. I was in an old Ford Escort with a lousy radio, so I was in a dead zone for most of the drive. I arrived at the church where we were meeting, was so buoyant as I walked across the parking lot...only to be met by Bonnie Studdiford who said, “Isn’t it just *awful*?!” She had to tell me about it. Over the following days, I saw that horrible news footage, over and over and over again, of the plane flying into the building. It still makes me shudder, nearly a quarter century later. My entire ordained ministry has been shaped by the events of those days.

Remember how, over those first weeks, we pulled together? I don’t think I’ve experienced that sense of national unity before or since. In among the stories of loss, people shared all the little acts of kindness they were shown. I miss that.

On this anniversary of one of the worst days of our country’s life, I invite you to say a prayer for our nation, from the *Book of Common Prayer*:

Lord God Almighty,
who has made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace:
Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS

Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 * Psalm: 14 * 1 Timothy 1:12-17 * Luke 15:1-10

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sam Pottle 9/18

CREATION CARE TIPS

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful the Lord, God made them all!*

– Cecil Francis Alexander

Part One: *Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings.*

The hummingbirds are busy sipping sugar water, bulking up before their long flight to Mexico or Texas, abandoning us for warmer climes. We’ve changed the strength of the solution from 4:1 to 3:1 (water to sucrose), and we’re enjoying seeing them zoom and dip and dive, unbothered that there are humans just six feet away from their feeder. In fact, we’re close enough to hear the birds chatter between sips!

The sunflowers we planted near the front door are offering us glowing blossoms in dark reds, oranges, and some huge school-bus yellow blossoms on 10-foot-tall stems. (We chose a mixture of seeds called evening sunset.)

Sunday's service, within the Season of Creation, held some old familiar words, as well as some new, unfamiliar ones. Some people in the pews joined the Sunday School in singing "This is the Day That the Lord Has Made;" others will wait until sheet music is available before raising their voices.

We used the still new, and still somewhat unfamiliar, forty-year-old version of the Lord's Prayer, and sang a song from the mid-1800s, to a tune from the early 1700s (All things bright and beautiful)

And we read the Creation Collect. The first line of it is: *Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the Earth; where we lack love, open our hearts to the world.*

What would that mean, laboring with God in tending the Earth? Those were new words – or at least they were familiar words placed together in a new way, challenging us to be more thoughtful, and to work harder to protect, repair, and preserve this planet.

Maybe you heard some old words in a new way. I did. In the eucharistic prayer, we boldly stated, "Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation." And I thought, "What if salvation isn't meant just for one person at a time, and not just for people, but for the entire planet?" (Nancy assured me this isn't heretical) Are we – the human race – so arrogant that we think God's works are meant only for humans? In her sermon, Nancy said we need to un-become what we are in order to be redeemed. But what are we, and what must we un-become? Maybe we're consumers who are reluctant to think about what we use, where it comes from, and especially, to where it goes when we're done with it. Un-becoming that kind of person would help each of us labor with God in tending the Earth.

– 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:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hildegard of Bingen In our celebration of the Season of Creation this Sunday, we include some of the writings of Hildegard of Bingen, whose feast day is September 17. Hildegard is second only to Francis in terms of saints who teach us to be good stewards of Creation.

The rector will be away September 18-20. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Sandy or one of the wardens.

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.

Bishopswood Fund We would like to build this fund back up. Please consider donating toward this fund. Checks should be made out to Christ Church with "Bishopswood Fund" in the memo line.

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/>

MINISTRIES LIST

	<u>This week:</u>	<u>Next week:</u>
Lector 1:	Peter Bickford	Allison Long
Psalmist:	Mary Bickford	Jason Long
Lector 2:	Jason Long	Thelma Cunningham
Acolyte:	Bella Long	Malaikah Mulandi
Euch. Minister:	Tom Knight	Tom Knight
Shepherd:	Jason Long	David Mering
Usher:	David Mering	Peter Bickford
Altar Guild:	Jen Lehr	Mary Bickford
Coffee Hour:	Jose & Carolee Garcia	Jenna Mulandi
Counter:	Carolyn Tanner	David Mering
Closer:	Tom Knight	Jen Lehr