

Dear Ones,

On Sunday, I was remembering Mother's Day last year, which was when my mom began her steep decline. Memorial Day was the last day she was out of bed, and then she died the following Thursday, May 29—which in 2025 was Ascension Day. I remember finding that oddly comforting.

Her final days have been very much in my mind with a sense that this is the week when it all happened. I finally realized on Tuesday that is, in part at least, because Ascension Day is a couple of weeks earlier this year. It is today, in fact. Ascension Day falls 40 days after the moveable feast of Easter, so it's not the same day every year. I shared this reflection on Facebook and a colleague of mine said that she has a similar experience. Her mom died on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter, and that is when she remembers her—even though it isn't the same date every year. We live much more on liturgical time than we thought we did.

Ascension Day is when we wrestle with the truth that after Jesus' Resurrection, he didn't just stick around forever. There was still an ending. A goodbye. A priest mentor once told me that Christ's ascension is important because it is the assurance that humanity is always, eternally, in the presence of God. We will celebrate Pentecost next week, which reminds us that the opposite is true as well. The presence of God is always, eternally with us.

But more on that next week.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 1:6-14 * Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36 * 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 * John 17:1-11

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Alison Whitney 5/17, Susan Glines 5/19

CREATION CARE TIPS

Jesus is Lord of all the Earth, He is the King of Creation

Verse 1, Hymn 178 in the 1982 Hymnal

I can tell you the answer to a mystery I wrote about a few weeks ago. Why are there mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks? It's something most of us learned in elementary school, called the food web. Mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks are on this Earth to be food for turtles, bats, birds, and other animals. And in a gruesome twist, they also reduce populations by transmitting diseases – or can just make life miserable.

The wild turkeys that cross our yard peck at the grass, feeding on ticks and Japanese beetle grubs (and many more species, I'm sure!). The female hummingbirds that came to our feeder just hours after we hung it catch mosquitoes, and then regurgitate them, along with nectar, to feed their newly hatched babies. The turtles that we see sunning on logs in lakes and ponds in the Lakes Region and Western Foothills snap up mosquitoes, black flies, and other flying insects.

So goes the cycle of life that is represented by food webs. But when human interference changes one part of a food web, that interference can echo through the entire web. The long-ago banned pesticide DDT was intended to control insect pests but negatively affected many larger animals. Bald eagles, our national symbol,

were endangered because the chemical that killed pests also caused birds' eggs to be too thin to last from laying to hatching, causing a precipitous drop in bird populations. We have learned the hard way that interfering with Mother Nature can have cascading negative effects on the environment.

The good news in this is that bald eagle populations across the continent have been increasing for the past fifty years. DEET and other safer insect repellants make being in the great outdoors more comfortable, without causing the problems that prior compounds did. And net hoodies called bug jackets make gardening, yardwork, and fishing more pleasant during high season for black flies and mosquitoes.

Now let's get out there and enjoy spring in Maine.

– 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/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

NEXT WEEK IS PENTECOST—wear red! Fr. Jim Christoph will be guest preacher.

UNITED THANK OFFERING Ingathering Sunday May 17 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.

Hannaford Helps Schools Don't throw away those little coupons—bring them into church! Jenna Mulandi will collect them and distribute them to the schools after May 24. Thanks!

Spring Cleaning A list of maintenance jobs which need your help is or soon will be posted on the bulletin board across from the office. Contact Jen Lehr to see how you can help—and many thanks to those who have already been hard at work.

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!

Altar Guild There will be an altar guild meeting Sunday, June 7, after church.

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:	Br. Matthias	Allison Long
Psalmist:	Thelma Cunningham	Kaylo Mulandi
Lector 2:	Fran Martin	Jenna Mulandi
Acolyte:	Evie Lehr	Doug Wall
Euch. Minister:	Jim Christoph	Tom Knight
Usher:	David Mering	Janet Harvey
Altar Guild:	Michelle Christoph	Michelle Christoph
Coffee Hour:	Bruce & Patty Watts	Rosemary Laban
Counter:	Carolyn Tanner	Marg Means
Closer:	Jen Lehr	Jason Long