

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL HARWICH PORT

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Rector's Reflections for September 11, 2020

I have been spending a fair amount of time these last few days thinking about as a church, as a country and as individuals where we have been, where we are, and where we hope to go.

It is fairly easy to think about where we have been. Today, 9/11 I remember that awful day 19 years ago when we, who thought we were invincible, suffered a vicious terrorist attack. For many it was a surprise out of the blue. Why would anyone want to attack us? As the shock of seeing the twin towers fall (I had watched them being built years before from the end of my street), began to set in, like most people I felt worried and afraid. After all, we lived near Washington DC, a place terrorists saw as evil and certainly a target. When the Pentagon was hit my concern deepened, Mike was working in the State Dept.(not far from the Pentagon), would they be hit? He had also just retired from the Air Force and could be recalled, our son was in Navy ROTC, would they decide that he should go on active duty early, I had no idea what was happening with our daughter in classes at the high school. Some of that angst was alleviated when Mike made it home from DC, Beth got home and Pat assured me they were not going to call him up early. But during the days that followed I continued to ask myself why? The great majority of my fellow citizens had done nothing to provoke this. But then again, maybe we had to learn why we were so hated that people would sacrifice themselves to kill thousands. I am not sure we know all the reasons of the anger of the terrorists, but in the days following I learned how many people saw this as an act of a religion. All around DC Muslims were stopped, their cars searched, if you looked or dressed as a Muslim you had to be on your best behavior to not get arrested. As happened in the past the majority of those stopped were simply going about their business. Yes there were those of a nefarious nature but that was the minority.

Fast forward to today. For a while I believed we as a country had moved past some of the prejudices and racism toward those who looked, acted and worshipped in a way that did not fit our WASP paradigm. Sadly, I have learned that we have not. We see black Americans, Latino Americans, those who are not Christian, and any other host of those minorities who are marginalized in our society taking the brunt of the anger of society when things go wrong. In truth while we learned some we are a long way from being an open and free society where we accept people where they are in their journey.

So now the question is what can the church, large and small do to help us understand living in the Kingdom of God means tolerance, understanding, and a willingness to look at ourselves and ask how do we change our own prejudices.

To help us along in this I will be offering a program put forward by the Episcopal Church entitled Sacred Ground.

This program is a 10 session series on facing the reality of how racism has never gone away and how we, living into our baptismal vows can learn, grow and be agents of peace.(The 10 sessions are usually done every other week.) Below is a short synopsis of the program and a link to an introductory video. You may also google 'Sacred Ground Episcopal Church and read a more in-depth description. The instructions suggest groups be no larger than 14 people but if more people sign up we will figure out how to make it work.

I am hoping we can begin 27 September. While this is a Sunday we can meet anytime.

I am asking that you sign up so we can pass needed information on to participants.

As I said before, I am happy to offer, facilitate and lead times of study or provide materials for any other suggestions for growing in our faith. Please send me an email with your sign up for Sacred Ground or ideas for future programs.

May Our Lord continue to shower His blessings upon you.

Mother Donna

<https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/syllabus-preview>

WHAT IS THE SACRED GROUND RACE DIALOGUE SERIES?

- Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism.
- It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story.
- It holds as a guiding star the vision of beloved community – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.

HOW OFTEN DO WE MEET?

The frequency of sessions can be according to your group's needs. Recommended: Every two or three weeks (weekly would be too dense, monthly might be too infrequent).

WHAT IS IN THE CURRICULUM?

- A set of documentary films and short videos, available for free to registered dialogue groups via streaming in a password-protected area on this site;
- A set of readings, also available for free to registered dialogue groups as PDFs in a password-protected area on this site (Note: Participants will also need to acquire or borrow two assigned books);
- The Sacred Ground Study Guide, with suggestions for getting started, tips for facilitators, a session-by-session curriculum with reflections on key themes, and a religious resources section;
- Periodic webinars to support dialogue circle organizers and facilitators and to build a learning community.

From the Wardens

Each year I am acutely aware of the sorrowful and tragic attack on our soil that occurred on September 11, 2001. What got away from me this year is that it has been 19 years. The news has been so full of tragedy and loss from the pandemic and natural disasters. So I watched the ceremonies in New York and D.C. this morning and was transported back to that clear blue summer-like day when New York City became a holocaust. The procession of the flag, the faces of loved ones who lost a family member or friend, the playing of taps, the singing of our national anthem, the memorial pools with names etched into stone all reverberated in my heart and spirit. My daughter lived for five years just across from the south tower fountain. I was a frequent visitor there to put my hand on the name of a college classmate who died there 19 years ago. Of course I feel the sadness of this, our new memorial day, but I also feel a strong sense of pride in us, the citizens of this great country. I am thankful to be an American and I am more than ever determined to help us hold on to the values of the United States of America.

At our Vestry meeting this past Tuesday Elizabeth Salome offered a beautiful prayer from our Book of Common Prayer (p.820). I recommend it to you for your reflection, repeated reading and hope for the future.

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manner. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindred's and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there my be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Deborah Aylesworth, Warden)

Dear Parishioners,

The vestry has authorized us to let you know that our search for a treasurer and an assistant treasurer has not produced any volunteers for the work. Those who were approached were not able to help us. We are currently trying to reconfigure the tasks of the treasurer so that the job is less time consuming.

If anyone would like the job descriptions, please call either one of us for copies. It is our hope that two or three people will step up to provide these important stewardship leadership roles.

We have been highly blessed to have had Asa Decker and Vince Kraft give us so many years in their roles as treasurers. They have been an incredible team; so dedicated, responsible and caring of our financial resources and sensitive to our individual needs.

Blessings and love,

Deborah Aylesworth and Jane Romer, Wardens



ANNOUNCEMENTS



In a couple of weeks, I will be riding my bike 12 miles along the canal to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod in their annual fundraiser to support affordable housing here which is very badly needed. If anyone wishes to sponsor me, you will find a secure link below or you may send a check made out to Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod to my address: 51 Pine St., South Dennis, MA 02660. Thank you to several parishioners who have already contributed!

Here's the link:

<https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/jennifer-lutz-2/3rd-Annual-Ride-for-Homes>

Many Thanks

Jennifer Lutz



I ask your prayers for those in our parish who are ill or have requested our prayers.... Anna Andolina, Chris Axner, Ann Brown, Greg Meier, Jim Pappas, Melissa Rice, Ethan Salome, Nancy Truesdale, Jeffrey Wade, Kathleen Vogt . We pray for those who have lost their lives, homes, and towns in the California and Oregon wild fires. We ask for the protection of the fire fighters, first

responders, and all volunteers who are providing support. We remember those who lost their lives in lower Manhattan, Washington, D.C, and Shanksville, PA 19 years ago.



I ask your thanksgiving for those who have birthdays or anniversaries this week. Deborah Aylesworth (Sept. 14), Elizabeth Salome (Sept. 14), Karen Butler (Sept. 18).

DATES OF NOTE

Sept. 13, 2020 Morning Prayer in the memorial garden 10 am Please join us as we gather together for worship. Remember your masks and distancing. We did receive a request to keep the zoom link open for a bit so those on zoom may get to say hello. After the service please come down to the garden and greet out brothers and sisters who cannot be with us in person.

The Thrift Shop

Is alive and well and getting ready to gear up under the diocese and state protocols. But before we begin we are having a *parking lot* sale. **The date is Sept. 25** with a rain date of Sept 26. Please come by to see all those little (and big) things you have missed for the last few months.

Tentative start for Sacred Ground around Sept 27

For future planning

We are hoping at some point to be able to have communion outside. As you can imagine this will take a little more planning, but I am sure we will be able to join again in the Lord's Supper as long as we follow the protocols. Stay tuned for messages from the regathering committee about this.

Feast of St. Francis

With the challenges of COVID sometimes we forget how important our furry, feathered and even finned companions are. Mother Donna will be consulting with the regathering committee to see if we can arrange to include them in our celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. Stay tuned.

Finally, Mother Donna asks your indulgence with this newsletter. She stepped in to create this and the bulletin this week. It has been a long time since she has done this so please forgive any small errors. Thank you

Christ Church Staff

The Rev. Donna Foughty, Rector
Maggie Ribb, Minister of Music
Cristalyn Searles, Parish Administrator
Todd Woolley, Sexton
Associated Clergy: The Rev. Sue Lederhouse,
The Rev. Darwin L. Price,
The Rev. Stephen Shuart

Vestry

Deborah Aylesworth, Jane Romer, Wardens;
Asa Decker, Treasurer; Vince Kraft, Assistant Treasurer;
Bob Lawton, Clerk;
Members: Bob Axner, Karen Butler, Beau Coursen,
Mary Ellen Eichmann, Bill Lutz,
Elizabeth Salomé, Bill Walsman

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Christ Church Mission Statement:

Our mission at Christ Church is to invite all people to celebrate with us in our worship and service of God, so that together we may make Christ's love known in our world