

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Ones,

Over these weeks of Lent, our preaching rota is stepping away from lectionary-based sermons for a few weeks, to introduce us to some of the *other* people who show up in the Passion narrative. You will hear about Joseph Caiaphas, the high priest; Judas, the disciple who handed Jesus over to the authorities; and either Peter or Pontius Pilate (I'm not sure which one Br. Matthias has chosen.) The Sunday I would have preached has been shifted to the bishop's visitation. (I expect he'll be focused on the lectionary that Sunday)

Thank you for the feedback about last week's panel discussion of "What Lent means to me." It was a gift to hear my clergy colleagues' thoughts and insights, and even more to hear your reactions and reflections. You are an insightful bunch!

I was also reminded this week that maybe not all of you are aware that I offer Compline on Zoom every Thursday evening at 7:15. It's a short, quiet service which includes a psalm, a Scripture readings, set prayers and a time for open intercessions. We are joined by a couple of people from other congregations around the diocese, so it's a time to feel that connection to the rest of the Body of Christ. I don't publish the Zoom link to protect us from some of the ugliness that can happen when no one is "watching the door" but I am always happy to add any of you to the distribution list. Let me know if you would like to join us!

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

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Genesis 12:1-4a \* Psalm 121 \* Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 \* John 3:1-17

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Carolee Garcia 3/5

**CREATION CARE TIPS**

*Sometimes if you want to see a change for the better, you have to take things into your own hands.*

-- Clint Eastwood Mayor of Carmel, California, and film celebrity

Last week I ended the Creation Care message with these words: "For Lent, I will be presenting problems to be solved and looking to you for ideas to solve them."

On Monday, the "Quote of the Day" that's at the top of the page popped up on my phone. It gave me the nudge I needed to tackle the topic of EPA, global warming, and the reversal of fifty years of common-sense directives.

Prior to last week the "Endangerment Finding" gave the government the authority to fight climate change. Here is an explanation that I found helpful for understanding the gravity of this set-back and what the endangerment finding is. The explanation is from Stanford University's Woods Institute for the Environment:

In 2009, the EPA issued the Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act – otherwise known as the endangerment finding. Citing a massive body of scientific evidence, the finding singled out six greenhouse gases for the danger they pose to public health and welfare: Carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrous oxide, Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, and Sulfur hexafluoride.

Because of this information that was included in the Clean Air Act, our cars, trucks, and buses all produce less pollution than earlier vehicles.

Claire Brown, writing in the New York Times last week, explained the endangerment finding this way: “In a newsletter last year, I compared climate regulations to a table setting. Earlier rollbacks of individual rules were like removing plates, forks, and glasses one by one. Repealing the endangerment finding is more like gathering the tablecloth and carting everything away in one go.” I’m not sure, but she may also be including the meal on the table with the napkins, salt and pepper shakers, and dessert! And I say that, because the estimated increase in greenhouse gases just from vehicles is a 10% jump, at a time when we need a 10% reduction.

Why is this important? Because greenhouse gases are the biggest driver (no pun intended) of climate change, and transportation is the biggest cause of greenhouse gases in the US.

What happens now? If the courts find the current administration’s opinion to be correct, that only Congress – and not the EPA – can make rules covering air quality, greenhouse gases, and global warming, then concerned citizens will need to let their legislators know how important it is for Congress to act on this problem. If the courts determine that the current administration’s opinion is not correct, then the EPA’s endangerment finding will remain in place, and our air will continue to be clean, pure, and refreshing.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

### CALENDAR

SUN: 9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Eucharist  
WED: 9:00 AM Eucharist/Bible Study  
6:00 PM Soup Swap  
THU: 9:00 AM Christ Church Book Group/Zoom  
7:15 PM Zoom Compline  
FRI: 12 Noon Community Lenten Lunch at 1<sup>st</sup> Congo

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The bishop is coming!** The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown will be with us at worship and fellowship on Sunday, March 15. Spread the word! It’s a great time to invite a friend.

**Palm Sunday** is March 29. This year, you are invited to bring a branch with you to raise up as we hear that the people spread branches along Jesus’ path. They used palms because that was what was local. Here, we have evergreens, oaks, the stalks of last year’s flowers, etc. Bring one with you that day. It will be saved for next year’s burning of the palms—branches!

**Wednesday Evening Soup Swap** What to bring: a crock pot full of your favorite and famous homemade soup, chowder or stew; a serving ladle; your own soup bowl and spoon; your own storage containers, to take your swapped soup home with you. Bread and butter will be provided. We will begin to gather at 6 pm. Please join us even if you haven’t had time to make soup. There will be more than enough to share.

**Lenten Lunches** Fridays at 12 Noon at 1<sup>st</sup> Congo. \$10 per person, but don’t let that hinder you—we can cover it!

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

	<b>This week:</b>	<b>Next week:</b>
Lector 1:	Thelma Cunningham	Tom Knight
Psalmist:	Jill Cunningham	Rosemary Laban
Lector 2:	Jason Long	Peter Hammond
Acolyte:	Doug Wall	
Euch. Minister:	Tom Knight	Jim Christoph
Usher:	Holly Stuhr	Janet Harvey
Altar Guild:	Jen Lehr	Michelle Christoph
Coffee Hour:	Fran & Cathy	
Counter:	Jeff Stuhr	Marg Means
Closer:	Carlyn Kroitzsh	Jason Long