

Dear Ones,

Since Sunday School resumed, our focus has been on prayer. We talked about different kinds of prayers, and made prayer bead bracelets to help them. Last week we reflected on their experience of Bill's funeral, and then had them make notes about what they might want for their own. We assured them they would be able to make changes over the years—much as I assure all of you when I urge you to provide me with a completed funeral planning form.

This week we are going to be exploring prayer drawings, and I will be leading them through an exercise based on the book *Praying in Color*. I want to explicitly invite any of you who would like to learn about this method to join us. I find it particularly useful when there are so many thoughts and concerns banging around in my head that I find it difficult to focus on any one thing. It's a particularly useful tool for those who tend to doodle in the margins! Please join us at 9: 15.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:42-47 * Psalm 23 * 1 Peter 2:19-25 * John 10:1-10

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Walter Perry 4/27 * Tom Knight 4/28 * Peter Hammond 4/29

CREATION CARE TIPS

This is the day that the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118: 24

Happy belated Earth Day! You did celebrate Earth Day yesterday, didn't you? As the days have lengthened and the temperatures have risen (intermittently), I have been looking for signs of Earth's renewal. I've seen changes, like the fattening of the maple buds and the flowers bursting forth from them. And the daffodils are finally blooming over the septic tank, where the wastewater of the dishwasher, washing machine, and shower has warmed the soil enough to jump start those bulbs. (We're still waiting for Mother Nature to work her magic on the bulbs in the gardens.)

Winter's snows are behind us (mostly), and the trails through the hills of Western Maine are drying enough for us to resume hiking. On Friday's hike, I discovered some barely noticeable sights. Like the tiny green shoot springing up and raising an acorn cap a half inch above the humus and detritus next to the trail. Turning around, I saw a chunk of rock that had fallen off the boulder we had tried to picnic on several years ago. How do I know the rock fell off this winter? The new rockface looked clean and fresh, next to the grayer aged granite. Winter ice had formed in a small crack on the side of the boulder, and over eons the annual freezing and thawing of water had enlarged the gap between big and little parts of the rock. Finally, the pressure was too great, the connection too small, and down went the triangular chunk!

As we walked near the lake, we heard spring peepers. Nancy had mentioned anticipating hearing them, during Wednesday's Bible study. There were clusters of old trees, indicating that they had grown out of stumps of trees logged many years ago. And we saw two beaver lodges across the lake, while walking on a trail we'd hiked only once before. That trail follows a cascading stream uphill. The first time we walked the path was a hot July day, and there was barely a trickle. Now it is in a hurry, barreling down the streambed, rushing to settle into the lake below. The contrasts of full and scant, fast and trickling, cool and hot will make this place unforgettable.

What signs of Spring, renewal, and hope for creation have you noticed this week? Which ones are you hoping to see? And were there once sure signs of Spring that you now miss – like pussy-willows – because you have

moved away from the places you had seen them, or because the land has been developed? What can you do to make Spring a magical time?

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice, and be glad in it. Earth day is every day.

– 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: Intro to Prayer Drawing—all ages welcome!
10:15 AM Eucharist/In-person and online
WED: 9:00 AM Eucharist/Bible Study
THU: 9:00 AM Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
7:15 PM Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER DRAWING During this week's 9:15 Sunday School time, Nancy will be introducing you to the practice of drawing your prayers. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME. I hope you can join us!

UNITED THANK OFFERING *"See, I am making all things new" is both a promise and a provocation—an invitation to imagine transformation even when the world feels worn and fractured. Rooted in the hope of Easter, these words call us to notice how renewal is already unfolding in our lives, communities, and the quiet moments we might otherwise miss. They remind us that God's work is not limited to the past or postponed for the future, but alive and active now. In a season that holds both beauty and struggle, we are invited to look more closely for signs of resurrection and respond with gratitude and courage...* This is a quote from someone in Maine's diocesan office working with the UTO program. It's such a powerful reminder about the meaning of Eastertide, the season we're in now—to be intentional about watching for those signs of resurrection and renewal and respond in myriad ways with gratitude. There will be a UTO ingathering on Sunday, May 17th, so there's plenty of time to be adding to your UTO box until then.

Spring Cleaning In the past we have focused solely on the outside tasks, but there are plenty to be done inside, too!

Sabbatical Planning Committee Nancy will be on sabbatical from August 17 to November 17. During those months, lay leadership teams will be assuring each area of our common life is addressed. Which team will you be on? Worship? Outreach? Fellowship? Pastoral Care? Stewardship? Communications? Let us know!

Faithful Givers Roadshow The diocese has listened to us all and prepared a diocesan-wide program on stewardship. "Faithful Givers will help develop and sustain financial giving in three areas: annual giving, capital campaigns, and building endowments for the future." We are expected to send at least one representative from each congregation. If you are interested, please let Nancy know, so she can register you. (And please DO step up, don't make Nancy go begging!)

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	Jason Long
Psalmist:	Allison Long	Bella Long
Lector 2:	Fran Martin	Jill Cunningham
Acolyte:	Peter Bickford	Patty Watts
Euch. Minister:	Mary Bickford	Peter Hammond
Usher:	David Mering	Peter Bickford
Altar Guild:	Marg Means	Jan W & Mary B
Coffee Hour:	Jenna M & Nancy M	Caroline Leonard
Counter:	Peter Hammond	Peter Hammond
Closer:	Tom Knight	David Mering