

December 11, 2025

Dear Ones,

At some point while I was on vacation, I saw something somewhere that prompted me to make this note in my to-do list (which is where I put anything I want to remember): *If someone wrote an icon of YOU, what would it include?*

I can't recall the context. Maybe it was a combination of a podcast I was listening to and something that came up on Facebook. But I was noticing that icons of saints include items that tell you who it is. Mary Magdalene has a container of oil. St. Patrick has a shamrock. St. Gertrude of Nivelles has a cat or two. It made me wonder about what would be included for me. What would be included for you?

I think one of you would have knitting needles and yarn, because of the ways in which you use that skill to bring warmth to others. Another would have cooking tools, because you have used your knowledge to teach and nourish others. There is at least one person with a hammer and screwdriver. Another with animals. Books, music, trees and flowers, a camera...

I know it's a busy time, but I hope you'll take a minute to think about this. Wouldn't it be fun to take a photo of each of you with the item you name, and create a wall of saints? Think about it.

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

PS I have created a post on our Facebook page called the Virtual Christmas Tree. I invite you to take a photo of a favorite or meaningful ornament on your tree, and add it to the comments.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10 * Psalm 146:4-9 * James 5:7-10 * Matthew 11:2-11

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Quinn Susemihl 12/16

CREATION CARE TIPS

"Not all of us can do great things. But we all can do small things with great love" – Mother Theresa

I found it auspicious that as I sat down to write this week's climate care message, my phone ding-ed an alert – the Quote of the Day had arrived. "Not all of us can do great things. But we all can do small things with great love."

My theme was to be about New Year's resolutions, since it's well past time to offer environmentally friendly Christmas gifting tips. But what could be more appropriate than a pep talk about searching for those elusive and confusing tiny triangles on potentially recyclable containers? Or a reminder that when the ribbons have all been untied, and the gifts have been unwrapped, most transfer stations don't accept Christmas cards or printed wrapping paper, and especially don't want to see any glitter? Sometimes the recyclable triangle symbol isn't there because what looks at first glance like it's perfect for the brown paper bin, that piece of brown paper – such as a box that fresh mushrooms came home in – has a very thin plastic liner that would mess up the system. To check on the recyclability of unmarked paper, tear off a small piece, wet it down and soak it for ten minutes. If one side is still dry, shiny, and sturdy, it's probably coated with plastic, and can't be recycled. If the box your frozen croissants, mac 'n' cheese, or fried chicken came in feels waxy, it too can't be recycled.

Do you make resolutions? Maybe this is the year you'll start, or start again. Little things done with great love

can add up to great impacts. Maybe you'll try to bundle your errands into one trip to save gas. Maybe you'll wear a base layer indoors, and keep your thermostat one and half degrees cooler in January, February, and March than you have in the past. Maybe you'll use up some yarn you were keeping for a special – but long forgotten – project, and turn it into an afghan, scarf, or lap robe for yourself or to give away. Wherever it lands, it will help keep someone warm. Or you might decide to use some of the scrap lumber in your stash to create bird houses. That can be a fun winter project, and it can beautify your yard with songbirds in the spring and summer. Maybe your resolution will be to tell people you love that you love them.

What you resolve to do (or to not do) can keep you happier, warmer, healthier, more content, or busier. I'll probably resolve the same thing this year that I've resolved many times before. To smile more...no matter what. Which translates to "In everything, give thanks." Alleluia.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUN:	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Eucharist
TUE:	5:15 PM	Vestry
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
	4:30 PM	Blue Christmas
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vestry Meeting Tuesday at 5:15.

Blue Christmas Service Wednesday, December 17 at 4:30 here at Christ Church.

The Greening of the Church for Christmas will be on December 21st.

Christmas Eve Worship, 4:15 PM Carol sing begins at 4:00.

Is anyone interested in another service? It could be an outdoor service in the early evening; a "midnight" mass at 11 PM or on Christmas morning? Let Nancy know.

Christmas Flowers if you would like to contribute toward the flowers for our Christmas Eve service, please use the envelope found on the table with the service leaflets. If you would like your donation to be in honor or memory of someone, please print the name on the envelope.

Pot Luck Coffee Hour on December 21.

Pot Luck Breakfast Church, December 28 For the first Sunday after Christmas we will gather downstairs for breakfast church. Bring something breakfast-y to share. Looking for volunteers to coordinate 1) set up; 2) kitchen duty (including dishes); 3) clean up (putting tables and chairs away, etc.)

New Year's Eve Any interest in a New Year's Eve game night? Speak to Nancy Moore.

Nametags Please wear your nametag while you're here. You can leave it in the basket outside Nancy's office as you leave and Liz will return it to the board.

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

	This week:	Next week:
Lector 1:	Rosemary Laban	Jill Cunningham
Psalmist:	Malaikah Mulandi	Peter Bickford
Lector 2:	Michelle Christoph	Allison Long
Acolyte:	Doug Wall	Peter Bickford
Euch. Minister:	Tom Knight	Patty Watts
Shepherd:	David Mering	Jason Long
Usher:	Peter Bickford	Peter Hammond
Altar Guild:	Mary B & Michelle C	Mary B & Michelle C
Coffee Hour:	Kathy L & Fran M	Christmas Potluck
Counter:	Carolyn Tanner	Marg Means
Closer:	Nancy Mering	Peter Hammond