



## News from Christ Church September 22, 2021

Dear friends,

Today is the Feast of Jonah, a minor feast in itself but a major favorite of mine. If the only thing you can recall of his story is the whale, go read the whole thing through again (it's only four chapters long.) What we miss about Jonah when we hear it with our very pious churchy ears is that this is a *satire* -- we're meant to laugh. Really. Go enjoy.

The feast of Jonah aligns with the autumnal equinox, an occasion as ancient as time itself, and you can see why Jonah was chosen as our representative of this event. Jonah, while a funny story, features deathly serious archetypes and allegories. A comic art form can be a powerful vehicle for theological meaning. After today, the darkness slowly begins to win out over the light; we begin to step into the mouth of the whale. The earth turns toward death, and so do we. We turn inward, retreating into our homes and into our selves for the three long days where we wonder: will the light ever return? Will our harvest sustain us? Will our memories of life be enough? And of course we ask these questions on levels deeper than the literal.

Long before the ubiquitous memes captioned "Winter is coming," we had Jonah posted at the equinox as both a warning and a promise. Hold onto the light, folks, as we make our descent.

faithfully,

Amber

[rector@christchurch.org](mailto:rector@christchurch.org)

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### **This Sunday**

- We are returning to full singing in both services and choir at the 11:00.
- Did you miss registering your child for Sunday school? It's not too late. Classes begin this week at 10:10 a.m.!

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### **Book club**

*Fourth Wednesdays of the month, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall*

Our next gathering is tonight! We'll chat about Francis Spufford's *Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense*. Bring your own beverage and snack.

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### **Blessing of the animals**

*Sunday, October 3rd at 5:00 p.m.*

Bring your beloved pets to receive a blessing at this service on the lawn. We will have Holy Eucharist, hear a special St. Francis' Day homily, and pray for all God's creatures.

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### **Evening prayer on Zoom**

*Wednesdays, 7:00 - 7:30 pm*

Join us this evening. [Click here for link](#). If you are interested in leading the service or reading the lessons, please [email Charlotte Trott](#).

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### **Community Breakfast**

*Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.*

Christ Church continues to serve a free breakfast to anyone who wants or needs it. If you are interested in learning more, or in helping to prepare or serve, [contact Liz Houlton](#).

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*getting ready for sweater weather*

**THRIFT SHOP**  
*open Saturdays*  
*9:30am to noon for*  
*shopping & donations*



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### **Feed your family and support your church**

You can purchase ShopRite or Price Chopper gift cards every Sunday immediately following worship, or stop by the parish office during business hours Monday through Friday. At no cost to you, Christ Church earns a percentage that goes to supporting church programs.

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### **Sunday service guidelines**

Communion is served in one kind, bread only. As always, receiving communion is optional to the person. Masks are recommended for all. Distance is at one's own discretion, but do continue to be mindful of your neighbor's needs. The 9:00 a.m. service is live-streamed to the parish hall for those who would like to remain masked and distanced; alert an usher to have the priest bring communion to the room.

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**Vestry:** Matthew Mumford, Senior Warden; Bill O'Keefe, Junior Warden  
Elena Chavez Carey, Billie Gallo, Linda Garcia, Judy Girod, Sharon Kelly, Steve Laico, Chris Loftus,  
Charlotte Trott, Diana Van Fossen, Louise Schultz (Treasurer)

[Website](#)

[About](#)

*Sundays at Christ Church*

**9:00 a.m.** - Holy Eucharist, in-person and  
livestreamed to Vimeo and the Parish Hall

**10:00 a.m.** - Coffee hour in the Parish Hall  
and on the lawn

**10:10 a.m.** - Sunday school for kids & youth

**11:00 a.m.** - Holy Eucharist, in-person

**5:00 p.m.** - Holy Eucharist on the lawn



Check our weekly  
sermons Podcast here!