

Creation Season
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
September 17, 2023 8:00 a.m.

THE STORY OF ST. AIDAN, PART 3, AIDAN AND THE POOR

Perhaps the most striking aspect of Aidan's ministry was his unlimited generosity. He had no interest in material possessions, and he quickly gave away whatever he received to the first poor people who crossed his path. According to Bede, Aidan owned nothing except his church and some fields that belonged to it. (Of course, that didn't mean that the church was his personal property; it was entrusted to him for God's work.) He also used some of the money he was given to buy the freedom of people who had unjustly been sold into slavery. Bede calls him "the protector of the poor and the father of the wretched."

Aidan ate only what he needed to sustain life, and he fasted every Wednesday and Friday until three in the afternoon, except during the fifty days of Easter. When he was invited to eat with the king, he would excuse himself after eating only a little so that he could go read or sing psalms with the monks who accompanied him. He must have made quite an impression on King Oswald. On one occasion, as Oswald and Aidan were preparing to eat together, a servant announced that a number of poor people were outside asking for alms. Oswald immediately ordered the food distributed to the poor and the silver dish it was on broken up and distributed as well, to Aidan's heartfelt approval.

King Oswald had managed to unify two warring parts of Northumbria, but after he was killed in battle, the kingdom was divided again, and he was succeeded in one part by his brother Oswy and in the other by his distant cousin Oswin. King Oswin was a generous and humble man, and he and Aidan grew very close. He worried about Aidan going everywhere on foot, since some of these journeys were difficult or involved crossing rivers. So Oswin gave Aidan a fine horse to help him with his travels. Aidan didn't have the horse for long. He was soon approached by a beggar, and Aidan gave him the horse, royal trappings and all. The king was not pleased. He demanded to know why Aidan had given away such a fine horse, which the king had selected for him personally; saying there were other horses that would have been more suitable for a beggar. Aidan replied, "Is this foal of a mare more valuable to you than a child of God?" The king took some time to think that over, but then knelt before Aidan and asked for his forgiveness, saying he would never again question Aidan's generosity.

Today, the people of St. Aidan's Church are inspired by Aidan's example. We seek to care for those around us who are in need, feeding the hungry through our food pantry, and supporting the San Francisco Night Ministry, Safe House for women leaving prostitution, and other ministries providing direct services to the poor. For many years, we have committed 10% of our budget to those in need beyond our walls. We hope Aidan would be proud, but we suspect he would encourage us to do more. He gave away 100%.

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation and Prayer of the Directions

Presider Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People ***The Holy One's love is new every morning.***

Officiant

We turn to the east, O God, and offer thanks to you whose creative mystery shines in the rising of the sun. May we honor the breath of life that flows through all creation, and the intricate web that connects all things. Open us, we pray, to new beginnings.

People ***Root us in the way of love.***

Officiant

We turn to the west, O God, and give thanks to you who laid the course of the sun's setting. May we welcome the beauty of its waning light, hallow all endings, and accompany one another in compassion, remembering our own sundown. Open us, we pray, to the transformations of letting go.

People ***Root us in the way of love.***

Officiant

We turn to the north, O God, with reverence for the wisdom of your holy ones, living and departed, honoring especially the Yelamu tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone people who have lived in vital relationship with this, their unceded land for thousands of years. May we be strengthened to engage the deep work of repair for which the very soil cries out.

People ***Root us in the way of love.***

Officiant

We turn to the south, O God, and give thanks for your irrepressible joy in our lives. Together may we receive that joy, responding in creativity, mutuality, laughter, and love. May your joy inspire us to celebrate the dignity and support the flourishing of all creation.

People ***Root us in the way of love.***

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Creator be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us pray.

***God of debts forgiven,
you call to account
our hunger for power;
you disturb hierarchies
which crush the weak:
break the vicious cycles
of revenge and domination
that we might look to him
whose mercy never ends,
Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.***

The First Reading

Lector A reading from the book of Exodus (14:19-31).

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 114

The Deacon or Presider introduces the Psalm and reads the Antiphon at the beginning and ending of the Psalm. All join in reading the bolded text.

Antiphon: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God.

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt,* the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,***
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary* and Israel God's dominion.***
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled;* Jordan turned and went back.***
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams,* and the little hills like young sheep.***
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?* O Jordan, that you turned back?***
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams?* you little hills like young sheep?***
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God,* at the presence of the God of Jacob,***
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water,* and flint-stone into a flowing spring.***

Antiphon: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God.

The Second Reading

Lector A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (14:1-12).

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: Our Birth in Unity

Neil Douglas-Klotz

The Deacon or Officiant introduces and leads the congregation in the Canticle.

***O Birther! Father-Mother-Parent of the Cosmos,
you create all that moves
in light***

***O Thou! The Breathing Life of all,
Creator of the Shimmering Sound that touches us.***

***Respiration of all worlds,
we hear you breathing - in and out -
in silence.***

***Source of Sound: in the roar and the whisper,
in the breeze and the whirlwind, we
hear your Name.***

***Radiant One: You shine within us,
outside us - even darkness shines - when
we remember.***

***Name of names, our small identity
unravels in you, you give it back
as a lesson.***

***Wordless Action, Silent Potency -
where ears and eyes awaken, there
heaven comes.***

O Birther! Father-Mother-Parent of the Cosmos!

The Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew (18:21-35).

People **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.

People **Praise to you, O Christ**

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Lisa da Silva

Silence *After the sermon, a bell will sound to mark a period of approximately one minute of silence. The bell will sound a second time to mark the conclusion of this time.*

Nicene Creed

Deacon Together, let us join in saying the Nicene Creed.

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;*

*he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified;
Who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Deacon

Gracious God, from you and through you and to you are all things. You have promised to hear us, and so in confidence, O God of Creation, we pray, inspire in us a desire to be good stewards of your abundance.

Leader

Creator of all, in this season of renewal, may we embrace afresh your Spirit who has nourished St. Aidan's over the years. We pray for the Diocese of California as we search for our next Bishop. Guide us in your ways.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the cycles of prayer from the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church, the diocese, and our parish, inviting additional prayers.

God of Renewal,

Make us good stewards of your Creation.

God of Wholeness, we pray for our broken world with many armed conflicts and for our own nation struggling with division and turmoil. Lead us to act with integrity and courage to build your dream of justice and peace for all people in this land and every land.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares our communal prayers for justice, inviting additional prayers.

God of Renewal,

Make us good stewards of your Creation.

God of Healing, we pray for those who are troubled and those who suffer, may they know the power of your restorative love. Make us active agents of your compassion for healing in us and among us. Strengthen us as wounded healers to aid in the recovery of others.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider reads the names of those who have asked for prayers and invites additional prayers.

God of Renewal,

Make us good stewards of your Creation.

God of Consolation, we remember those who have died to this life and commend them to your embrace. Comfort those who mourn and empower us to be present to their suffering.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the names of those who have recently died and invites additional prayers.

God of Renewal,

Make us good stewards of your Creation.

God of Grace, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the names of those celebrating birthdays this week and invites additional gratitude.

God of Renewal,
Make us good stewards of your Creation.

God of All Ages, as our world turns again to the autumn season, reawaken in us the sense of wonder for the earth, our fragile island home, and all that is in it. Help us to move away from destructive practices that lead to ever increasing climate disasters. Encourage us to foster beneficial changes for the good of all your creation.

God of Renewal,
Make us good stewards of your Creation.

Presider

God of Unity, we have spoken our prayers with one unified voice, in this sacred place where east meets west, and north meets south at the center of the cross of Jesus. Grant us your peace that passes all understanding, for body, mind, and spirit. ***Amen.***

The Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and God's Creation.

A space of silence is kept.

All Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The Peace

Presider Peace with yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

You are invited to share a sign of peace or if you are on Zoom, unmute and greet each other in the name of Christ.

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

Presider O God, we give our minds to you, our hearts to you, our hands, our feet to you. Open our eyes, we pray, to your presence; our ears to your call, our hearts to your love. ***Amen.***

The Deacon sets the table.

The Liturgy of the Table

Presider God be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to God.***
Presider Let us give thanks to God.
People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Presider

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: “Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: “This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.”

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.***

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray,
All ***Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Mother, Father, Parent of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.***

The Fraction

The Presider breaks the bread and says,

Presider This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.
All ***All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.***

The Invitation

Lifting the bread and cup, the Presider and Deacon invite the people.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*This Altar belongs to God and all are welcome to partake, wherever you are on your journey of faith.
If you choose to not receive the bread and/or wine, you are also welcome to receive a blessing;
simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest.*

The Bread is given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The Wine is given to the communicants with these words:

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

During Communion, those present via Zoom are encouraged to pray the following prayer for Spiritual Communion that we have all been sharing together throughout the pandemic:

In union, O God, with your people at every altar of your Church, we offer you praise, giving thanks for your presence in the holy gifts of bread and wine. In our spatial distance we invite you to come spiritually into our hearts, nourishing and strengthening us as members of your body. Amen.

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.
All ***Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you
so that our work is yours***

*and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.*

Healing Prayer

*The people are invited to share a request for healing prayer.
You may make a request for yourself or on behalf of another. The Presider then offers a prayer.*

Concluding Prayer of the Directions

Officiant

Lifting our hands up, O God in the heavens, we pray that you would deepen our connection to the sky above and the cosmos beyond, knowing that we are always united with you and all things.

All *Root us in the way of love.*

Officiant

Facing the palms of our hands toward the ground, Creator of the earth, we pray that you would teach us your life-giving ways so that we too can care for all creation as you do.

All *Root us in the way of love.*

Officiant

Placing our hands over our hearts, God of the heart, we give thanks for each other. May we remember to rise up as one for the good of all in need, may our hearts remain open to learn from our struggles, and may we listen for the heartbeat of God in each other.

All *Root us in the way of love.*

Blessing

Presider

God of the galaxies, God of the starburst and sunlit morning, God of the forest and shining seas, God of the blooming desert and rolling fog – bathe us in light and surround us with love.

And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son,
and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you
that you might be a blessing today and always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon

Let us go forth into all Creation, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People

Thanks be to God!

SOURCES

- Please note: We affirm that God embraces all genders, even when the texts of our tradition refer to God with male/masculine language.
- The cover image: Cameron took this photo on October 8, 2022 near Fort Bragg, CA.
- The Liturgy for Creation Season is from the resource “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration” which can be found online at https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/#_idTextAnchor010.
- The Opening Acclamation is from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- The Prayer of the Directions was adapted in 2018 by Cameron and Susan Spencer using a version of this prayer that St. Aidan’s used in 2017 as well as a version offered by the Rev’d Virginia Marie Rincon at the Diocese of California night at General Convention, July 9, 2018 in Austin, Texas. Cameron further updated it for our observance of Creation Season in 2020 & 2021.

- The collect for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost is by Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (New York: Church Publishing, 2009), p35.
- Psalm translation is from the *CSF Office Book* (Community of St. Francis, 1995).
- The Canticle “Our Birth in Unity” is from *Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus*, trans. Neil Douglas-Klotz (San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1990), 12.
- The Prayers of the People for the 2023 Creation Season were adapted by Doug Barnett from *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (San Francisco: HarperOne, 1988, 1997), 413-414. Its opening sentence quotes Romans 11:36. The closing prayer takes inspiration from the “Graced Space” prayers of St Carthage’s Cathedral, Lismore, Ireland.
- The Confession is from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- The Peace is from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- The Offertory Prayer is adapted from David Adam, *Flame in My Heart: St. Aidan for Today* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 1997), 75.
- The Eucharistic Prayer was written by the Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley, drawing from Eucharistic prayers from around the Anglican Communion. It is published in the resource “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- The rendition of the Lord’s Prayer is shared in “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration” and is originally from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.
- The Prayer of Spiritual Communion (“In union, O God...”) is adapted from the excerpts from *Saint Augustine’s Prayer Book* that can be found online at <https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>
- The Post Communion Prayer is from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- The Blessing is adapted from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- The Dismissal is from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”

Serving St. Aidan’s

The Rev. Cameron Partridge, *Presider*
 The Rev. Dr. Lisa da Silva, *Preacher & Deacon*
 The Rev. Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain, *Deacon*
 Weston Morris, *Seminarian*
 Jackie Buckley, *Altar Guild*
 Kate Fritz, *Bread Baker*

Announcements

Good News Gardens - Schedule for the Fall. Margaret has scheduling conflicts due to the bishop search process. So instead of the first Saturdays of the month, the gardening days will be on the following dates:

Saturday September 23

Saturday October 14

Saturday November 11

All are 12:30-2 pm at the church. Questions? Contact Margaret at mdyerc@stanford.edu.

Volunteers Needed for Ranch Dressing

Creating our first St. Aidan’s musical comedy since 2019 requires lots of volunteers! 10 actors will volunteer to stage this fundraiser for St. Aidan’s. The production needs a whole host of support people. Our show, Ranch Dressing, needs a rehearsal pianist, photographer, graphic artist to create a show postcard, volunteers to work on costumes and props, run lights and stage manage and do publicity. Ranch Dressing will be performed on Nov. 10 and 11 at 7:30 pm and on Nov. 12 at 2 pm. If you can help with any of these important needs, please contact Betsy Eddy at betsy.eddy@gmail.com.

St. Aidan’s Gourmet Book Group - Next Date: Monday, October 2, 2023, 7pm

We will continue to meet via zoom with LeeAnn DeSalles serving as our zoom master. She has set up a zoom link that will serve for all our meetings. If you would like help with zoom, please contact LeeAnn

at leeannedsalles@comcast.net<<mailto:leeannedsalles@comcast.net>>. If you would like to join the Book Group, please contact elaine@mannon.com<<mailto:elaine@mannon.com>>.

- **Monday, October 2, 2023 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**
 - People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks – The journey of a rare Jewish illuminated manuscript through centuries of exile and war. Inspired by a true story.
- **Monday, October 30, 2023 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**
 - Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden: Two Sisters Separated by China's Civil War by Zhuqing Li. -- Sisters separated by war forge new identities as they are forced to choose between family, nation, and their own independence.

Resilient Diamond Heights (RDH) Activation Training with Dinner Saturday, October 7, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

All are invited to join us for dinner, a speaker, and a training on activating St. Aidan's Church as a Support Center in an emergency. We are into our hottest months so that RDH may need to open St. Aidan's as a Heat Relief Center if the temperature is forecast for 85 degrees three days in a row or two days of 90 degrees and above. Someday, the church may activate to help neighborhood residents after a major earthquake or other emergency.

Greg Carey will lead us in setting up St. Aidan's as a Support Center using his Instant Incident Command System he developed a few years back. The system is an easy-to-use system with written cards indicating how to go through the set up. In addition, we have invited a guest speaker. Jill Borofka is planning one of her wonderful dinners. Please let us know if you plan to attend so that we will have plenty of food by emailing Betsy Eddy at betsy.eddy@gmail.com.

Welcome Café. The vestry has decided to continue having Welcome Café (coffee hour) on an occasional basis, usually on special days. We are planning on **October 8 (blessing of animals)**, and November 5 (All Saints). We will be asking for volunteers for those days either to set up coffee and tea or to provide snacks. You don't need to do both. Snacks should be simple: cookies or small pastries, fruit such as cherries or grapes, cheese and crackers. The idea is to provide a pleasant atmosphere for socializing and not a meal. If we have multiple volunteers for each day, no one will need to do too much. Please be looking for sign-up opportunities in the days leading up to each Welcome Café, and let's enjoy our time together as community.

Sunday, St. Francis Day, October 8th, 12pm – 1pm, Blessing Of the Animals, Upper Douglass Dog Park, Douglass at 27th. Please come to have your pets blessed in honor of St. Francis. Blessings are also offered at the church, at 8am and 10am, for animals who are living and also for those who have died.

Also on Sunday, October 8th, at 2:30, St. Aidan's will offer a multi-faith Companion Animal Memorial Service. It's been four years since we've been able to offer this gathering, a time and place to come together to remember, celebrate and say "thank you" to beloved animal companions that have blessed our lives. As part of our service, we will create an altar of honor for our animal companions. Participants are invited to bring mementos to add to the shaping of this altar. Many thanks to Kazu Henderson for creating this year's flyer for our service. If you know of a place to post one of our flyers, please do so. We want those who would like to come to our service to know about it. Thanks be to God for our beloved animal companions and their place in our lives. Please consider coming and helping us honor these beloved beings.

New Jim Crow Anti-Racist Book Group - Sunday October 15 at 4:30 PM

We are reading Deacon King Kong by James McBride. All are welcome – please contact Margaret for the zoom link (mdyerc@stanford.edu).

Please send in your recipes for the COVID Connect Cookbook!

As shared in previous weeks, Peter Fairfield and Linnea Sweet are putting together the COVID Connect Cookbook. He's received several recipes thus far but would very much like more. He writes:

We are living through a time that will change our world in ways that we cannot yet begin to understand. We can hope that our shared vulnerability to this virus worldwide will help us see that all humanity is connected and that we must all work together. As we shelter in place, many of us are concerned with food. If we are not working, how will we afford it? If we cannot go out, how will we get it?

In our community of Saint Aidan's, many are able to feed themselves and to help others get fed. More than that, we appreciate the food that we get and are finding new ways of making the sharing of food as enjoyable as possible.

The soup recipes that Cameron has been sharing have made our diet much more enjoyable and have given Linnea and I the inspiration to collect recipes from all the congregation and share them. We ask that everyone with a favorite recipe email it to us at peterlinnea@earthlink.net. We will collect and edit them into a cookbook which will be a lasting reminder of this strange and special time in all our lives.

We hope to be able to publish this cookbook in printed form and sell it to raise funds in support of Saint Aidan's food ministries. We know you have been sharing food. Now please share your recipes!

Contemplative Prayer: Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday from 9-10 AM via Zoom

We offer Contemplative prayer via Zoom. Contemplative Prayer is silent with the beginning and ending marked by a bell. You can practice meditation, silent prayer, journal, or otherwise enjoy the collective quiet. Thank you to Susan Spencer for offering to anchor this practice once again, especially the Saturday, during this time. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org.

Morning Prayer: M/W/F at 7:30 AM (Mon & Wed Hybrid, Fri Zoom)

We offer Morning Prayer in hybrid mode (at church and via Zoom) on Mondays and Wednesdays, and on Fridays via Zoom only. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 6:30 PM via Zoom

Cameron leads Evening Prayer on Wednesdays. The service usually lasts a half hour. Readings for the day are from the Episcopal Church's calendar of saints, and the service includes a brief reflection time on the readings. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org

Mask Policy: If you are comfortable removing your mask, you may do so during church services. We will respect the preference of anyone who feels safer by remaining masked. We will also maintain a well-ventilated sanctuary by opening doors and windows. We acknowledge that COVID is likely to be with us in some form for the foreseeable future, and we will be monitoring public health advisories. Our mask policy may be modified again as appropriate. Please pray for the health and safety of all our members and friends as we continue to navigate this challenging time.

Building Reminders: Locking Up & Heat in Wajnert Room

Please check that both front doors are locked when leaving the church. The red door and the outside black door closest to the Wajnert Room use the same key now and both are being used. It's important to always make sure that both are locked when leaving. Also, please make sure to turn off the heat in the Wajnert Room when leaving.

To add an announcement to the weekly bulletin of the Flame, please send your edited text no later than 11:00 am Wednesday to office@staidansf.org

Calendar for the Week of September 17, 2023

Sunday, September 17	Holy Eucharist (Hybrid) at 8 & 10 AM
Monday, September 18	Morning Prayer (Hybrid) at 7:30 AM
Tuesday, September 19	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom) at 9 AM
Wednesday, September 20	Morning Prayer (Hybrid) at 7:30 AM Evening Prayer (via Zoom) at 6:30 PM
Thursday, September 21	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom) at 9 AM Kaffeeklatsch (via Zoom) at 3 PM
Friday, September 22	Morning Prayer (via Zoom) at 7:30 AM Food Pantry at 1 PM
Saturday, September 23	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom) at 9 AM Good News Gardens at 12:30 PM

St. Aidan's Vestry

Kate Fritz, Senior Warden, Lee Hammack, Junior Warden
Dave Frangquist, Clerk & Treasurer
Anne Benninger, Anne Edwards,
Sarah Glover, Michael Jennings, Elaina LeGault,
Jim Oerther, Barbara Stevenson.

Staff e-mail addresses

Cameron: rector@staidansf.org
Cary: office@staidansf.org

St. Aidan's Prayers

In Your Prayers, Please Remember:

In deep acknowledgment that St. Aidan's is located within the unceded, ancestral land of the Yelamu tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone people who have lived in vital relationship with this holy place for thousands of years.

In the Episcopal Church: Pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop; Marc our Bishop; for all lay and ordained leaders in our diocese.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Holy Cross, Castro Valley; St. Matthew's, San Mateo; and for our diocese as we prepare to elect a new bishop in December.

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Gourmet Book Group.

For those with birthdays this week: None this week.

For all striving for mental and emotional balance and wholeness, and for their families and friends.

For those who have asked for our prayers: Alice, Azaleah G., Betty Ch., Charlotte, Dawn, Dick Y., Dustin, Emily P., Era, Faith G., George C., George J., Herbert, Jeff, Jetty, Jim F., Joan T., John W., Justin, Karin G., Kathy R., Maureen, Michael & Elaine J., Mikayla H., Naomi, Nathan C., Norma & Walt, Patrick M., Richie M. and family, Shay, Shirley, Sylvia, Willie & Tommy.

For the ongoing work against intersecting forms of oppression, particularly racism; and in affirmation of human dignity;

For our work in the world: Habitat for Humanity on Amber Drive, the Friday Food Pantry, Diamond Diners.

For Oscar Grant, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Elijah McClain, Walter Wallace, Adam Toledo, Daunte Wright, Tyre Nichols, and all whose lives have borne deep witness that Black Lives Matter, and that systemic racism, white supremacy, and police brutality must be eradicated.

For our congregation as we embrace our call to be a sanctuary people, may we commit ourselves to prayer, education, and practices of sanctuary to support immigrants to this country and all people who are estranged, excluded, or threatened in 21st century America.

For all who are struggling in this time of pandemic, vulnerability, intensified injustice and division; for strength, support, and community across physical distances and for deepened engagement and commitment to our common life;

For those who have recently died: Zachariah Nethercott, Lester Lopez, The Rev. Iain Stanford, Barry Koron, Addison Miller, Tim Anderson, Dorothy Banks, Riven Stevenson, The Rev. Stephen Whitney-Wise, Molly Person, Howard Mel, Nancy Wakeman, Wayne Foley, Jack Miller, Sally Young, Melba Junker, The Rev. Dr. Norman Somes, John Anthony Fabatz, Roger Wolcott and also on behalf of the St. Cyprian's community, for Ms. LeeDora, Ms. Mclain, Mr. Easton, Ms. Canida.

To place a name on our prayer list, please contact the church office at 415-285-9540, ext. 3 or office@staidansf.org. Names of the living are printed by first name and will be kept on the prayer list for four weeks. To keep someone on the list for longer, please notify the office.



St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

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www.staidansf.org (415) 285-9540