



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## MARCH 2026 - CHRONICLE

Steadfast and growing since 1870

Where we seek to glorify God, follow Jesus Christ, and serve all people through the power of the Holy Spirit, as a community of companions walking together in the Way of Christ's Love for all.

### Why Assisi? and Why Now?



*Giotto's frescoes in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi*

The last time I wrote a Chronicle article about my upcoming travels, I got sick and ended up having to cancel all my travel plans (to Healdsburg, Sacramento, and Florida).<sup>1</sup> So the superstitious part of me is a little hesitant to write this article about my approaching pilgrimage to Assisi, but the auspicious part of me trusts that these monthly newsletters convey blessings rather than curses; and that no matter what happens, my future will ultimately align with God's good, pleasing, and perfect will.<sup>2</sup> So why Assisi? And why now?

For faithful readers of the Chronicle, you have likely seen my translations of chapters from Hermann Hesse's *Francis of Assisi*, which I began sharing in March 2025. I have continued to work on this project in my limited spare time, which has clearly been informing my preaching. In my translation of the Epilogue, which I include below in its entirety, Hesse writes the following: "I would have remained silent and withheld all my words of the Blessed Saint of Assisi if it had been possible for me to take you to that beautiful basilica in Assisi where Giotto's paintings of the life of Francis decorate the walls." In reading these words, I felt a strong tug

<sup>1</sup>See "Epiphany Pilgrimages / January Journeys" in January 2026 Chronicle.

<sup>2</sup>In the words of Michael Scott, "I'm not superstitious, but I'm a little stitious." (:

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to visit the glorious basilica. As I prepared to speak on the “Zen of St. Francis” at Ensō Village in Healdsburg CA last October, I found myself being tugged more and more as I explored images of the town online and learned that perhaps the best book about St. Francis to read is the “living book” that is Assisi. I applied to participate in a pilgrimage called the “Assisi Peace and Justice Pilgrimage” scheduled for late April but was then informed that there were no longer any openings available. I was prepared to let go of my longing to visit Assisi when I received a text from our Junior Warden at the time, Heidi Erickson, who informed me that the remains of Francis were set to be displayed in a rare event from February 22 to March 22 to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the saint’s death. While objects that belonged to the saint have long been exhibited at the basilica, his remains have only been shown to the public just once, briefly, in 1978. When I saw these dates (Feb 22 – March 22) and realized I could visit the remains of St. Francis (who died at age 44) on my 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday, which is March 6<sup>th</sup>, I knew I could not miss this once-in-a-lifetime—no, this once-in-many-lifetimes—opportunity to visit Assisi!

I knew it wouldn’t be too hard to convince my Sicilian wife to visit Italy, especially when I suggested that we view the trip partly as a celebration of our ten-year wedding anniversary. So, flight tickets were purchased and then Pope Leo XIV affirmed our decision when he proclaimed January 10, 2026 to January 10, 2027 as a Franciscan Jubilee Year.

On Monday March 2, we will catch a plane to Denver, then to Munich, and then to Rome, where we still stay until March 5, when we drive to Assisi to visit the remains of history’s beloved saint surrounded by the frescoed walls of the basilica that Hermann Hesse raved about. We will remain in Assisi until March 12, when we will travel north to Florence, where I will be preaching at St. James Episcopal Church on Laetare Sunday (March 15), during their Festival of Cakes! We will then return to Rome on March 16 and then back home on March 18, via Frankfurt and the beloved city named after St Francis: San Francisco.

So, if someone asks, “Why is the rector visiting Italy in the middle of Lent?” you now know the answer, and you can give them a copy of this article. You can also thank Hermann Hesse and our beloved Heidi Erickson for inspiring the visit!



*Icon of St. Francis by Jan Ramsey*

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**The Golden Smile of Light**  
**Epilogue to *Francis of Assisi* by Hermann Hesse**  
Translated by Daniel DeForest London

The life of a pure and humble person is a holy and wondrous mystery, emanating unseen powers and wielding profound influence long after they have died. It is in the life of the “Poverello” of Assisi that we can see this more clearly than in the lives of most other heroes and great minds of ancient times. Even by looking superficially, one can easily perceive that for many centuries throughout Italy, no one has ever received such extravagant love and recognition as the humble and lowly Francis. Above all, he was celebrated by the artists, for whom he was a source of liberation and awakening. Just as a weak child grows in courage and strength by the guidance of a wise and loving man, so too did artists respond to the loving call of the teacher of Assisi. Their craft, which had previously suffered from a period of great neglect, now enjoyed a springtime of blossoming and new growth. In particular, the world-renowned Giotto, the first great master painter of modern times, was driven by his gratitude and robust love for Francis into seeing the divine radiance within all things and then conveying that spark in his stunning masterpieces. I would have remained silent and withheld all my words of the Blessed Saint of Assisi if it had been possible for me to take you to that beautiful basilica in Assisi where Giotto’s paintings of the life of Francis decorate the walls. These images not only illustrate the deeds and events of his life, but they are also an enthusiastic hymn of praise born from the same spirit of the blessed saint. Giotto’s bold and fervent art is, in essence, nothing less than a powerful echo of the voice of that great singer and preacher.

A vigorous and vital spirit is always yearning to express itself in new ways. For example, the spirit of Christ has expressed itself throughout history in a myriad of forms, depending on the character and context of the times. Did Christ not speak through poets and prophets and musicians in times when teachers and preachers had become especially dull and ineffective? And in times when the Church had fallen into deep sin and decay, Christ continued to speak with new power through the works of painters, architects, and stonemasons. So, also it happened that the tender and blessed message of God, which came to earth in the figure of Francis, did not perish with his death. He had scattered good seed across the earth from his generous hand, and the seed sprouted, grew, and blossomed – here in the soul of a painter, there in the soul of a poet or sculptor or storyteller. And even if no report of his earthly life and no record of his songs had come down to us, we would still have in their place the inspiring testimonies of those countless people in whom his character and manner awakened love and longing, and the stories of those who portrayed him in words and music, in marble and bronze, and in a kaleidoscope of enchanting colors.

There is perhaps no human figure in art history who has inspired more masterpieces. Even long after his death, his gentle and profound influence made him dearly beloved and favored by all artists. To them his life seemed so full of poetry and so worthy of being portrayed and forever remembered that hundreds of painters and sculptors have depicted him as well as scenes from his life. Storytellers also revered him and crowned him with a florilegium of legends so that his legacy and legendary status surpassed that of Charlemagne.<sup>3</sup>

Moreover, many poets have been inspired by his passion and spirit. These followers and admirers of Francis mostly wrote in the vernacular, long before Dante, and must therefore be regarded as the forerunners and founders of Italian poetry in verse. Even among Francis’s earliest students and friends we find several poets who composed songs and hymns, partly in Latin and partly in Italian. Francis’s disciple Thomas of Celano

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<sup>3</sup>Charlemagne (748 – 814) was the first recognized emperor to rule most of Western and Central Europe after the fall of the Western Roman Empire

has traditionally been considered the author of the powerful and haunting song *Dies irae, dies illa*.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, Brother Giacomo of Verona wrote an excellent and vivid poem about heaven and hell, which was only surpassed by Dante.<sup>5</sup> However, the greatest and most influential successor of Francis was Jacopone Benedetti (named Jacopone of Todi after his hometown), whose bitter life of suffering compelled him to write the most painfully beautiful songs that not only burn with raw passion but also kindle hope for all those who struggle in darkness.<sup>6</sup>

One could easily demonstrate the overwhelming influence of Francis in spirituality and the arts. When the legacy of a great soul is embraced and enriched by a people's creative devotion, it revitalizes the arts with new energy and lifeblood. This is the mysterious and mystical element of his soul: the mere thought of him awakens wonder and stirs up holy passion. He inspires painters to paint and poets to sing and opens everyone's eyes to see him as a vivid expression of God's Kingdom here on earth.

....

If someone were to ask me: "How can you call Francis an exceptional poet when he left us nothing but the Canticle of the Sun?" I would answer: "He gave us the immortal masterpieces of Giotto, countless colorful legends, the songs of Jacopone, and a thousand other treasures, all forged by the fire of his soul." Indeed, he was one of the first great enigmatic figures who unknowingly built the Renaissance, that remarkable rebirth of spirit and art.

Oh, there are so many famous writers and poets who have crafted such pretty verses! But there are only a few who, by the passion and depth of their interior lives, have permanently stamped their eternal words and wisdom into our culture, like divine messengers. While many have been admired for their words, only a select few have been adored for the exquisite poetry expressed through the purity of their very being, which shimmers with such radiance like the blessed stars, guiding all of us as we wander through the darkness, nudging us all a little closer to the golden smile of light.

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<sup>4</sup>Thomas of Celano was the author of the first known biography of St. Francis as well as the author of what has been called "the greatest judgment hymn of all time." Philip Schaff, *Christ in Song* (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph and Co., 1869), 372. For many centuries, the hymn *Dies Irae* (which is Latin for "Day of Wrath") was used at virtually every Mass for All Souls as well as during Requiems and Funerals; and one can hear its opening four notes in popular films, during scenes of suspense or death, as in *Star Wars*, *The Lion King*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Jurassic Park*, and even *It's a Wonderful Life*. The opening words of this Latin hymn translate to English as: "Day of wrath and doom impending, / David's word with Sibyl blending! / Heaven and earth in ashes ending." The reference to "David's word" refers to the words of the Hebrew prophets who have foretold this Day of Wrath while the reference to "the Sibyl" refers to the words of the Ancient Greek female prophets who also foretold a Day of Judgement. For more on the Sibyl, see Ashley L. Bacchi, *Uncovering Jewish Creativity in Book III of the Sibylline Oracles: Gender, Intertextuality, and Politics* (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

<sup>5</sup>Br. Giacomo of Verona also known as Giacomino of Verona wrote *De Jerusalem celesti* ("On the Heavenly Jerusalem") and *De Babilonia civitate infernali* ("On the Infernal City of Babylon"), both around the year of 1250. We know little about Br. Giacomo of Verona beyond what is revealed about him in these texts. In *De Babilonia*, he states his name and his Veronese origins as well as his membership in the Franciscan Order.

<sup>6</sup>Jacopone Benedetti (1230 – 1306) was a wealthy lawyer in the Umbrian town of Todi. After his devout and beloved wife was killed in a tragic accident, he joined the Franciscans, among whom he discovered his gifts as a poet. One of his most famous poems is *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*, a heartbreaking reflection on Mary's sorrows at the foot of the Cross: "At the Cross her station keeping, / Stood the mournful Mother weeping, / Close to Jesus to the last: / Through her heart, His sorrow sharing, / All his bitter anguish bearing, / Now at length the sword had passed." The inscription on his tomb describes him as "having gone mad with love of Christ." See Robert Ellsberg, *The Franciscan Saints* (Cincinnati OH: Franciscan Media, 2017), 56 – 67. Evelyn Underhill called him "one of the greatest and most interesting Italian mystical poets...the first writer of philosophic religious poetry, and perhaps the most picturesque figure in the history of early Italian literature." Evelyn Underhill, *Jacopone Da Todi: Poet and Mystic* (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, 1919), v.



# March 2026

## Christ Episcopal Church

### Wednesday Chapel Services

#### Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour | 9 am

### March 4 — Morning Prayer

#### Commemorating John & Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788

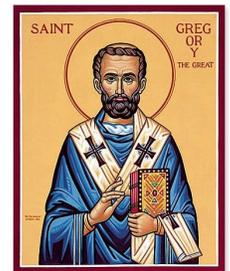
John and Charles Wesley were educated at Oxford, where John gathered began a “Holy Club” in strict adherence to the worship and discipline of the Prayer Book and were given the name “Methodists.” Both were ordained and deeply attached to the doctrine and worship of the Church of England, but were deeply moved by the church’s neglect of the poor. Their theological writings and sermons are widely appreciated, and their hymns—Charles wrote over 6000—continue to affect the hearts of many.



### March 12 — Holy Eucharistic: Rite II

#### Commemorating Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604

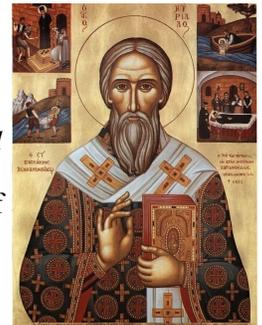
Gregory is one of only two popes popularly given the title “the Great.” During his time in the pontificate he organized the defense of Rome against the Lombards and used the papal granaries to feed its populace. His ordering of the Church’s liturgy and chant has influenced the Western Church to the present day, and his writings were used as basic texts for many generations. He also noted for sending Augustine on his evangelizing mission to the Anglo-Saxons, for which he was named by the Venerable Bede “The Apostle of the English.”



### March 18 — Morning Prayer

#### Commemorating Cyril of Jerusalem, Liturgist, Catechist, and Bishop, 386

Cyril became bishop of Jerusalem in about 349. His writings form the basis for the development of catechetical instruction and the liturgical observances during Lent and Holy Week. His *Catechetical Lectures on the Christian Faith* were probably part of the pre-baptismal instruction that Egeria, a pilgrim from western Europe in the fourth century, described with great enthusiasm in the account of her pilgrimage. It is likely that Cyril instituted the observances of Palm Sunday and Holy Week in Jerusalem, which pilgrims then spread throughout the entire church.



### March 25 — Holy Eucharist at NOON (note time change!)

#### Commemorating the Annunciation

The Feast of the Annunciation commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce that she will become the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38). Mentioned in the Council of Toledo in 656 as being celebrated throughout the Church, the feast has historically been celebrated on March 25, commemorating the belief that the spring equinox was the day of God’s act of Creation and the beginning of Christ’s redemption of that Creation.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2026

# THE SEASON OF LENT

## Sundays in Lent

Holy Eucharist | 8 & 10:30 AM | Main Church  
Youth Group | 5:00 PM | Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour

## THOMAS MERTON READING GROUP

TUESDAY—March 17 | 5:00 PM | Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour

## CENTERING PRAYER

TUESDAYS (during Lent—March 3, 10, 17, 24, Holy Week—March 31)  
6:30 PM | Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour

## MORNING PRAYER

WEDNESDAYS — March 4, 11, 18, Holy Week—April 1  
9:00 AM | Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour  
March 25 Holy Eucharist— Feast of the Annunciation at noon

## BIBLE STUDY | THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

THURSDAYS—12:30-2:00 | March 5, 12, 19, 26 | Lewis Hall

## LECTIO DIVINA

FRIDAYS—noon-1:15 | March 6, 11, 20, 27 | Chapel

## LABYRINTH WALK DAYS

SATURDAY—March 21 | 2:00-5:00 PM | Heritage Room



## Holy Week

Sunday, March 29 through Saturday, April 4

*(Watch your weekly Email updates for more information)*

Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday





# HOLY WEEK

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH | EUREKA



Palm Saturday  
Pizza and Palm Crosses  
March 28 | 5:00 pm | Nave

**Palm Sunday**  
**Sunday of the Passion | March 29 | 8 and 10:30 am**

Holy Tuesday Centering Prayer  
March 31 | 6:30 pm | Chapel of Our Merciful Savior

Holy Wednesday Eucharist  
April 1 | 9:00 am | Chapel of Our Merciful Savior

**Tenebrae**  
Wednesday, April 1 | 7 pm | Chapel of Our Merciful Savior

## THE HOLY TRIDUUM

**Maundy Thursday | April 2 | 7:00 pm**  
*Holy Eucharist, Footwashing, Stripping of the Altar & Vigil*

## Good Friday Services

Stations of the Cross | April 3, noon | Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour

Stations of the Cross Saunter | April 3, 2 pm | Sequoia Park

**The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday | April 3 | 7 pm**  
Christ Episcopal Church

Holy Saturday  
Holy Saturday Liturgy | April 4 | 11 am | Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour

**The Great Vigil**  
Saturday, April 4 | 7 pm | Main Church

**Easter Sunday**  
April 5—Holy Eucharist | 8 & 10:30 AM | Main Church  
Easter Egg Hunt | 9:30 AM

# Look for the Lovely

The Rev. Jeri Gray-Reneberg, Associate Priest



I have a mind that never stops making musical connections. Years ago, when someone asked me how to pronounce my legal first name, Jerayne, I asked her, “Are you familiar with the musical *My Fair Lady*? ‘The Rain in Spain Stays Mainly in the Plain’? Imagine that you could use that song to remember how to pronounce my name: ‘Jerayne in Spain stays mainly in the plain.’” She laughed, and I’m sure she would never forget it. And I don’t know where the idea came from!

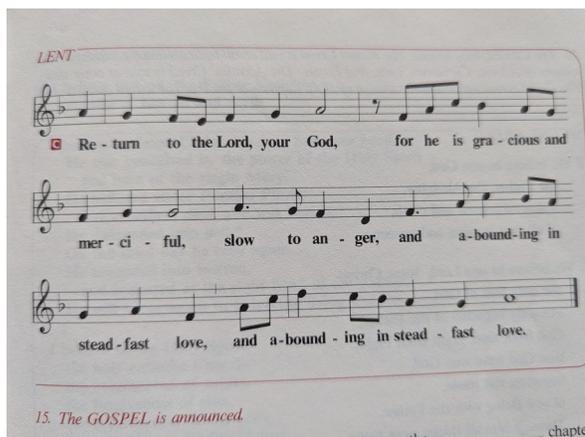
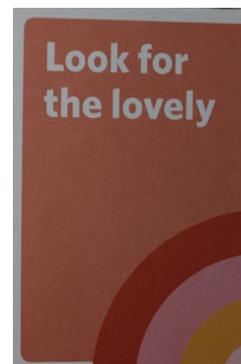
In the same vein, Wren gave me a box of “Mindfulness Cards” several years ago, and every few days or so, I draw a new card and place it in the lid so it stands up. Whenever I see it, its message makes me think and look for connections in my life. A few days ago, the message was “Look for the lovely.” And before too long, I had Stevie Wonder’s “Isn’t She Lovely” running through my mind. Something like:

Look for the lovely  
Look for the wonderful...

I could picture the Olympics, which has just passed, and all the athletes who gave their best in the moment. And the celebration of worldwide community, ice, and snow, that were the opening and closing ceremonies. And imagine the Paralympics to come.

But it’s still winter for a few more weeks. The overgrown rose bush I see out my front window is in serious need of pruning. This is the season when it looks the most bare, except for a few early leaves. But as I looked at it just a few minutes ago, I happened to see a male Northern Flicker, drawn by the suet block Perry placed not too far away. I got a quick photo before it flew away. It briefly graced our ugly rose bush with its beauty.

When I was young, Lent was the season when we put away the “A-word” and stopped singing our gospel acclamation (sung by the congregation every Sunday before the gospel was proclaimed) that began and ended with the “buried” word and in between quoted John 6: 68 – “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” In contrast, during Lent we navigated an unfamiliar tune as we sang the words of Joel 2: 12-13 – “Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abiding in steadfast love.”



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I don't think that "looking for the lovely" and "returning to the Lord" are necessarily incompatible. The loveliness we see when we look for it in this season is the loveliness of the world before the riotous bloom that is Easter. The beauty of a minimalist look for the chancel: no flowers, simple purple for the color (some parishes use unbleached linen or muslin), the altar placed Ad Orientem... All inviting a more introspective experience of worship. In the Adult Forum between services, we will be discussing the concept of sin as Barbara Brown Taylor illuminates it, knowing as we do so, that there is one who is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."

I will also alternate wearing two pairs of silver earrings that I reserve almost exclusively for Lent – the pair with a bare tree – maybe an oak? – and the pair I bought in Ferndale many years ago with a negative cross, defined by a hole that is cross-shaped.

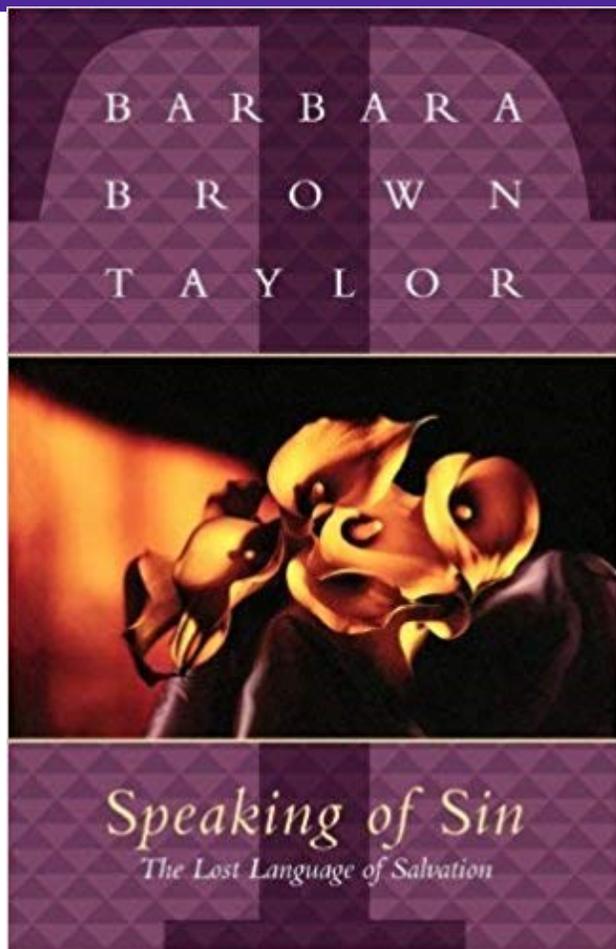


During these weeks, feel free to comment on my earrings, or to address me by my legal name! But please also remember to "Look for the lovely" as it is revealed during Lent. To not turn away in order to seek something else, but to look for the beauty that is inherent in every mundane thought, every habitual action, every created thing – even though it may be subtle and understated. Don't look into the future and borrow the intensity or the celebration of tomorrow. Walk the labyrinth. Think about sin without fear. And enjoy the hymns and special music of Lent with thoughtful attention and a different sort of appreciation. This is the season.

A blessed Lent and Holy Week!

*Fori +*



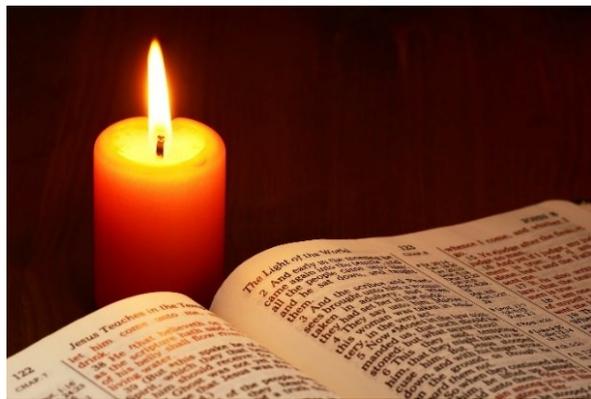


# Lenten Book Study Sunday Adult Forum

9:15 – 10:15 am in  
Lewis Hall

March 1: Introduction  
March 8: Chapter 1  
March 15: Chapter 2  
March 22: Chapter 3 &  
Postlude

Books will be available for purchase during the forum and after services for \$12.



## Lectio Divina in Lent w/ Mother Nancy

Fridays 12 Noon – 1:15 pm  
Chapel of Our Merciful Savior  
Lectionary Year A Gospel Stories

On the Fridays in Lent at 12 noon, I invite you to join me in the practice of “divine reading” of the Sunday lectionary when we read the Gospel stories in a variant rooted in Lectio Divina called the “Lambeth” or “African” method that was introduced in 1998 by the African Delegation to the Lambeth Conference (an assembly of Anglican bishops convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury every 10 years or so). We will meet in the Chapel of Our Merciful Savior and begin with Noonday Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. **Bring your favorite Bible translation.** No preparation is necessary; in fact, it is better to experience the Scripture readings in the moment!

March 6: John 4:5-42  
March 13: John 9:1-41  
March 20: John 11:1-45  
March 27: Matthew 21:1-11



## CENTERING PRAYER

Tuesdays | 6:30 pm | Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour



## Quilters + Knitters

Inviting all crafters, stitchers, knitters, and quilters!

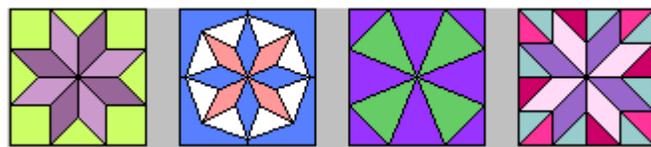
The day: Wednesday, March 11

The time: 9:30 AM

The place: Lewis Hall

All are welcome. Newcomers, come check us out! We also have coffee, snacks and enjoy visiting with each other.

Questions? Call Peg Gardner 443-9627 or Belinda Zander 442-4222.





# SUNDAY ADULT FORUMS 2026

Sundays | 9:15 am | Lewis Hall  
(between services)

Please join us on Sundays  
at 9:15 am in Lewis Hall  
(between services)  
for discipleship  
and conversation on  
a variety of  
topics in 2026.

March 1 – Lenten Book Series – *Speaking of Sin* by Barbara Taylor  
Mtr Nancy – Introduction

March 8 – Lenten Book Series – *Speaking of Sin* by Barbara Taylor – Mtr Nancy – Ch 1

March 15 – Lenten Book Series - *Speaking of Sin* by Barbara Taylor – Mtr Nancy – Ch 2

March 22 – Lenten Book Series - *Speaking of Sin* by Barbara Taylor – Mtr Nancy – Chp 3 & Postlude

March 29 – Palm Sunday – Forum Break

April 5 – Easter Sunday – Forum Break

April 12 – Low Sunday – Forum Break

April 19 – St. Anselm – Fr. Daniel

April 26 – Good Shepherd - David Lochtie and the Lamb

May 3 – Recovery Sunday

May 10 – Julian of Norwich – Fr. Daniel

May 17 – Forum Break

May 24 - Pentecost



# Vestry Highlights

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[gossardpam@gmail.com](mailto:gossardpam@gmail.com)

(C) 707-599-6856

**Vestry Highlights ...**from the meetings of February 8 and February 24, 2026

Next Vestry meeting: March 24, 5:30 pm, Pierson Room

- The Vestry held an organizing meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting on Feb. 8. Newly elected Vestry members were welcomed. Merry Phillips was appointed as Senior Warden and the following were elected: Elizabeth Harper-Lawson, Junior Warden; Peg Gardner, Clerk; Francis Rivinus, Treasurer; Rich Baker, Asst. Treasurer. A Vestry Orientation will be held on Sat., March 21, 2-5, Pierson Room and a Vestry Retreat will be held on Sat., Oct. 10, 9:30-3:00, place TBD.

February 24, 2026 meeting highlights:

- The Vestry approved an expenditure for Restif Cleaning Service – to clean and treat areas for mold in the Sanctuary, Sacristy, Heritage Room, Narthex, and Bathrooms. The last time the work was done was in 2019.
- The Vestry also approved the expenditure for a professional fundraising consultant for the Creation Care Fundraising Committee. A workshop/training for the Committee will be held on March 1.
- Efforts to create a photo membership directory for the parish are underway – several Vestry members volunteered to help with this effort.
- The Vestry voted to officially close the Sts. Martha and Mary Mission. Services in Trinidad ceased a few years ago, but the Mission was never formally closed.
- The vacancy on the Vestry will be filled according to Vestry Constitution, with an election at the next Vestry meeting.
- The Vestry reviewed and approved the Parochial Report, due March 1.

Vestry minutes, treasurer's reports, and other documents are posted by the Clerk of the Vestry, Peg Gardner, on the bulletin board in Lewis Hall. NOTE: The bulletin boards in Lewis Hall are in the process of being updated.

If you have questions or concerns about parish activities, please contact a member of the Vestry!

Respectfully submitted, Merry Phillips, Senior Warden

# From the Senior Warden

## Merry Phillips

For the past few months I've written articles focusing on our core values (Hospitality and Outreach in November, Discipleship in December, and Worship in January). This month I'd like to focus on Communication and how we communicate with each other. Loosely construed, this could fall under our core value of Fellowship.

At the February Vestry meeting, we approved and agreed to implement a "Vestry Covenant." I share this with you as it is not only a Covenant with each other on the Vestry, but it is our Covenant with the Parish.

### Vestry Covenant

As members of the Christ Church Vestry, we endeavor to be wise and faithful communicators.

We show up regularly, being fully present, on time, and prepared.

We honor each other by praying for one another.

We assume positive intent and demonstrate mutual respect.

We endeavor to maintain safe spaces for each to speak and leave space for everyone to contribute.

We welcome new ideas and allow time for reflection before contributing to the discussion.

We strive to be courageous, to present our own views, and invite others to voice their dissent.

We promise to be active listeners to each other and the members of the parish, and to God.

And we leave our meetings with a unified voice by adopting the group decision as our own.

We honor each other by explicitly agreeing that discussions, opinions, and personal information shared remain within the group, i.e. "What's Said Here Stays Here."

To live into our Covenant, we shall:

Read the covenant as part of our opening prayers each meeting

Emphasize generative conversations

Share responsibility to make sure we don't miss anything

Offer space for truth telling at check in

Respect the confidentiality of the group by communicating our discussions and decisions without revealing the identity of speakers

Pray when we are apart, for each other, and for all members of the parish

Reviewed and Adopted by the 2026 Christ Church Vestry: February 24, 2016

When I drafted this Covenant (which is modeled after the 2026 Board Covenant from the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California) to send to the Vestry, I also shared some information from "Google AI" which talks about a conversation being like "a walk in a garden," "a space for connection, where the goal is exploration rather than efficiency." Granted, we do not always have the luxury of time for 'long' leisurely walks, but we can always keep in mind that our conversations are journeys – they nurture relationship and provide joy and appreciation for the journey itself rather than just arriving at a destination.

### Vision of Christ Church

A community of companions walking together in the Way of Christ's Love for all.

### Mission of Christ Church

Christ Episcopal Church Eureka seeks to glorify God, follow Jesus Christ, and serve all people through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We strive to accomplish this mission through

Worship; Discipleship; Fellowship; Outreach; and Hospitality.

## ***From the Junior Warden*** **Elizabeth Harper-Lawson**



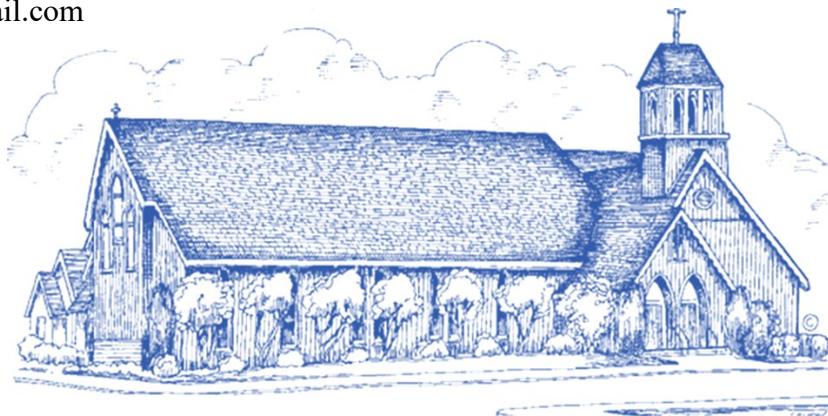
It is an honor to serve as Junior Warden. I am looking forward to learning about the workings of our buildings, and I am looking forward with gratitude to working with all the knowledgeable people who have so much know how and experience in taking care of our Christ Church Properties.

Following in the footsteps of Heidi certainly is a challenge. She has done such amazing work including over-seeing the external painting of our buildings in a warm and inviting gray to arranging handicap access to our church through Lewis Hall. In addition to her facilities skills, Heidi is great writer. I am going to miss her timely and engaging Chronicle articles!

### **Recent Improvements/Projects on our Christ Church Properties:**

- Protective stakes and tape around the recently seeded McCarthy Meadow. (Royal)
- Removal of wiring in the Heritage Room that is no longer used. (Mike)
- Music Room Door lock now working.
- Bottom lock in the 15<sup>th</sup> Street gate adjusted.
- Smullin House back yard Cottonwoods trimmed. (Royal and Heidi)
- Light Bulb replacement: Narthex and outside the external basement door (Mike)
- Thomas Walsh photo moved to the Narthex to join the Thomas Walsh window.
- Bishop Megan's photo moved within the Narthex; her picture will no longer be obscured by the door.

Elizabeth Harper-Lawson  
707 445 1726  
eaharperlawsone@suddenlink.net  
e.a.h.lawsone@gmail.com





**Youth group**  
**Christ Episcopal Church Eureka**  
SUNDAYS @ 5PM  
MEET IN THE CHAPEL  
15<sup>TH</sup> & G STREETS, EUREKA  
(PARKING LOT AT 14<sup>TH</sup> & G STREETS)  
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AGES WELCOME!

Questions? Contact: [christchurcheureka@gmail.com](mailto:christchurcheureka@gmail.com) (707) 442-1797



Humboldt County's Smile Drive in 2025 collected 2000+ dental care items and \$307 in online donations. Donated toothbrushes, floss/flossers and toothpaste are provided to local schools, Family and Community Resource Centers and other social support organizations providing services to children and adults who have limited access to supplies.

**Donation box is in the  
Heritage Room until Sunday, March 1, 2026**

# Labyrinth Quest...

## *Guidance for a Lenten Labyrinth Walk*

Kathryne DeLorme, Veriditas Certified Labyrinth Facilitator



Our liturgical seasons each offer a unique way to walk the labyrinth that honors the spirit of the season, allowing us to reflect more deeply on our spiritual life.

Before beginning your Labyrinth Walk during Lent, take this prayer into your heart:

We turn our hearts to you, O God.  
With you there is healing,  
wholeness and forgiveness,  
freedom from fear,  
lasting peace.

Before entering the labyrinth, pause at the entrance and ask the Holy Spirit to allow your feet and your soul to connect.

Consider the symbolic connection between the journey of Lent and the walking of the labyrinth.

In other words, Lent is about our walk in the world as a reflection of our deepest interiority.

The labyrinth takes us on a journey to that interiority, to our inner self, our center. And, just as with Lent, it doesn't always seem clear at the beginning of this walk where we are headed. The twists and turns can be deceiving.



*Walkers at Grace Cathedral Labyrinth.*

As you walk the labyrinth, purposely take each turn in faith that you are guided by Grace.

As you move closer to the center, ask: "Of what must I let go? What are the obstacles to my fully living my faith?"

Each turn gives a chance to open up to how God is present.

As others make their way through the labyrinth, we meet one another on the path. We are walking the road together. We are accompanying each other on this sacred journey.

As you pause in the center of the labyrinth, ask yourself, "How loving am I in these days of Lent?" "What is distracting me from walking in love every day?"

Take this awareness into your heart and commit to releasing what does not serve you or others. Linger in the center and open to God's Presence indwelling you.

***A Lenten Walk can begin by taking a stone from a basket at the entrance and carrying it with you to the Center where you leave it as a sign of what you're letting go.***

*Continued on the next page*

Continued from previous page — Labyrinth Quest



*An ancient Proto-Labyrinth carved in rock.*

In these turbulent times, staying joyful and hopeful are arduous tasks. Yet, these virtues are at the heart of our life in Christ.

The Lenten call to prayer, fasting, and giving offers opportunities to deepen our commitment to bring the Light of Christ to each day.

During Lent, our labyrinth walk helps to reignite this Light within in order to share it freely. **Lent offers us the opportunity to literally become centered once again in God.**

Your Labyrinth Walk is a journey to the center...where the sense of your Inner Light is renewed...and a journey back into the world...where that Light is needed.



*A temporary labyrinth created by students with shoes.*



**Food for People**

The Food Bank for Humboldt County

**Your Support Changes Lives.**

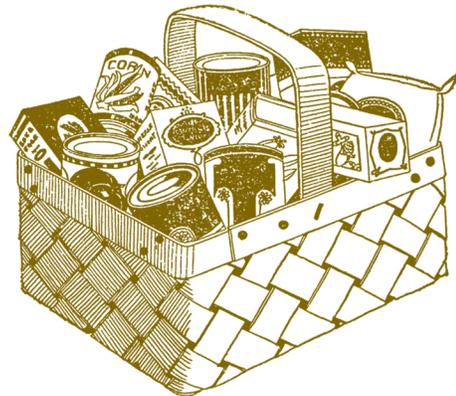
*Helpful hints for Holy Habits: 40 days of Lent, 40 cans of food!*

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry. This month we donated 87 lbs of nonperishable food to Food for People.

## LENTEN GIVING IDEAS

### MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Canned tuna/chicken/beans
- Canned tomatoes, tomato sauce/paste
- Easy-to-prepare foods: soups/stew/chili
- Pasta
- Rice
- Dried beans
- Nuts and nut butters
- Dried fruit
- Baking mixes
- Coffee
- Alternative milks (almond/oat milk)



**PLEASE NO GLASS OR HOMEMADE FOODS!**

**If you would like to donate funds,  
you can write a check to Christ Episcopal Church  
and mark the memo "Food for People."**

## FRESH PRODUCE SUNDAY FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S ON MARCH 15



Fresh Produce Sunday is March 15. Baskets will be placed at the back of the nave to collect donations of fresh produce which will be blessed and then taken to St. Vincent de Paul's dining facility on Monday morning. Thank you parishioners for remembering to help each month with your gifts of potatoes, carrots, apples, oranges, bananas, lettuce, onions, cabbage, kale, avocados, peaches, kiwis, and, and, and....

# Called to *Serve*

## LAY MINISTRY by Marty Vega



Ash Wednesday services have marked the beginning of the Season of Lent for us. In just 39 days later, we'll be celebrating Palm Sunday. Holy Week will be a busy and meaningful time as we transition from March into April with a special Tenebrae Service.

All of our Lay Ministries will take an active role in these upcoming celebrations. Your time and talents would truly enrich our fellowship and enhance our communal experience. Thank you for considering how you can contribute!

Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers	Royal McCarthy John Patton Kathy Clague	→707 498-1215 →707 448-4536 →kjc7001@humboldt.edu
Altar Guild		
Associates & Oblates of the Sisters of the Transfiguration	Stephanie Schultz	→707 498-1058
Child Care	Vickie Patton	→707 498-4538
Choir	David Powell	→davidbpowell@gmail.com
Christ Church Concert Series	Steve Cole	→707 845-4767 (text)
Coffee Hour 8 am	Peg Gardner	→707 443-9627
Coffee Hour 10:30 am	Lynne Bean	→707 822-6086
Contribution Counters	Francis Rivinius	→805 254-4055
Eucharistic Visitors	Elizabeth Harper-Lawson	→eaharperlawson@suddenlink.net
Green Team	Steven Preston	→213 304-3715
Labyrinth Walk Team	Kathryne DeLorme	→707 616-1721 or →labyrinthquest@gmx.com
Office Assistants	Church Office	→707 442-1797
Prayer Circle	Jannetje Vrieze	→jvdutchgirl@yahoo.com
Quilters +	Belinda Zander	→707 442-4222
Readers and Intercessors	Marty Vega	→707 273-8743
Stream Team	Perry Gray-Reneberg	→perryggr@gmail.com
Ushers and Greeters	Sharon Kalberer	→707 630-3100
	Ian Haynes	→ihaynes66@gmail.com
Welcome Bags	Belinda Zander	→707 442-4222
Youth Group Team	Robin Cardona	→707 267-5825 or robinacardona@gmail.com



## March Birthday Wishes

Watch over your children, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gigi Rivinus	3/01	Bev Olson	3/18
Julie Cairns	3/03	Jensen Lasell	3/20
Mary McNelis	3/03	Angus Stewart	3/22
Daniel London	3/06	Cate Dobson	3/24
Ann Carter	3/12	John Hendricks	3/28
Harry Wells	3/13	Jacqueline Moore	3/29
Lisa Bennett	3/15	Greg Bean	3/30
Gordon Carter	3/15	Stephanie Johnson	3/30
Katherine Clague	3/18	Lois Gossard	3/31
Heidi Erickson	3/18	Jim Hendry	3/31



### Happy Anniversary



O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church. Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Francis & Gigi Rivinus	3/04
Steve & Margaret Cole	3/15
Paul & Pam Gossard	3/17



Did we miss your special day? The staff apologizes for our time perception disorder with any omissions of birthdays and anniversaries. Send your special day information to:  
christchurcheureka@gmail.com  
We want to acknowledge and celebrate your special day next year!



## The March 2026 Cycle of Prayers

for our Diocese and the Anglican Communion

Please pray for the diocese, congregations, and clergy listed below on the Diocesan and Anglican cycles of prayer as well as those prayers requested by our Bishop, Dean and Diocesan Search & Transition Committees.

Every Sunday, the Diocesan Transition Committee requests that we pray for our bishop.

Every Sunday in March The Very Rev. K. Lesley McCloghrie, Dean of our Semper Virens Deanery, has asked us to pray for the people of St. Paul's, Crescent City

Intercessor: We pray for the congregations of our Deanery. This month, we pray for St. Paul's, Crescent City that as the St. Paul's family lives out their baptismal covenant with God, moving from blessing to blessing and Grace to Grace, they find ever-new ways to share God's Love with their community. Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.



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**March 1**

**DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Grass Valley  
The Rev. Seth Kellerman, Rector  
The Rev. Karen Hoida, Deacon

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai  
The Most Rev. David Eisho Uehara  
Primate of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai  
& Bishop of Okinawa

**March 8**

**DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Faith Episcopal Church, Cameron Park  
The Rev. Tom Gartin, Rector  
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Carmichael  
The Rev. Megan Anderson Gartin, Rector  
The Rev. Katie Holeman, Assistant

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East  
The Most Rev. Hosam Naoum  
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem  
& Primate of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem

**March 15**

**DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Cloverdale  
The Rev. Tim McDonald, Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev. Bob Scott, Deacon

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

The Anglican Church of Kenya  
The Most Rev. Jackson Ole Sapit  
Primate & Archbishop of All Kenya

**March 22**

**DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Susanville  
The Rev. David Cohen, Priest-in-Charge  
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Alturas  
The Rev. David Cohen, Priest-in-Charge

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

The Anglican Church of Korea  
The Most Rev. Onesimus Dongsin Park  
Bishop of Busan &  
Primate of the Anglican Church of Korea

**March 29**

**DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Auburn  
The Rev. Brian Rebholtz, Rector  
The Rev. Patty Park & the Rev. Bill Hefti, Deacons  
Grace Episcopal Church, Fairfield  
The Rev. Karen Freeman, Rector  
The Rev. Cookie Clark, Deacon

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

The Anglican Church of Melanesia  
The Most Rev. Leonard Dawea  
Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia  
& Bishop of Central Melanesia

**April 5**

**DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Grace Episcopal Church, St. Helena  
The Rev. Amy Denney Zuniga, Rector  
The Rev. Diana Deen, Deacon

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico  
The Most Rev. Enrique Trevino Cruz  
Primate of Mexico and Bishop of Cuernavaca

If you wish to offer prayers daily for the church in the world, our Anglican Cycle of Prayer has a daily list of diocese and clergy who would benefit from your prayer ministry. This list can be obtained via this website: <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer/download-the-acp.aspx>. If you do not have a computer, I would be glad to make a copy of the 2023-2026 Anglican Cycle of Prayer for you. Deacon Anne.

## Liturgical Calendar — March 2022

MARCH 18: PATRICK OF IRELAND, Bishop and Missionary, 461 Patrick was born into a Christian family somewhere on the northwest coast of Britain in about 390. His grandfather had been a Christian priest and his father, Calpornius, a deacon. Calpornius was an important official in the late Roman imperial government of Britain.

When Patrick was about sixteen, he was captured by a band of Irish slave-raiders. He was carried off to Ireland and forced to serve as a shepherd. When he was about twenty-one, he escaped and returned to Britain, where he was educated as a Christian. He tells us that he took holy orders as both priest and bishop, although no particular see is known as his at this time. A vision then called him to return to Ireland, and he did so around the year 431.

Tradition holds that Patrick landed not far from the place of his earlier captivity, near what is now known as Downpatrick (a “down” or “dun” is a fortified hill, the stronghold of a local Irish king). He then began a remarkable process of missionary conversion throughout the country that continued until his death, probably in 461. He made his appeal to the local kings and through them to their tribes. Christianizing the old pagan religion as he went, Patrick erected Christian churches over sites already regarded as sacred, had crosses carved on old druidic pillars, and put sacred wells and springs under the protection of Christian saints.

Two works are attributed to Patrick: an autobiographical Confession, in which he tells us, among other things, that he was criticized by his contemporaries for lack of learning, and a Letter to Coroticus, a British chieftain. The Lorica or St. Patrick’s Breastplate (“I bind unto myself today”) was probably not written by him, dating most probably from the 8th century rather than from the 5th, but it does express his faith and zeal.



PATRICK OF IRELAND  
*Bishop and Missionary, 461*

*Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018, pages 183-185*



### MARCH 19: ST. JOSEPH

In the face of circumstances that distressed even a man of such tenderness and obedience to God as Joseph, he accepted the vocation of protecting Mary and being a father to Jesus. He is honored in Christian tradition for the nurturing care and protection he provided for the infant Jesus and his mother in taking them to Egypt to escape Herod’s slaughter of the innocents, and in rearing him as a faithful Jew at Nazareth. The Gospel according to Matthew pictures Joseph as a man of deep devotion, open to mystical experiences, and as a man of compassion, who accepted his Godgiven responsibility with gentleness and humility.

Joseph was a pious Jew, a descendant of David, and a carpenter by trade. As Joseph the Carpenter, he is considered the patron saint of the working man, one who not only worked with his hands, but taught his trade to Jesus. The little that is told of him is a testimony to the trust in God which values simple everyday duties, and gives an example of a loving husband and father.

*Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2003, page 192*



# March 2026

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Office Hours • Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday—9 am to 1 pm

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SUN	M	T	W	Th	F	SAT
<p><b>The Second Sunday in Lent</b>            8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II            Adult Forum—9:15-10:15 AM            10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka">https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka</a>            5:00 PM—Youth Group</p> <p><b>JUST ONE CAN</b></p>		<p>Writers' Group            12:30 PM            Lewis Hall</p> <p>Centering Prayer            6:30 PM   Chapel</p>	<p>MORNING PRAYER            9 AM   Chapel</p>	<p>Bible Study:            Book of Acts            12:30 PM              Lewis Hall</p>	<p>Lectio Divina            Noon   Chapel</p>	<p>Altar Guild            10 AM</p>
<p><b>The Third Sunday in Lent</b>            8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II            Adult Forum—9:15-10:15 AM            10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka">https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka</a>            5:00 PM—Youth Group</p>		<p><b>Green Team</b>  <b>Pierson Room</b>  <b>5:15 pm</b></p> <p>Centering Prayer            6:30 PM   Chapel</p>	<p>HOLY EUCHARIST            9 AM   Chapel            Choir Rehearsal            5:30 PM            Heritage Room</p>	<p>Bible Study:            Book of Acts            12:30 PM              Lewis Hall</p>	<p>Lectio Divina            Noon   Chapel</p>	<p>Altar Guild            10 AM</p>
<p><b>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>            8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II            Adult Forum—9:15-10:15 AM            10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka">https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka</a>            5:00 PM—Youth Group</p> <p><b>FRESH PRODUCE SUNDAY</b></p>		<p>Writers' Group            12:30 PM            Pierson Room</p> <p>Thomas Merton            Redwoods 5:00 PM</p> <p>Centering Prayer            6:30 PM   Chapel</p>	<p>MORNING PRAYER            9 AM   Chapel            Quilters + Knitters            9:30 AM   Lewis Hall            Choir Rehearsal            5:30 PM            Heritage Room</p>	<p>Bible Study:            Book of Acts            12:30 PM              Lewis Hall</p>	<p>Lectio Divina            Noon   Chapel</p> <p>Labyrinth            Committee            4:00 PM   Lewis Hall</p>	<p>Altar Guild            10 AM</p> <p><b>Labyrinth</b>  <b>Walk Day</b>  <b>2-5 PM</b></p> <p><b>Heritage Room</b>            Vestry Orientation            2:00 PM   Pierson            Room</p>
<p><b>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>            8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II            Adult Forum—9:15-10:15 AM            10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka">https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka</a>            5:00 PM—Youth Group</p>		<p><b>Vestry 5:30 PM</b>  <b>Lewis Hall</b></p> <p>Centering Prayer            6:30 PM   Chapel</p>	<p>HOLY EUCHARIST            10 AM   Lewis Hall            Staff Meeting            10 AM   Lewis Hall            HOLY EUCHARIST            NOON   Chapel            Choir Rehearsal            5:30 PM            Heritage Room</p>	<p>Bible Study:            Book of Acts            12:30 PM              Lewis Hall</p>	<p>Lectio Divina            Noon   Chapel</p>	<p>Altar Guild            10 AM</p> <p>Palm Sunday            rehearsal            4 PM            Pizza &amp; Palms            5 PM   Lewis Hall</p>
<p><b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II</p> <p>10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka">https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka</a></p>		<p>Centering Prayer            6:30 PM   Chapel</p>	<p>HOLY EUCHARIST            9 AM   Chapel            Choir Rehearsal            5:30 PM            Heritage Room            Tenebrae            7 PM   Chapel</p>	<p><b>Mauandy 2</b>  <b>Thursday</b>            No Bible Study            Holy Eucharist            7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Good Friday 3</b>            Stations of the            Cross            Noon   Chapel            Stations of the            Cross Saunter            2 PM   Sequoia Park            Good Friday Liturgy            7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Holy Saturday 4</b>            Altar Guild            10 AM            Holy Saturday            Liturgy            11 AM   Chapel            Vigil rehearsal            1 PM            Great Vigil of Easter            7 PM</p>



The Right Reverend Megan M. Traquair  
Bishop  
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Daniel D. London - Rector  
The Very Rev. K. Lesley McCloghrie - Associate Priest  
The Rev. Jeri Gray-Reneberg - Associate Priest  
The Rev. Nancy Streufert - Associate Priest  
The Venerable Pam Gossard - Archdeacon  
The Rev. Anne Pierson - Deacon  
Robin Cardona - Youth Minister

Avery Alexander - Music Coordinator and Organist  
David B. Powell - Choir Director  
Dr. Douglas Moorehead - Organist Emeritus

Mike Robnett - Sexton  
Shirley Curtis - Administrative Assistant

## THE VESTRY

Merry Phillips, Senior Warden; Elizabeth Harper-Lawson, Junior Warden; Peg Gardner, Clerk;  
Francis Rivinus, Treasurer; The Venerable Pam Gossard, Rich Baker, Ian Haynes,  
Lyn Klay, Royal McCarthy, Steven Preston, Barbara Walser

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