



# Christ Episcopal Church

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*Weekly Update 8 March 2018*

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## Reflection

Deacon Eric Johnson

If you place a child in the back seat of a car and drive to grandma's house, it is a certainty that sometime around 20-minutes into the journey, the child will ask one or more of these questions: "When will we get there? Do we have any juice? Can my teddy bear breathe in the trunk? How much longer do I have to sit here? Can we stop at McDonald's?"

In the first reading for the 4th Sunday of Lent, the Israelites are like children who have been on the road for too long. Despite the many times that God has saved them on the way to the Promised Land, they are certain that they are never going to get there, and they complain to Moses that most of them are going to die in the desert.

In answer to their fears, God gives them a sign to help them on their journey. A bronze snake on a pole was just the sign that the Israelites needed at the time. It was noticeable; it was different; it was relational to the desert snakes that were biting them.

In the same way, during our long journey through Lent, we have replaced the plain Latin cross that usually hangs behind the altar with a crucifix with the body of Jesus on it. This is a symbol that is different; it is disturbing. It is also a very visible sign that this instrument of torture has been reinterpreted, through Christ's resurrection, into a reminder of God's love, mercy and healing.

We know that the Israelites did arrive at the Promise Land, and we know that we will celebrate the risen Christ on Easter. And we know— because we're reminded in Word, Signs and Sacraments— that we serve a God who keeps promises.



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## March 11, The Fourth Sunday in Lent

**8:00 am**

**Holy Eucharist**

Christ Church

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Preacher: Mr. Guy Davidson

**9:00 am—Noon**

**Child Care**

Parish Hall \*Gathering Room\*

Caregivers Yohana Agreda & Jocelyn Bruno

**9:15—10:15 am**

**Adult Faith Formation**

\*Gentry House\*

Breakfast at 9:00 am

**9:30 am**

**Communion Service**

Chandler's Square Community

Worship Leader: Creamy Wilkins

**10:30 am**

**Holy Eucharist**

Christ Church

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Deacon: Deacon Brian Lennstrom

Preacher: Mr. Guy Davidson

Altar Guild: Janis Larkins, Dee Roberts

Eucharistic Minister/Crucifer: Linda Donato

Reader 1: Clark McKee

Reader 2: Gary Anderson

Ushers: Shirley Barrett, Elaine Oliphant

**Coffee Hour**

Janice Walker

**Tellers**

Gary Anderson, Clark McKee

## *Readings*

### **Collect of the Day**

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
they were afflicted because of their sins.

They abhorred all manner of food \*  
and drew near to death's door.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
and saved them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

### **John 3:14-21**

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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## *Announcements*

### **Adult Faith Formation**

Sundays

Breakfast at 9:00 am

Class 9:15-10:15 am

\*Gentry House\*

Our Lenten program, *Growing Old with Grace*, continues through March 18.

Growing old is a gift from God that some people would rather not accept. In this introspective and challenging course, author, minister, and popular speaker Barbara Crafton shares profound insights into how Christians can cope with aging. This course is designed not simply for older people, but younger people who are interested in pondering what lies ahead. All are welcome.

### **Godly Play**

Godly Play meets on alternate Sundays.

Lesson for March 11: *The Synagogue & the Upper Room*

9:00—10:15 am

Parish Hall Gathering Room

### **Child Care**

Weekly on Sundays

9:00 am—Noon

Parish Hall Gathering Room

### **Women's Group**

Tuesday, March 13

Noon—1:00 pm

Sister Catherine will speak about her life as an Episcopal nun.

Parish Hall Gathering Room

### **Lenten Campaign Supporting *Chaplains on the Harbor***

We are taking a special collection during this Lenten season to support Reverend Sarah Monroe and *Chaplains on the Harbor* as they work to pastor, organize, and empower poor people in one of the poorest regions of Washington. Please place your donation in the designated box at the back of the church. Checks should be made out to Christ Episcopal Church with *Chaplains on the Harbor* in the memo line.

### **Wednesday Evening Lenten Program**

March 14 & 21

5:00 pm Evening Prayer

5:30 Soup Supper & Program

Our Lenten program, *Civil Discourse*, was created by the Episcopal Church as a resource to help people understand and practice civil discourse, particularly as it relates to political discussion and living out our gospel call.

### **Meditation Class**

Weekly on Tuesdays

6:00—8:00 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

You are welcome to attend this weekly meditation in the Plum Village Zen tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh.

No experience is necessary and all are welcome. Cost is by donation.

### **Compassionate Listening Workshop**

Saturday, March 24

9:30 am—5:30 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Compassionate listening is a practice that reaches deep into the heart of discord and disconnection, teaching people to listen with a different “ear” to those around them. Its powerful tools help transform the energy of conflict into opportunities for understanding, intimacy at home, healthy relationships, productive teamwork, and positive action. It is a practice that provides a road map to what sages from all ages and cultures have taught: cultivating the wisdom of the heart is the key to real peace “from the inside out.”

Workshop Leader is Andrea Cohen, an international Compassionate Listening trainer and the author of *Practicing the Art of Compassionate Listening*. Cost of the workshop is \$75—\$150 with a required pre-registration fee of \$75. Those able to pay the higher amount may do so at the end of the workshop.

*\*Special price for Christ Church congregants is \$75.\**

Please register at [compassionatelistinganacortes.eventbrite.com](http://compassionatelistinganacortes.eventbrite.com)

Hosted by Christ Episcopal Church. Sponsored by the Anacortes Center for Happiness.

### **Palm Crosses**

You are invited to join the Altar Guild in making palm crosses.

Saturday, March 24

10:00 am at the home of Val Long.

All are welcome.

### **Altar Flowers**

#### Easter

Easter is fast approaching! If you would like to make a contribution to our Easter Flowers Fund, please make your check out to Christ Episcopal Church with ‘Easter Flowers’ in the memo line. Recommended donation is \$10.

#### Sundays

The sign-up sheet to contribute flowers for our church altar is located in the parish hall vestibule. Please sign the chart and take “An Invitation to Give Altar Flowers” card. Follow the instructions on the card and return to the church office along with your check. Checks should be made out to Christ Episcopal Church with ‘Altar Flowers & the date’ in the memo line. Thank you for your contributions to beautify our altar and honor and remember your loved ones.

### **Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 25

8:00 am Blessing of the Palms  
& Morning Prayer

10:30 am Blessing of the Palms  
& Holy Eucharist

### **Holy Week**

#### Tuesday, March 27

5:00 pm Stations of the Cross & Dedication of Memorial Cross

#### Maundy Thursday, March 29

5:00 pm Agape Meal, Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

#### Good Friday, March 30

Noon The Solemn Collects & Holy Eucharist

#### Saturday, March 31

7:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter: Lighting of the Paschal Candle & Holy Eucharist

**Easter Day**

Sunday, April 1

Christ Church:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

Chandler's Square Community:

9:30 am Holy Eucharist

**Easter Egg Hunt**

An Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages will follow the 10:30 am service on Easter Day.

**Spiritual Book Group**

Thursday, March 29

1:30—2:30 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

**Safeguarding Training**

Saturday, April 21

9:30 am Safeguarding God's People

12:30 pm Safeguarding God's Children

Christ Church Gathering Room

Please email or call the church office to sign up to attend.

**Weekday Prayer Services**

Morning Prayer: Wednesdays, 8:00—8:30 am

Centering Prayer: Thursdays, 1:00—1:30 pm

**Gentle Yoga Class**

Weekly on Mondays

3:00 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Class is free and all are welcome.

**Men's Group**

Weekly on Fridays

8:00 am

Parish Hall \*Gathering Room\*

Please join us. All are welcome.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Second & fourth Fridays

3:00—5:00 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Please join us for this prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort & solace, as well as in celebration & joy. Please contact Reverend Carol for more information. All are welcome.

**The Red Door Thrift Shop**

*A Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church*

1019 Seventh Street, Anacortes

360-293-8027

Profits from our Red Door Thrift Shop fund Christ Church's Community Support program.

Shop Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Donation Hours: Monday through Friday, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Volunteers and donations are always welcome.

## Clergy Schedule

10:30 am Eucharist

### March 18

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Deacon: Deacon Eric Johnson

Preacher: Deacon Eric Johnson

### March 25

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Deacon: Deacon Brian Lennstrom

Preacher: Deacon Brian Lennstrom

### April 1

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman & Reverend Carol Rodin

Deacon: Deacon Eric Johnson

Preacher: Reverend Carol Rodin

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## The Week Ahead...

<b><u>Monday, March 12</u></b> Gentle Yoga Class 3:00—4:00 pm Parish Hall Gathering Room  Bishop's Committee Meeting 4:30—6:00 pm Parish Hall Gathering Room  Choir Practice 5:00 pm Sanctuary	<b><u>Wednesday, March 14</u></b> Morning Prayer 8:00—8:30 am Christ Church Sanctuary  The Red Door Staff Meeting 9:00—10:00 am Parish Hall Gathering Room  The Red Door Linen Group 10:00 am—Noon Parish Hall Gathering Room  Education for Ministry 12:30—2:45 pm Parish Hall Gathering Room  Ministry Support Circle Meeting 3:00—5:00 pm Parish Hall Gathering Room  Evening Prayer 5:00 pm Christ Church Sanctuary  Soup Supper & Lenten Program 5:30 pm Parish Hall Gathering Room	<b><u>Thursday, March 15</u></b> Centering Prayer 1:00—1:30 pm Christ Church Sanctuary  WT Hymnody Meeting 2:00 pm Parish Hall Gathering Room  <b><u>Friday, March 16</u></b> Men's Group 8:00 am Parish Hall Gathering Room  Office Volunteers 9:00—10:00 am Parish Hall Gathering Room  Pastoral Care Circle Meeting 9:30 am Sanctuary
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