

Christ Church

The Episcopal Church in Gardiner
Parish News

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Weekly Parish Calendar

Sunday, September 20

- 8:00 AM - Outdoor Worship (Communion)
- **10:00 AM** - Outdoor Worship (Communion) and Streamed on Facebook Live **Notice the new time!!!**
- 5:00 to 5:30 PM - Community Supper To-Go at Christ Church hosted by Gardiner Democrats
- 7:00 PM Vestry on Zoom

Wednesday, September 20

- 11:00 AM: Study of 1 Kings and Noontime Prayer

Christ Church Celebrates 200 Years



Join us on Sunday, October 18th for the
Bicentennial Celebration!
Outdoors at 2pm
Registration Information Coming Soon

Worship Time Change

In case you haven't noticed, we're still outdoors! It was a tad bit chilly on Sunday morning, but we're Mainers, right? Beginning this Sunday, we are moving the 9am service to 10am. 10:00 *might* be a little warmer, we hope, and the change will get us ready for moving indoors in late October when the second service will need to be at the traditional 10am time so that we can clean between services. The Facebook Live service will also move to 10am.

Bring your coat and blanket for the outdoor services and grab some hand warmers on your way in! And share the word about the time change with your friends!



Understanding Cultural Competency and Implicit Bias

Please join us online on Sunday evening, September 20th from 6pm to 7:30pm for an important event.

For a Greater Gardiner Community Conversation - "Understanding Cultural Competency and Implicit Bias"

The interactive session will be presented by Lindsay Gannon of Hart Consulting, a master trainer on the topic. Lindsay will be joined by panelists Gardiner Police Officer Sam Quintana and Gardiner resident Brittany Smith.

Greater Gardiner Community Conversations is an initiative led by community members in partnership with the City to help us all understand racism, inequities, and the impact on our central Maine communities.

Members include Gardiner Area Thrives Coalition, MSAD #11 representatives, City of Gardiner, Gardiner Police Department, Gardiner Public Library, Christ Church, Matt Bear-Fowler, Representative Thom Harnett, Mayor Patricia Hart, and several other residents.

This is the first in a series of educational activities and conversations that the committee will be organizing and promoting over the upcoming months.

Zoom Webinar ID: 882 6845 0473 and Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88268450473>

Did You Know? A Bit of History about Christ Church

Did you know we had the first Sunday School in the State of Maine?

During the time that The Rev. Gideon W. Olney (1817-1826) was Rector of St. Ann's/Christ Church, one important and lasting ministry was established in the Parish. The idea of starting a Sunday School was presented to Rev. Olney and quickly approved.

From "History of Christ Church Gardiner" by Evelyn L. Gilmore (page 136):

"Soon after Mr. Olney's settlement, one of the Parish brought from Newburyport an account of the Sunday School just established there; at the same time an article was read from the London Christian Observer stating the benefits resulting in England from the establishments of Sunday Schools. An interest in the subject was excited, and it was proposed that we should have one here, there being none in the neighborhood, and I believe in the state. Mr. Olney was consulted upon the subject, and he took it up warmly as to give notice the next Sunday that the school would be opened the following week, although no encouragement or preparation had been made for it, and the school then opened has been continued ever since with great benefit to the Parish, and, I trust, also to the Town, for, being for many years, the only Sunday School in the place, it embraced children from all the various denominations. At first the school was under the management of middle aged gentlemen, and a portion of Scripture was expounded one Sunday in which the children were examined on the succeeding by the instructors, and when Cumming's questions were published, they were introduced into the school, besides which the children were required to commit to memory portions of the Scriptures. Afterwards female instructors were introduced, and to their devoted labours much of the spiritual growth of the younger portion of the congregation must be attributed."

-Dorothy Washburne



Church Grounds Work Day:

Saturday, October 3rd from 9am to 12pm

Mark your calendars for this opportunity to spiff up the churchyard and gardens in preparation for our Bicentennial Celebration! Bring rakes, gloves, pruners and other gardening tools, if you have them. Bring a mask for times when you can't be physically distant from others. We'll order pizza when we are finished!

Rain Date: Sunday, Oct. 4 at 11am

The Parish Hall Is Getting a New Roof!

While we have been worshipping outdoors this summer in an effort to keep our community safe, attention to our beautiful and historic building has not diminished.

Over the past couple of years, we have observed roof leaks in a few locations in the newer building—the Parish Hall and other rooms that connect with the historic church. In order to prevent further damage and greater repair costs down the road, it is time to replace the roof. The Vestry has agreed to a contract with G & E Roofing to replace the two flat roofs in late October or early November. As you can imagine, this will be an expensive project. The projected cost for replacing the roofs and repairing any damage from moisture is about \$60,000. If you are financially able to contribute to the new roof, please consider making a donation. Thank you!

New Member Sunday

On Sunday October 11, at the 10am service outdoors, we'll welcome new members to the Christ Church community. If you have been attending Christ Church, either virtually or in-person, and would like to talk to Kerry about what it means to be a member of the community, please call or email.

207-624-1841 or kerry@christchurchgardiner.org

Wednesdays at 11am: Morning Prayer and Study of Kings

On the Wednesdays leading up to Advent, we'll gather through Zoom at 11am for a discussion of First and Second Kings and Noontime Prayer.

Upcoming Assignments (Psst...you don't have to read ahead to participate!)

9/23: 1Kings 9-11 (Solomon's Apex and Decline)

9/30: 1Kings 12-16 (History of the 2 Kingdoms)

10/07: 1Kings 17-19 (Elijah)

10/14: 1Kings 20-22 (Ahab)

Same link each week!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87295570348>

Meeting ID: 872 9557 0348

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,87295570348# US (New York)

Healing Prayers and Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee is available to offer healing prayers upon request through phone calls or Zoom. If you would like to arrange healing prayers in this way, please contact Ellen Ellis, ellenbobellis@aol.com, or Kerry, kerrymansir@christchurchgardiner.org, and they will schedule a convenient time with one of the Committee members.

Pastoral Care conversations are still possible, as well, over the phone or outdoors. Just contact Kerry to schedule.

Parishioner in Search of a Car

If you have a cheap but reliable car that you are hoping to sell, please reach out to Kerry at kerry@christchurchgardiner.org, and she will connect you with a parishioner who is looking to purchase such a car!

Note about Online Worship and Cancellations

Online worship on Facebook Live is moving to 10am as we prepare to go back to indoor worship in late October. Remember, you DO NOT need a Facebook account to access these live services. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Episcopal-Church-Gardiner-Maine-185946885872/>

Bulletins are emailed out on Saturdays and available on our website under the Worship tab. If you are worshipping with us online, here's a tip about sound, using earbuds or headphones can really increase the volume!

If we need to cancel Sunday morning worship outdoors, a message will be posted on our Facebook Page, website, and office voicemail. If weather does not permit outdoor worship, a service will still be streamed at 10am on Facebook Live.

Local Episcopal Churches Collaborating to Start *Sacred Ground* Groups

(from the Episcopal Church website) *Sacred Ground* is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

More information to come about registration. Zoom gatherings of the group will begin in late October.

Click here for an introduction to *Sacred Ground* by Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry.

<https://episcopalchurch.org/library/video/introducing-sacred-ground>

Online Giving - Thank you!

Our online donations have increased greatly - it always helps us to have a steady flow of income as we continue to carry out our mission, but especially during this time.

Thanks to those who have taken the leap!

As you consider what method of online giving to use, you may wish to know that there are no extra fees when your contributions are taken from your savings or checking accounts. All credit/debit cards charge us an additional fee ranging from 2% to 3%. This is not subtracted from your giving but is billed to the church. If you are able, you may add a bit in the box titled "help offset the processing fees."

If you would like to know more about giving electronically, email or call Becky in the office and she will be glad to answer questions.

Christ Church - A Community of Prayer

Parish Prayer List: Please pray for Liz Hall, Dan Stevens, Martha Tyler, Millie Foster, Carrie Stevens, Pat Larson, Pam Proctor, Carol Hedgpeth, Ashley, Shasta Beane, Patty Harvey, Dick Rines, Norma Layne, Matt Bear-Fowler, Charles Hicks, Jim Gill, Jeannie and Millie, Natalie Stillings, Jane Robertson.

Church Family and Friends on the Long-Term Parish Prayer List: Edie Weymouth, Jody & Ralph Clark, Marge Alexander, Joan Lane, Dorna Tracy, Jen Lagasse, Mary Fowler, Betty Walls, Vicky, Barbara Lamphire, Jeannie and David Douglass, Edna Brown, Jim and Anne Schmidt, Jack White, Christine Landes, Sarah, Jeff, Bob, George, Father Luckner, Lyndon Morgan, Dave Choate (friend of the Ellises), Kim Dunn (Rohnnie's daughter), Mary Vasquez, and Diana Lathrop.

For Those Who Have Died: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

For Those Who Mourn: *Most merciful God, surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come.*

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the congregations of St. Peter's, Bridgton; St. Ann's, Windham; and for all ministries of racial reconciliation and racial justice.

Prayer for people and all creation impacted by wildfires in the West

(Adapted from a United Church of Canada prayer for wildfires in British Columbia)

God of Creation,

We live in a world where both beauty and danger surround us.

Receive our prayers for those impacted by, and living in fear of, the wildfires across the western United States;

for all who cannot find adequate food, safety, or shelter...

for all who have lost their homes, churches, community centres, and workplaces...

for all your glorious natural Creation that has been destroyed and is in harm's way.

We pray and ask that you help heal the pain of all affected.

Strengthen with your presence all who are numb with fear and distress.

Guide those who anxiously search or wait for loved ones.
Be near those who are grieving, and bless them with your peace.
In the midst of disaster we give thanks for moments of generosity and human-kindness.
Grant tenderness, strength, and wisdom...
to doctors and nurses, police and military, fire-fighters and emergency responders;
to the wildlife conservationists and stewards of the earth;
to all who minister to human need in our time of distress.
We gather these prayers with the assurance that you already know our needs,
And are always with us. Amen.

Scripture Readings for This Sunday

The Collect

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind,

and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Response

Psalm 145:1-8

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Epistle

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the

gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Contact Information

Rector: Kerry R. Mansir: (207) 624-1841 or kerry@christchurchgardiner.org

Senior Warden: Hank McIntyre (207) 240-3264

Junior Warden: Ward Boudreau (207) 592-2869

Treasurer: Nate Rudy

Parish Administrator: Becky Colwell parish@christchurchgardiner.org

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