

The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

April 2016

From Fr. John:

Why we do what we do: Anglican customs in worship

As part of the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church's liturgy and worship practices are related to those of the earliest, undivided Christian Church. In the 16th century C.E., Henry the VIII was Pope Leo X's Defender of the Faith, so named for his opposition to Luther in particular and to the Protestant Reform generally. Henry famously severed our communion with the Roman Catholic Church and then his daughter, Mary I, brought the English church back into communion with Rome. By the time Elizabeth I had come to throne and established the Elizabethan Settlement, the Anglican church had already been influenced by Reformation ideas and Orthodox theology.

These influences continued to pull at Anglicanism through the 17th c. until matters of doctrine, liturgical practice and church organization began to lose relative importance. In the 18th c., the Oxford Movement responded by seeking to restore some of the earlier practices of the church, referring to the Anglican Church as the third branch of Catholicism along with the Roman Catholics and Orthodox Catholics. Most of these restorations were captured in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Consequently, when an Episcopal Church is at its best, people display and encounter a tremendous tolerance of other views on religious matters gathered in a set of liturgical practices that reach back to antiquity.

In practical terms, Episcopalians maintain some liturgical customs and mannerisms without insisting that everyone assign them the same meaning. When we enter the church, for example, it is customary—but not required—to genuflect (touch the right knee to the floor) or bow (also called “reverencing”) before entering the pew, as a silent acknowledgement of God's presence. Similarly, Episcopalians tend to reverence the altar before crossing in front of it as a sign of respect for God's activity at that table, and the cross as it passes as a similar silent acknowledgement.

At one point in Anglican history, English law required every head to bow at the phrase “Jesus Christ our Lord” in liturgy, and while this is, of course, no longer a point of law for us, many people still bow at the name of Jesus as an indication of reverence. Bowing during the reference to the incarnation in the Creed indicates, for many of those who do it, reverence for the mystery and gift of the Word made Flesh.

(continued on page two)

(continued from page one)

We commend keeping silence in the nave as a sign of respect for each other's prayer and preparation for worship, as well as a way to begin listening for the voice of God, whose first language is silence. The instructions of the Book of Common Prayer help the congregation to worship as a body, rather than an audience watching the clergy "perform" liturgy. The BCP offers guidance in the form of rubrics that help the congregation to worship together, but when in doubt, the old formula—kneel for prayer, sit for instruction, stand for praise—is still reasonably accurate.

If you are new to the Episcopal Church, there are some customs that may be particularly unfamiliar, such as crossing oneself at the beginning of the Gospel proclamation. Making the sign of the cross is a part of the earliest church and you will see many people use a form based on one of the most ancient forms of crossing one's self. We use the right thumb to trace a cross on the forehead, on the lips and over the heart as a preparation to receive the Word of God into our minds, our speaking and our hearts. Many people also cross themselves at the priest's blessing as a way to receive God's blessing with a physical silent prayer of movement or as a way to almost tattoo the blessing onto one's self! We greet each other at the Peace not as a way to say "Hi, how are you?" but as an unspoken expression of our desire to be one in Christ—to forgive and ask forgiveness for any faults or slights without speaking them.

I am happy to answer questions about these and other customs and mannerisms, or other aspects of our church-life together. I offer these in the hopes that, if you do not use them, you might try them and find that they enrich your worship experience. And if you do use them, my hope is that perhaps further insights may enhance your experience as well! Please do let me know if there are other topics you would like to see about why we do what we do, and I will try to address them in later issues.

Easter blessings to you and yours,

Fr. John Forman +

A great big thank you to Evelyn Roehl and John Lofstedt for all their help in cleaning out cupboards and closets. Linda Knutson appreciates your wonderful help with this project!!



St. Elizabeth

Fund Raising - Where Shopping & Giving Unite!!

We now have some additional options for donating to St. Elizabeth while shopping!!

You are now able to link your rewards card/number to St. Elizabeth! Whenever you use your rewards card/number when shopping, you will be helping St. Elizabeth earn a donation. Every little bit helps!!

If you have a rewards card/number, you can sign up on-line with the following organizations through the following links:

Bartells – www.escrip.com/merchants/identity/bcaringcard

Amazon Smiles - smile.amazon.com

Fred Meyers - <https://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards>

Boeing Employee Individual Giving Program – contact your HR or Boeing Total Access

If you need help accessing/signing up on the retail websites, feel free to contact Christine Ramirez or Linda Knutson.

The Easter eggs for the children this year were stuffed with candy by the Women of St. E and craftily hidden by Linda Knutson. Thank you so much ladies.



The Maundy Thursday feast this year was hosted by Carolyn Terry. This was a wonderful event with good food and good fellowship.

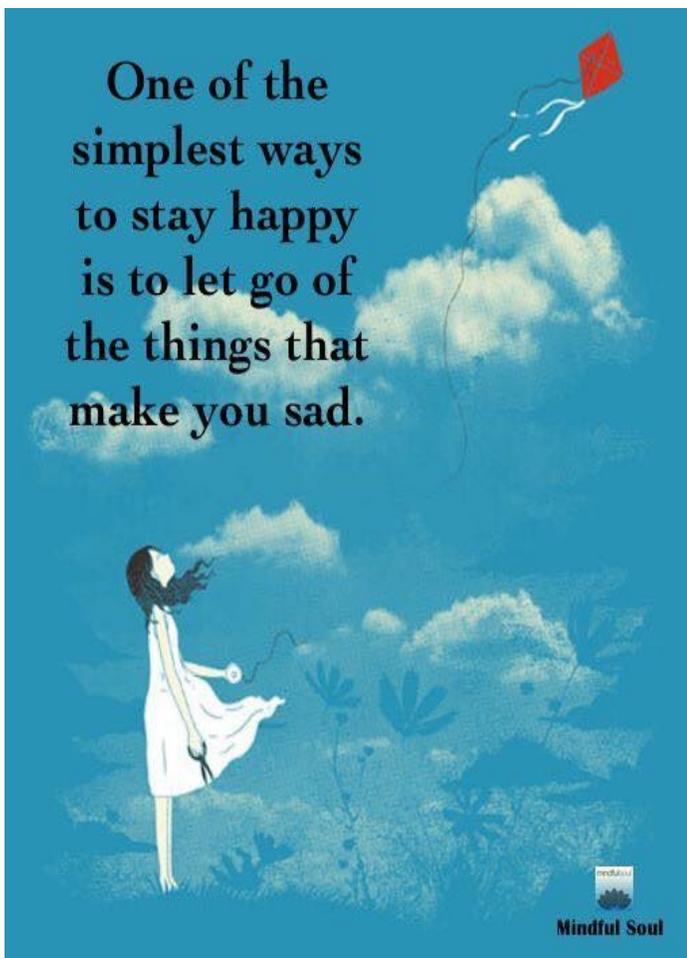
*“Let no one ever come to you
without leaving better & happier.
Be the living expression of God’s
kindness:*

Kindness in your face.

Kindness in your eyes.

Kindness in your smile.”

Mother Teresa



The Elizabethan

The Elizabethan is published monthly by St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church. The deadline for articles is the fourth Friday of each month.

Articles, calendar items and ideas may be mailed or emailed to the addresses below or left in *The Elizabethan* box in the Parish Office.

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2016 Calendar for Hospitality House

June 7-12 – St. Elizabeth's week for preparing meals for the women.

September 10 – **Walk** for the Women Fundraiser, Burien Town Square

October 11-16 - St. Elizabeth's week for preparing meals for the women.

Stewardship takes many forms. Building fellowship is one way to serve at St. Elizabeth. Please consider volunteering for coffee hour.



Did you know...

You don't have to be a former First Lady to plan your funeral. You and I can do it too. As a matter of fact, the Church encourages us to set our affairs in order while we are able. To that end the Diocese of Olympia has prepared a *Life Planning Manual* that will walk you through many of the end of life decisions you might consider. This user friendly booklet is available on line at ecww.org/r/life-planning-manual and in our office.

'Watch therefore for you do not know on what day the Lord will come>' Matthew 24:42



A big thank you to Gwynne Taylor, Gabriel Yel & Carolyn Terry for their work sprucing up the landscape for spring.



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St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



St. Elizabeth Garden Party

Please Come Join Us

April 30th from 9:00am – 1:00pm

Bring your garden gloves and tools

to help spruce up the landscape

for spring!

Snacks and Beverages will be served!

