

October 16, 2025

Dear Ones,

I approached last week's vestry meeting with a little apprehension. Last month, when I talked to the people who did the (insurance-covered) work on the side of the building, we discussed the possibility of them doing the work on the steeple and replacing the cross. In a very brief, impromptu meeting of members of vestry, I was given the go-ahead to have them prepare an estimate. They came a couple of weeks ago, and provided the numbers just before vestry met last Thursday.

It was a big number. A bigger number than I was expecting, anyway.

But the timing was just right. Our investments had a very good month in September, and we hadn't drawn nearly as much as budgeted yet. One of our CDs is about to rollover, so there were funds available that way. We haven't spent quite as much as we expected this year. So in all, to quote Tom, "We're in good shape!"

They approved the expenditure. I will be glad when the blue tarp is gone. I will be even happier to see the new cross installed, a lasting memorial to Hank Emerson. We didn't get it in place in time for Sue to see it before she moved to Idaho, but I will be sure to send her a photo.

Most especially, I am grateful to all those, past and present, whose gifts allow us to continue to be a place where people experience the "life-giving, liberating love of God" (to quote former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry).

Sometime in the next few weeks, you will be receiving a pledge card, asking you to consider how you can support Christ Church's ministries in the coming year. I ask that you consider prayerfully how you can support us. For many, that will be a regular weekly or monthly pledge payment. For others, it will be a one-time donation, maybe a renewal from a previous year, maybe something new for your household. All of these gifts are welcome, used carefully and thoughtfully by the good stewards in charge of the financial health of the congregation.

We are equally grateful for your support in other ways, as well. Participation in worship. Study groups. Taking care of the building and grounds. Helping with transportation of some of our older folks. Volunteering at the food pantry. And all those quiet acts of caring that no one but God ever sees.

In one of his visits, Bishop Brown commented to me that he can always tell when a congregation is well-loved. "And this one is, Nancy. This one *is*." Let's continue to be a beacon of the love of God for a long time to come.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Genesis 32:22-31 * Psalm: 121 * 2nd Timothy 3:14-4:5 * Luke 18:1-8

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Kim Napolitano 10/24

CREATION CARE TIPS

Crashing waters at creation/ordered by the Spirit's breath,/first to witness day's beginning/from the brightness of night's death.

Cleansing water once at Jordan/closed around the one foretold,/opened to reveal the glory/ever new and ever old.

— Sylvia G. Dunstan (v. 1 and 3, hymn 18 in "The Red Book")

Evolution and God. Notice that I'm not saying evolution versus God – that's because the two go so well together.

In Eucharist Prayer 3, found in *Enriching Our Worship* ("the Yellow Book"), we hear "You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the Earth and gave breath to humankind."

The psalm we will be reading on Sunday, Psalm 121, contains the line, “My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and Earth.” At Wednesday morning’s Bible study and eucharist, Jim Christoph* explained that the phrase, “maker of heaven and Earth,” gives the sense that God has made, God is making, and God will continue to make in the future. The continual process can be seen in the changing of river courses, the wearing away of mountains, the eskers left behind by the melting of glaciers after the ice age, in erupting volcanoes and in earthquakes. The “making of heaven and Earth” can be visible in the discoveries of new species; it can also be seen in the extinction of species. These are all processes of evolution.

Sometimes evolutions are seen as improvements, some evolutions are seen only as bad. But as they are all part of God’s creation, they are all blessed. Last week our Wednesday discussion veered away from the appointed verses far enough that a question arose about dinosaurs. Were they made extinct because God the Creator realized they had evolved into something God hadn’t wanted? Humans weren’t around then, but came along much later. Maybe God knew that the “top dog” of the Earth should not be a huge carnivore!

The point of all this is that we have worried about saving endangered species, and mourned extinct species. Some of our worries are justified, since some extinctions are truly due to human interference. The passenger pigeon’s demise more than a century ago is a notable example. But some extinctions are linked to changing habitats – including changes that humans have not caused. These are examples of God making heaven and Earth. While we may not jump for joy that a destructive species is gone, we should not beat ourselves up about them, either.

Earth, it seems, like God, is ever new and ever old. Alleluia!

– 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
	3:00 PM	Episcopal House Church in Bethel
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Main Street Norway Trick or Treating, October 31 Christ Church will have a table at this event. You are welcome to join us in handing out treats (no tricks!) between 2 and 5. We will be in front of the Weary Club.

Cleanup Day, November 2 (after church) Bring your rakes, shovels, leaf blowers, secateurs and any other things you might need to help put the yard to bed for the winter. Always a fun time!

All Saints Sunday, November 2 We will remember those who have died in the past year. Please provide in writing the names you would like included on All Saints Sunday.

United Thanks Offering, Sunday Nov. 23 The next ingathering of our UTO boxes will be the Sunday of Thanksgiving week. How fitting! In the meantime, All Saints Day on November 2nd provides another opportunity to thank God for the saints in our lives who have guided/encouraged/ strengthened us in our relationships with the Lord. These may be family members, friends, teachers—even people we don't actually know—who have influenced our understanding of what calling ourselves followers of Christ means. Remembering these saints and expressing gratitude for them is a perfect reason to drop some coins or bills in your UTO box. (There is a basketful of boxes on the bench outside Nancy's office.) *I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians. 1:3*

Keys If you have any keys to the church please give your name, and which key(s) you have, to Liz (leave a note on her desk or send an email) or Nancy.

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:	Allison Long	Nancy Mering
Psalmist:	Bella Long	Jenna Mulandi
Lector 2:	Fran Martin	Malaikah Mulandi
Acolyte:	Patty Watts	Malaikah Mulandi
Euch. Minister:	Peter Bickford	Mary Bickford
Shepherd:	David Mering	Jen Lehr
Usher:	Mary Bickford	Rosemary Laban
Altar Guild:	Jan & Doug Wall	Jan & Doug Wall
Coffee Hour:	Allison & Jason Long	Halloween Potluck
Counter:	David Mering	Carolyn Tanner
Closer:	David Mering	Jen Lehr