



The Circuit Rider

Salmon Creek Church



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a note from Pastor John



At last! By the time you are reading this, 2020 will be over. Or, at least, I certainly hope so. I'm writing this a week before the end of the year and, since it was 2020, I'm thinking anything could happen! Seriously, wishing for better days is as human as, well, being human, and it's tempting to just write off 2020 as this difficult, frightening year that we hope we never repeat.

Here is an excerpt from Psalm 80:

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see;

have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

**They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish
at the rebuke of your countenance.**

**But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom
you made strong for yourself.**

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Like the ancient Israelites exiled in Babylon, we look to God to restore us, to make us whole, to heal us. And when God does, in fact, restore them, they celebrate with a renewed interest in God's Laws, and they rebuild what becomes known as the Second Temple. God restores the people, the people restore God, and harmony is restored.

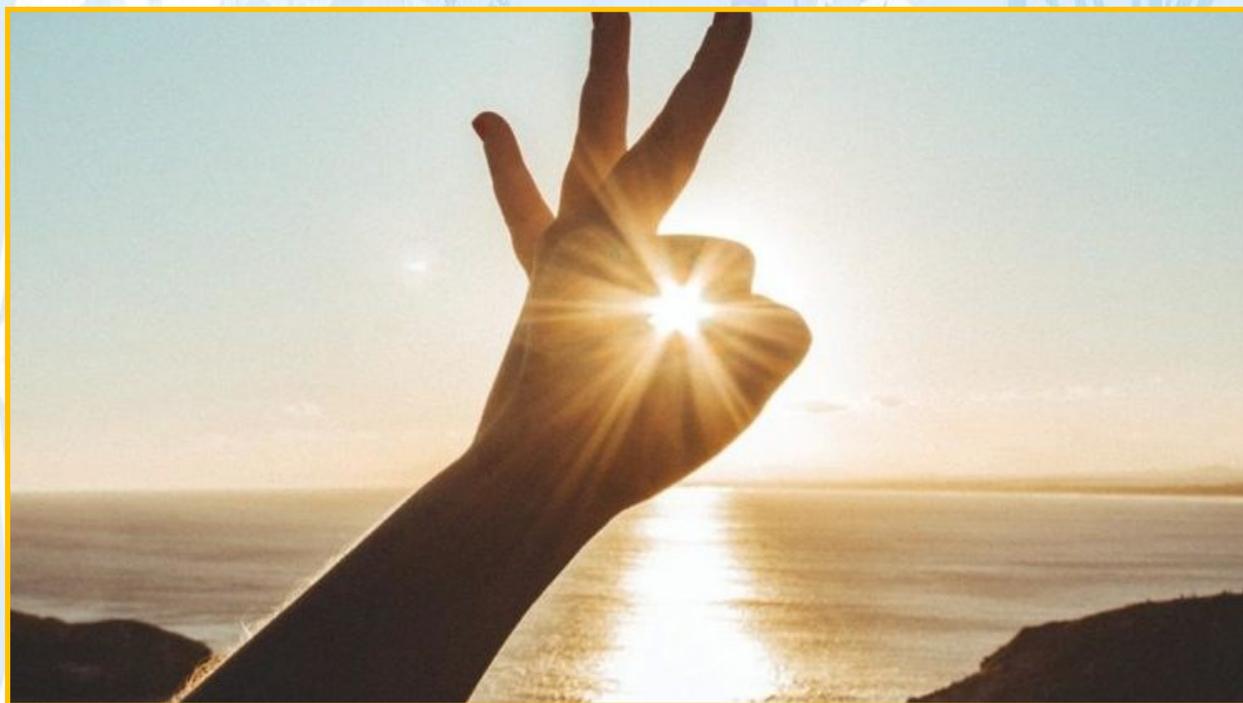
This is an important lesson for us to remember. In whatever timeframe we find ourselves restored, let us remember to thank God by restoring God in our lives. Life at Salmon Creek could become a sort of Second Temple period born from our gratitude to God. When the Exiles returned, they did so with renewed energy and a desire to be a more faithful people of God. As Easter nears, and we find our community being restored, let's bring the same attitude of thanks for all that God has done for us. If 2020 will be remembered as the Year of the Virus, let's make sure 2021 will be remembered as the Year of God.

Blessings,

Pastor John

What's Coming in January?

As of this writing, Covid cases are falling in Clark County, and I hope and pray they continue to do so. We will have Livestream only services on December 27 and January 3, then we will reevaluate our ability to hold limited in-person services. Just to remind you, Governor Inslee's restrictions still allow religious organizations to meet in person up to 25% capacity of the meeting hall, meaning we could potentially meet with 125 people in the FMC. Realistically, 50 people is probably a reasonable upper limit to ensure good spacing, both during the service and while we enter and exit the building. As has been the case throughout this pandemic, a leadership team is involved in decisions that try to balance our desire to meet in person with our ability to maintain a safe worship space. Hang in there, and please remember that things will not suddenly "return to normal." Instead, we are more likely going to "evolve to new-normal" throughout the winter. The ride's not over, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. **Oh, wait! For the People of Christ, there is always a light!**



Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16



Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It occurs on **January 6** every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word *epiphania*, means appearance or manifestation. The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as Advent developed as a season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike look forward to Día de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration. Attending church services that include the celebration of communion is also common in many of these cultures, even for those who may not attend worship regularly.

In England and some other European cultures, January 5th is known as Twelfth Night, the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas feasting and partying. On Twelfth Night, many families gather in homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing and gifts. It is at these Twelfth Night celebrations that "Chalking the Door," asking God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live there, is most often observed.

In New Orleans, Twelfth Night begins another season of celebrations that comes to fulfillment at Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday). Epiphany itself, January 6, becomes the kickoff day for that season, but is also often observed with a full celebration in church, complete with incense, elaborate processions, choral celebrations, and Eucharist.

Some United Methodists in the United States, who are not part of these rich traditions, tend to recognize Epiphany on the Sunday nearest January 6. There may be a pageant of the three kings as part of worship that day and a small party afterward.

In celebrating Epiphany this year, consider partnering with a Hispanic, Latino or other congregation to find new ways to joyously celebrate Epiphany/Tres Reyes. In whatever ways you decide to celebrate it, remember at the heart of your celebration are the Magi kneeling, worshipping and offering gifts to Jesus, Messiah for all people.

A POEM TO THE TRUSTEES
BY STEVE AND GAY ENYEART



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the church
Not a creature was stirring, not even a Trustee;
The lights had been hung all during the year,
In hopes that the light bill we all could cheer;
The irises were nestled all snug in their beds,
While Richard had visions of Spring's new buds.
There was Rich and Jim Painting overhead,
with walls a-shining in the Narthex and St. Paul.

When FEDEX was KO'd by our overhang and insurance they did pay,
Richard, Jim and Larry sprang to repair to save the day.

Away to the Sanctuary many came like a flash,
To clean, paint and refresh while COVID be dashed.
The ceilings were high for Steve and Jim or so we said
But undaunted we renewed the lights and beams overhead,
There was Richard, Ron, Jim, and Greg a-painting,
While trying not to trip on the bolts in the floor laying.
There were hammers and saws to remake the Altar,
and those making perfect of the plans to alter.
Finally, carpets were laid and all looked anew,
with *Pay It Forward* funds to make renew.

As weather changed and piles of leaves did fall,
Another task to be completed before rest for us all.
Then the rooftop furnace waited for winter to fail,
Hopefully to be replaced before there is a gale.
Now, Richard! Now James! Now Rich! And Nelson!

On, Jim! On Lila! On Larry! And Ron!
To the top of the ceilings! To the tops of the walls!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!

So, I sing the praise of the Trustees all,
Such a group has made the church stand tall.
Enjoy your Christmas season, well deserved!
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!

Many thanks to all for the help this year!
Steve and Gay Enyeart



“Sunday Servants” Small Group Celebrates Christmas the 2020 Way!

2020 didn't stop the “Sunday Servants” small group from celebrating Christmas in a “new old fashioned way”. Members Betty and Jim Selby, Gay and Steve Enyeart, Laurie and Ron Doering, Kay and Bob Cooke, Lynn and Dan Kingsley, Ed and Diane Grubel, Sally and Jerry DuPree celebrated Christmas via Zoom! Members participated in the 1st Great Christmas Casserole Decorating Championship, all members making Football Casserole and decorating the casserole with a Christmas theme. Ed and Diane Grubel won with their Santa and his sleigh. All the decorations were amazing and everyone was a winner, receiving a treat of Christmas Cookies. Following voting, the group shared in dinner, conversation and making merry. Dinner was followed by entertainment provided by Diane reading “The Night Before Christmas”, followed by Laurie sharing “A Great Christmas Tea”. The evening ended with the group sharing their prayers for family, friends, our nation and our world. A Christmas party to remember, 2020 style.

We were so happy to have Linda Garrison join us on our “Night before Christmas Eve” where we shared Christmas memories of years gone by.

1st Row: Betty Selby and Jerry Dupree, Diane Grubel and her childhood book from her Grandparents, Ron & Laurie Doering

2nd Row: Gay & Steve Enyeart, Sally Dupree, Ed & Diane Grubel

3rd Row: Betty Selby, Kay & Bob Cooke, Dan Kingsley & Jim Selby



1st Great Christmas Casserole Decorating Championship, all members making Football Casserole and decorating the casserole with a Christmas theme.



Snowman by Bob and Kay Cooke



Snow Globe by Jerry and Sally Dupree



Christmas Wreath by Dan and Lynn Kingsley



The winner!
Ed and Diane Grubel



Snowman decorating the Christmas Tree
Gay and Steve Enyeart



Poinsettia by Jim and Betty Selby

Dear friends and family,

Our experiences this Christmas will no doubt be very different.

It makes me think that the very first Christmas must have been, in addition to the wonder of it all, an unusual and life-changing experience for many people.

We wish you a joyful and wonderful Christmas in whatever way you may celebrate the gift of Jesus - as it was then and is now as we enjoy His presence in our lives.

Our card is below.

Much love,
Larry and Jane Kies

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2. Steve Erkkila
9. Pam Copeland
11. Phyllis Browning
11. Muriel Buriff
11. Greg Hazen
11. Barbara Sime
12. Gay Enyeart
12. Hannah Hawn
13. Cathy Gerber
14. Dannielle Tognetti
18. Hannah Bachman
19. Amanda Koeltzow
21. Pam Roberts
22. Caroline Wisegarver
24. Sue Richard
25. Ken Heup
26. Bob Gebhart
28. Jack Childers
30. Mikala Williams
30. Anna Yotsuuye

**Happy Birthday,
Brothers and Sisters!!**

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**NON-PROFIT
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PERMIT #610
VANCOUVER, WA**



2020



2021

Thank you for reading the Circuit Rider! If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

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Submissions for the Circuit Rider can be sent to circuitrider@salmoncreek.church. Articles and announcements are due by midnight on the third Sunday of each month.

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