



# Cross Current

November 2025

## Mother Esme's Notes for November

### CHRIST THE KING



Dear friends,

I know most of you remember that George Benson Song from the 1970's, *Everything Must Change?*\* It was poignant then, and still is for me, every time I hear it, especially in this year of 2025, and most especially as we prepare to acknowledge Christ as the King during November. This King came into His kingdom somewhere around 6 and 4 BC and has been revered as King ever since.

The words of the song can touch our hearts in ways that we don't always like to acknowledge. Change, after all, isn't easy, whether we are faced with it as some significant part of our private lives or whether it is thrust upon a population by the world's current leaders.

Whether change is for the better or worse, it takes some kind of adjustment, some kind of required movement from us. If we don't accept the invitation to change, it is highly likely change will occur without our permission, anyway.

Change can come suddenly, out of nowhere without warning, leaving us flattened and confused, unsure of what direction we are to take next. On the other hand, sometimes change creeps up on us, giving us all the warning in the world, yet we fail to heed it and when the change actually occurs, there we are again, flat on the floor. Neither of these seem to make sense in our times because we really thought we were paying closer attention to all the rapid changes in our world. We just have to open our news feed every day to experience yet another change. So, we either feel we're getting very good at it or, like it or not, feel we have no choice but to acknowledge it for better or worse. Sometimes we become so buffeted by the rapidity of change in our times, that sadly the only defense it seems, is to stand by the familiar and ignore any change raging great, small, near or far, all around us.

None of us are immune, no matter who we are or where and how we live in the world. None of us are spared, whether facing change alone, or within the seeming changelessness of institutions, beliefs or ways of viewing the world. Change isn't just a part of living. Rather, it is life itself. For nothing, so tells the song, goes unchanged.

Except Love.

Except Good Will. Kindness. Grace. Mercy and Forgiveness of self and of others. All the good parts of living. All the God parts. The parts that make up God.

God never changes. And, because God never changes, all the God parts stay changeless underneath all the worldly parts like war, hunger, oppression and countless other human conditions that force change we'd rather be without.

Knowing this, we could listen to the words of that old song in a new way. I know it just wouldn't have gone platinum if the words were something like "everything must change on the surface, but underneath God's love stays the same."

## Mother Esme's Notes for November *continued*

Yes, even I know that change wouldn't have sold records!

But it's ok. I know that the song can reflect life as we Christians know it. When love is part of change, then we grow and change with it. It allows space for forgiveness, for understanding, acceptance of the other, non-judgment and joyous appreciation for all God's gifts that continue to change and grow even in their seeming unchangelessness.

To sort of illustrate the point, I'm sharing a photograph taken outside Westminster Abbey years ago. It was Remembrance Sunday, and the crowds gathered to watch 10,000 veterans from two World Wars and more, march along the streets leading from the Cenotaph, past Westminster, amid a sea of poppies. Those poppies represented change for millions of people worldwide, in deep and painful ways, as well as in honorable and noble ways. Standing there, with the crowds, clapping as the aging veterans and young soldiers alike marched by, some in wheelchairs, some with walking sticks, some still walking tall, I was acutely aware of the changelessness of love throughout all the change the world can sling at us. The people around me wore their poppies and they clapped their hands in honor of the price we pay in the name of love and honor. Today, you can find Gloucester Cathedral via the internet and enjoy their amazing poppy light show as an acknowledgment of all those who fought through pain and loss in the name of love and sacrifice,\*\* and viewing that message I am as moved today as I was when this photograph was taken. It is a new way of honoring love and sacrifice.

In November, we gather to honor another who sacrificed Himself for love and honor as far back as AD 33. On November 23, 2025, the last Sunday after Pentecost, we will come together to worship the one we have called King since that time, and who we continue to call King. Christ the King. There have been and will be plenty of earthly people who rightly or wrongly pronounce themselves as king of some particular realm. We give thanks that some of them, the ones who understand the need for love, mercy, compassion, sacrifice, honor and love, still get on their knees and pray to Christ for God's guidance.

We journey together,

Mother Esme+

*"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."*

*Malachi 3:6*



## Mother Esme's Notes for November *continued*

### Everything Must Change Sung by George Benson *Written by Benard Ighner*

Everything must change  
Nothing stays the same  
Everyone will change  
No one stays the same

The young become the old  
And mysteries do unfold  
'Cause that's the way of time  
Nothing and no one goes unchanged

There are not many things in live  
You can be sure of, except  
Rain comes from the clouds  
Sun lights up the sky  
And hummingbirds do fly

Winter turns to spring  
A wounded heart will heal  
But never much too soon  
Yes everything must change

The young become the old  
And mysteries do unfold  
'Cause that's the way of time  
Nothing and no one goes unchanged

There are not many things in life  
You can be sure of, except  
*(Here come the God parts)*

Except, (rain comes from the clouds)  
(Sun lights up the sky)  
(And hummingbirds do fly)  
(Rain comes from the clouds)  
(Sun lights up the sky) Ooh

(And hummingbirds do fly) Hummingbirds do fly  
Um rain comes from the clouds (Rain comes from the clouds)  
And sun lights up the sky (Sun lights up the sky))  
I know sun (Sun lights up the sky)  
And music makes me cry

## ***From the Senior Warden***



During Mother Esme's convalescence from hip replacement surgery, we have refreshed our experience of the Morning Prayer service. Her special take on this theme has been that we sample three versions of this service. Each one clearly the Anglican service of Morning Prayer, but each one also different from the others.

The three countries were England, Australia and New Zealand. Can you identify which logo goes with which country? Hint #1: C of E for Church of England. Hint #2: the country is known for its beautiful coastlines and mountains. Hint #3: the church shield echoes the country's flag colors and stars (but these are shared by the second country too).



Some church members have re-discovered how satisfying the service of Morning Prayer can be. Let's find other opportunities, (not requiring Mother Esme's surgery!) to bring MP into Christ Church St. Helens from time to time.

My thanks to Carol Craig, David Cook for leading, to Pamala Clarke, Jim Fowler, and Peggy Rolf for reading, and Pam Vetsch and Cindi Caruso for intercessing.



We wish safe travels and happy nesting to Susan Wellington who departed on 22 October together with Poppy for the sunny California desert. There she will settle into a new RV with family nearby. Some of you may have noticed the for-sale sign posted at her house in St. Helens. Yes, she is selling, but she plans to return to us when the sunshine also returns. You'll notice in the new Directory her address in Milwaukie, where she has already moved in. Commuting to Christ Church, St Helens hasn't fazed her and Poppy!

Our new communications expert, Hayley Mays, is taking on Susan's work in the church office. Our thanks to them both.

*Rebecca Fowler*  
*Senior Warden*



***St. Francis Day  
Blessing of the Animals***

On Sunday October 5th, some critters came to church to receive a blessing from our Guest Priest Marianne Allison in honor of St. Francis. In addition to the in-person animals, many parishioners brought photos of their critter in order to receive a blessing. Everyone was well behaved... including our beloved parish mascot Poppy.



## Mikey the Tortoise



## Alfredo the Kitten



## Poppy the Corgi



## ***Holiday Hope for Teens Giving Tree***

Christ Church will once again participate in the Daybreaker Kiwanis Holiday Hope for Teens giving tree program. On the tree are ornaments with holiday requests for at-risk (often unhoused) youth in our community.



Monica Cade from Daybreaker Kiwanis said that Christ Church has been so generous in their giving in past years and is thankful that we are willing to participate again.

The giving tree will be set up starting Sunday November 9. So please grab a tag or two and return the UNWRAPPED gifts to the tree by December 7th.

## ***Christmas Flowers***

There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall to donate money for Christmas flowers. You can add if the donation will be in memory or honor of someone. Envelopes are available with the signup sheet as well as in the pews.

[illegible]

## Arts & Crafts Faire November 8th



**Come join us at our 51<sup>st</sup> Annual**  
**Arts & Crafts**  
**Faire**

**Saturday November 8**  
**9 am to 4 pm**

At  
**Christ Episcopal Church**  
35350 E. Division Road (off Hwy 30), St. Helens

*Featuring unique handcrafted items:*

- Wood Art
- Wire-wrap gemstone and glass bead Jewelry
- Lavender Products for home, bath, beauty
- Quilted Artwork

- Pottery
- Cards and Paper Creations
- Watercolor Designs
- Decorative Crafts
- And Much More!

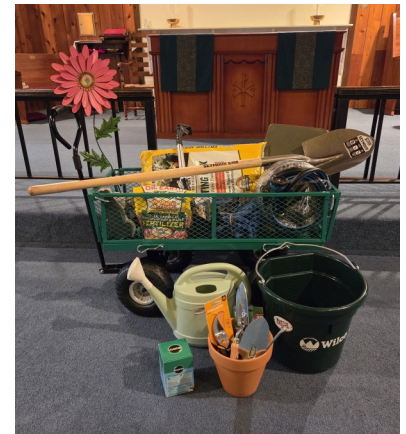
Enjoy a bowl of soup or chili or a piece of pie and browse the bake table while you shop: cookies, pies, breads and more! There will be a wonderful raffle basket too!



Our 51st Annual Arts & Crafts Faire will be held on Saturday November 8 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Please consider baking something to sell at the bake table or make soup or chili to sell in our “Café”.

This year we have a wonderful Themed Raffle “Basket” - Home Gardening. If there is a gardener in your life or you are the gardener, take a chance and buy a raffle ticket at our Arts & Crafts Faire. The drawing will be held at the fair at 4 pm. Thank you to all who donated to make this raffle basket so wonderful.



Home Gardening Raffle “Basket”



### *...From the Treasurer*

#### Financial Facts—September 2025

	September Actual	2025 YTD Actual	2025 YTD Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions*	\$4,632.00	\$95,833.76	\$70,106.25
Other Income	\$29.00	\$913.87	\$1,875.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,661.00</b>	<b>\$96,747.63</b>	<b>\$71,981.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,163.72</b>	<b>\$74,845.34</b>	<b>\$77,871.75</b>
<b>Net (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$2,502.72)</b>	<b>\$21,902.29</b>	<b>(\$5,890.50)</b>

Thank you to everyone for keeping your pledges current . You can always mail your pledge to: Christ Church, PO BOX 478, St. Helens, OR 97051

\* Contributions include Regular Pledge and Musician Pledge payments and Plate offerings.

## ***Community Meals Donation for November***

Thank you for contributing to the staples and non perishables used by Community Meals. Our donation for November is paper plates.



Please leave it in the bin in the Narthex.

*Kathryn Brittain*

## ***Thanksgiving Day Short Service***

There will be a short Thanksgiving Day Service on Thursday November 27 at 10 am.

## ***Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service***

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be Sunday November 23rd at 3 pm at St. Frederic Catholic Church. 175 S 13th St, St. Helens

## **United Thank Offering Ingathering Sunday November 9**



Remember to bring your blue UTO boxes to church on Sunday November 9 where we will be collecting them to send in to UTO.

For more information about United Thank Offering visit <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>

## ***Coffee Hour Hosts Needed***

Some people joke that, in the Episcopal Church, Coffee Hour is the 8th Sacrament. All jokes aside, it is a wonderful time to connect with fellow parishioners over a cup of coffee and meet new people that have just walked in the door.

Please consider signing up to host coffee hour after the service on a Sunday. It can be as elaborate as you want—from a simple plate of cookies to a cheese and cracker plate and beyond. Grab a friend and sign up to host one together.



The signup sheet is on the bulletin board by the kitchen. For more information, contact June Dodson. Thank you to all who are answering the call to host.





## Stewardship Lunch

### November 16

Please stay after church on November 16 for the Stewardship Lunch hosted by the Bishop's Advisory Committee.

**We've all heard that Stewardship means that you give a portion of your Time, Talent and Treasure. Christ Church has many ways that you can give of your time and talent:**

- Host a coffee hour
- Become a Lector
- Become an Usher or Greeter
- On outside cleanup days, come help.
- Water the garden, as needed in the summer time
- Attend learning events
- Help out on our various events
- And many more opportunities...just ask.

Find the various sign-up sheets in the Narthex or Parish Hall.

It is a great way to get to know the members of the congregation!



## Calendar



For the most up-to-date calendar of events, please see the website: [StHelensChristChurch.org](http://StHelensChristChurch.org)

**Sunday Services** - Eucharist—Sundays 10 am

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**—First Saturday of the month at Warren Country Inn 9 am.

**Prayer Shawl Group**—2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm

**51st Annual Arts & Crafts Faire**— Saturday November 8th 9 am to 4 pm

**All Saints and All Souls Day observed**— at our service on Sunday November 2nd.

**United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering**—Sunday November 9th—Bring your Blue UTO Boxes to church.

**Stewardship Lunch** —Sunday November 16th at 11:30 am after the service

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**—Sunday November 23 at 1 pm at St. Frederic Catholic Church, 175 S 13th St, St. Helens.

**Thanksgiving Day Short Service**—Thursday November 27 at 10 am

**Giving Tree Donations** - Due by December 7

## Prayer Requests

Send requests to Kathryn Brittain by email at [kathjbritt@gmail.com](mailto:kathjbritt@gmail.com) or phone 503-438-5908.

## Christ Church Contact Information

Our Website is: [www.sthelenschristchurch.org](http://www.sthelenschristchurch.org)

Email: [office@StHelensChristChurch.org](mailto:office@StHelensChristChurch.org)

Phone: (503) 397-1033

Search Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church

Mother Esme's email:

[MotherEsme@StHelensChristChurch.org](mailto:MotherEsme@StHelensChristChurch.org)



To receive the "Cross Current" newsletter via email rather than printed or "snail mail" email us to be put on the list.





# Cross Current

November 2025

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands!  
Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!  
  
Know that the LORD is God!  
It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him, bless his name!  
  
For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

*Psalms 100:1-5*



**Christ Episcopal Church** 35350 E. Division Road, St. Helens, OR 97051  
(503) 397-1033

find us on 



Christ Episcopal Church  
PO Box 478  
St. Helens, OR 97051

Home of:



THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



welcomes you