

Dear Ones,

I write this on Wednesday, the 5th. We don't normally talk about "Transfiguration Eve" the way we do Christmas, Ascension and Pentecost, especially now that the liturgical calendar has us remember this event in Jesus' life on the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday. But it has been a day of private celebration for me for a long time, because it is my birthday! I have just enjoyed a beautiful cake at Bible study, made by Michelle Christoph. The last time I worked on my birthday was 19 years ago. My church family had a cake ready that day too. I have been so blessed by the Christian communities where I have served as priest. I usually take it off, but because sabbatical is just around the corner (11 days and counting) I am taking every opportunity I can to be with you. I will miss you all while I'm away. As I said to William on Sunday, "At least I get to come back. I can't imagine what it will be like when I retire!" (He was NOT impressed with the idea that I would need to step away from everything, either now or at that undetermined date in the future.)

Part of what we learn from the Feast of the Transfiguration is that Jesus is so much more than we think; God can still surprise us. These next three months are a time for us to ask ourselves, "Where is God in this? What is God doing in our midst that we haven't noticed?" We have been doing that work together for 12 years; we will continue it when I return. But this is a chance for us to explore the life of faith separately, so that we can compare notes when I am back in November. What stories we will have to share! (And I still have two Sundays with you, so I hope to see you before it begins)

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 * Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b * Romans 10:5-15 * Matthew 14:22-33

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Peter & Mary Bickford 8/11

CREATION CARE TIPS

*Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.*

Verse 4, Praise My Soul the King of Heaven; hymn 410 in The Hymnal 1982

In this old favorite hymn, the sun, moon and everything that dwells in time and space bow to God, because God made them all. And us all. It's likely, I think, that a minority of singers will sing without considering just what or who the dwellers in time and space are. Which leads us to something to ponder: As dwellers in time and space, we have only knowledge from past achievements to use to build anything in the future.

Everything we learn is based on what has already happened, not what might happen in the future. Because of that, humans have made seemingly helpful discoveries and inventions that were later found to be dangerous to ourselves, other living things, or even the planet. PFAS and nuclear waste come to mind.

As Christians, we have a duty to care for the Earth, but we also have a duty to forgive our forebears who invented things that have caused long term harm to people, animals, our environment, and space.

And as Christians who care for the Earth, we have a duty to encourage people to continue to invent things that will improve our lives, our environment, and space.

— Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

CALENDAR

SUN: 10:15 AM Eucharist/In-person and online
TUE: 5:15 PM Vestry
WED: 9:00 AM Eucharist/Bible Study
THU: 7:15 PM Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A/C in church is not functioning. Vestry is reviewing proposals for new heat pump units for church, offices and guild room. More info to come after Tuesday's vestry meeting!

Ministries We need additional ushers and eucharistic ministers. Please talk with Nancy if you're interested in either of these positions.

The rector will be on sabbatical August 17 through November 17. Please contact wardens Jen Lehr and/or Nancy Mering with pastoral concerns during that time.

Healing Prayers will be offered in the Chapel during Communion. If you wish to be anointed, come into the chapel after you have received communion.

Sunday School is on hiatus for the summer.

Nametags Please wear your nametag while you're here. You can leave it in the basket outside Nancy's office as you leave and it will be returned to the board. ***If you are one of our regular summer visitors, please sign up for a nametag you can wear when you are with us.***

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:	Thelma Cunningham	Jose Garcia
Psalmist:	Tom Knight	Fran Martin
Lector 2:	Allison Long	Jill Cunningham
Acolyte:	Bella Long	Peter Hammond
Euch. Minister:	Jim Christoph	Patty Watts
Usher:	Peter Hammond	Janet Harvey
Altar Guild:	Jen Lehr	Jen Lehr
Coffee Hour:	Rosemary Laban	Carolee Garcia
Counter:	Tom Knight	Peter Hammond
Closer:	Jason Long	Nancy Mering