

Dear Ones,

We had *sixteen* people at this week's Wednesday Bible Study! That's more people than some small congregations in this diocese have for a regular Sunday worship service! As always, the discussion was lively and informative. It's always fascinating to me to see where the discussion leads us. (And yes, I occasionally have to say, "STOP! We can't go down one more rabbit hole!") We discuss the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday, which means we are spending a fair amount of time with the Abraham story.

Next week's reading from Genesis is one of the most difficult, what is called by some traditions The Binding of Isaac. That moment when Abraham hears (or thinks he hears) God calling him to take his son, his only son, Isaac, up onto a mountain to sacrifice him. I can follow my progression as a theologian and woman of faith by how I have interpreted it through the years. In a conversation with our teens on Sunday, I noticed that it has already entered their theological vocabulary. Not surprising—it is a story about a dad attempting to kill his son. I imagine it lands a little differently with them.

I am pointing this out because I really hope that if you have been troubled by this story in the past, or have questions, or want to dig deeper, you will consider joining us at 9 AM on Wednesday, June 24, either in person or on Zoom for the discussion. It will allow a much deeper exploration of the text and its meanings for us than can happen during Sunday worship. Please do consider participating.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Genesis 21:8-21 * Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 * Romans 6:1b-11 * Matthew 10:24-39

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Patricia Stewart 6/21

CREATION CARE TIPS

To Everything [turn, turn, turn] There is a season [turn, turn, turn] ...

A Time for War, a Time for Peace — *Ecclesiastes 3, amended by Pete Seeger*

There comes a time when fretting over whether one should or shouldn't use a square foot of plastic wrap – or a plastic-coated paper plate – becomes silly. And for me, that time has come.

I was reminded recently of the 1965 hit song by the Byrds, "Turn, turn, turn," which Pete Seeger based on Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8. So I looked it up in Bible Gateway, where one can search many versions of any verse in that greatest of books.

What I found was both comforting and disturbing. In 300 BC the writer realized that there will always be wars. And that we should always strive for peace. "" What the writer did not have any way of realizing was the destruction that wars could bring 2300 years in the future. Military bases have burn pits, some as large as 20 acres, where anything that is no longer wanted – especially horrible things like toxins – can be incinerated at high temperatures and sent into the atmosphere. And he could not imagine oil refineries, or bombs that would ignite millions of gallons of fossil fuels in those destroyed oil refineries.

The world's present-day militaries have the ability to disrupt the balance of nature, heat the atmosphere and the oceans, and change the weather by their use of fossil fuels in tanks, ships, submarines, trucks, and airplanes.

What can we do? "Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me," is a frequent musical reminder that we have work to do. Pray for peace, sing for peace, work for peace, write to our legislators and ask for peace. What doesn't make sense to worry about, given the magnitude of military use of fossil fuels, is one square foot of Saran Wrap.

As Pete Seeger said in his song, "A time for peace, I swear it's not too late."

P. S. Here's one way to listen to the song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4ga_M5Zdn4

— Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

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CALENDAR

SUN:	10:15 AM	Eucharist/In-person and online
	3:00 PM	Episcopal House Church in Bethel
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
THU:	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer opportunities A list of maintenance jobs which need your help has been posted on the bulletin board across from the office. Put your name by any you want to work on and contact Jen Lehr for more info. ***Many thanks to all those who have been working on the gardens!***

Two weeks ago I learned about **Agassiz Village**, a non-profit organization providing summer camp and year-round programming for children from underserved communities across the Northeast. It is located in Poland on Thompson Lake. I would like to have a team reach out to them, learn more about what they do, and how we might support their ministry. Let me know if you're interested! Nancy+

Sabbatical Teams The different teams have been posted—sign up for which one(s) you want to be on! I want to start pulling the teams together for an initial conversation within the next few weeks. Members of the Education Team are already putting together a study of a book by Richard Rohr.

Episcopal House Church in Bethel meets the third Sunday of the month at 3:00 PM at one of the participant's homes (it rotates). It's a relaxed Eucharist service. This week, the 'sermon' time will be an opportunity to discuss the readings for the day. Interested? Speak to Nancy for more information.

Sunday School with the arrival of summer, we officially suspend Sunday School. BUT—if everyone knows they will be here on the same Sunday and lets us know by Wednesday, we can pull together something focused around a Bible story. Also wondering if there would be any interest in something during the week?

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:	Fran Martin	Peter Hammond
Psalmist:	Nancy Mering	Rosemary Laban
Lector 2:	Patty Watts	Tom Knight
Acolyte:	Patty Watts	Doug Wall
Euch. Minister:	Tom Knight	Patty Watts
Usher:	David Mering	Janet Harvey
Altar Guild:	Jen Lehr	Marg Means
Coffee Hour:	Janet Harvey	Rosemary Laban
Counter:	Caroline Tanner	Tom Knight
Closer:	Jason Long	Carolyn Kroitzsh