

Dear Ones,

In the church, the sixth Sunday in Easter is Rogation Sunday. It takes its name from the Latin word, *rogare*, meaning ‘to ask’ and has traditionally been a time for asking blessings upon the land, the seeds and new plantings, and the future harvest that comes from them. In the Church of England, a tradition began to ‘beat the bounds’—walk the boundary of one’s property, seeking blessing and protection for everything enclosed within it.

A few years ago I prepared a handout of a prayer procession you can use over as you move through your wider community, as a way of asking for that blessing on all of the Oxford Hills (and beyond!). I have attached that as a PDF, and copies will be available Sunday morning as well. I hope you will look through it and use some or all of it.

Here is the closing collect from that liturgy:

O God, from whom all good proceeds: You established your covenant with all creation. Guide us and all your people, that we may walk upon the earth in righteousness and peace, and honor you in our kinship with all your creatures; through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, to the ages of ages. Amen.

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

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS

Acts 17:22-31 * Psalm 66:7-18 * 1 Peter 3:13-22 * John 14:15-21

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Allan Crane 5/11, Allison Long 5/14, Holly Stuhr 5/15

CREATION CARE TIPS

Love Your Enemies? But These Enemies Are TICKing Time Bombs!

Jesus said, “Love God, Love your enemies.” He illustrated this with one of the most hated enemies a Jewish person of his time could imagine, a Samaritan.

May I say hate these enemies and do them harm. What enemies? The TICK-ing time bombs that have eight legs, crawl up your legs, and spit into your wound as they leave you. I mean deer ticks, also called blacklegged ticks. Right now is the beginning of the high season for ticks.

Plan your attack. Protection against tick bites comes in several different forms: clothing, insect repellent, and awareness. Light colored long pants tucked into socks, and light-colored long sleeve shirts are a good start (until the weather turns hot), but applying a spray of Permethrin to your garments and EPA approved insect repellent to yourself are the next step.

Once you have returned from your garden, lawn, hike or walk in the park, remove the clothes, inspect them – and toss them into the washer – and check your entire body. Behind the knees and ears are favorite places, but a hungry tick will enjoy sipping your blood anywhere. In an article in the New York Times, Dr. Erika Machtinger, an entomologist and head of the vector-borne disease team at Pennsylvania State University Extension, suggested that the toilet is a great place to check for ticks by running your hand over your skin and looking closely. “I know it sounds weird but it’s true. It’s the easiest way to. You can reach all of your crevices.” This sounds like TMI, but it’s wise advice.

Because of world commerce and a warming planet, ticks have become a bigger threat. Ticks native to other continents have arrived by ship and plane with plant products. Milder winters mean fewer ticks die over the winter, which increases the populations. And a warmer climate means ticks that could only survive south of here can now thrive north of here.

Forewarned is forearmed. Know what to look for. Deer ticks (A.K.A. blacklegged ticks) are about the size of a sesame seed, according to the Maine CDC. The only tick (out of 14 different species of ticks found in Maine) that bites humans and carries Lyme disease is the deer tick.

But what about other tick-borne diseases? These are the ones that have been identified in Maine: Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Hard Tick Relapsing Fever, and Powassan Virus Disease. If you think you have been bitten by a tick, seek medical advice.

To reduce chances of tick encounters in your yard, keep your lawn mowed, rake leaves and remove leaf piles, and keep bird feeders away from the house, because deer and mice will feed near bird feeders and bring the deer ticks with them. And in tick season, do a tick check every day that you are out where ticks live.

FMI: The Maine CDC website is a treasure trove of helpful information! <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/>

– 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
		POT LUCK COFFEE HOUR
TUE:	5:15 PM	Vestry meeting with Bishop Brown
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER TO VESTRY We will meet with Bishop Brown at our monthly meeting **this TUESDAY May 12 at 5:15**. Please plan to be in person if at all possible, or to Zoom in. Thanks!

May 10 coffee hour will be a Mother's Day Potluck.

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 Have you been handed a funny-looking coupon when you check out at Hannaford recently? While it isn't a coupon that benefits you, it can have a remarkable impact on our local schools! But you don't have a kid in a local school anymore? No problem! Can you save those coupons (they say "Hannaford Helps Schools" and are likely for \$3 or \$6), and we could distribute them between the Mulandi and Long children's schools. Jenna was recently at Hannaford and collected quite a few that were left behind — that \$40 is real money that will make a difference to the school, especially when budgets are getting squeezed regularly. The program runs through the end of May, so if we could get them all in by May 24, we would have time to distribute them accordingly. Thanks for helping the schools out in this simple way!

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

	<u>This week:</u>	<u>Next week:</u>
Lector 1:	Peter Bickford	Br. Matthias
Psalmist:	Tom Knight	Thelma Cunningham
Lector 2:	Peter Hammond	Fran Martin
Acolyte:	Michelle Christoph	Evie Lehr
Euch. Minister:	Patty Watts	Jim Christoph
Usher:	Tom Knight	David Mering
Altar Guild:	Jan W & Mary B	Michelle Christoph
Coffee Hour:	Mother's Day Potluck	Bruce & Patty Watts
Counter:	Tom Knight	Carolyn Tanner
Closer:	Allison Long	Jen Lehr