



The Rubric

The Episcopal Cathedral of Saint Mark
Seattle, WA

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Images of Community *back cover*

*Welcoming all to
live the light of
Christ.*



*We believe that the light
and love of God
are at the very heart of
all things. This light and
love are fully manifested
for Christians in the life of
Jesus of Nazareth and
we believe they are also
revealed in all of the great
faith traditions. We
commit to living into this
sacred light and sharing it
freely with all.*

Welcome
Inspire
Serve
Transform



Dear Ones,

With Advent in full swing and Christmas just around the corner, the other preparation going on besides all of that, is the Call Committee for the Next Dean. Soon, you will be hearing more details about that, but for now I would like to quell a few things I have heard from the inevitable rumor mill. First, one thing that is true; a Call Committee has been put together and is beginning the work of calling the next Dean. Although some will claim to know the process, or just what is going to be done in the process, you should use caution when hearing this, as the Committee itself is just now coming together and just now designing it.

I have heard two rumors specifically;

First, that I, and I alone, as Bishop, will select the Dean. Not true. I will be very involved. I will certainly be offering names I think should be considered, but I will not single-handedly be selecting the Dean. I will be nominating specific people, and we will, as in all searches now, be accepting initial applications, doing reference checks, etc, and eventually be sending, hopefully, about 15 names to the Call Committee to consider. I value and want the committee discernment and believe it to be crucial to this process.

Another rumor, which makes me laugh out loud quite frankly, is that the next Dean has already been selected by me, and we are just going through the motions of a Call process. I can tell you those who have been asked to serve on the Call Committee would be the most upset about that were it true. I am convinced the next Dean has been selected by the Holy Spirit but as of yet none of us have been notified as to who that is!

There is certainly not much I can do about such conspiracy theories. I hope our future holds less of them. If you have a question about such matters, ask. If the people you ask do not know, or tell you we do not know yet, believe it or not, they are most likely telling you the truth! If the answer is not the answer you want or believe, please do not make one up. And if you hear someone promulgating such a rumor please ask them to substantiate where they heard it? how they know it? etc. Reread the Rules for Respect, I am attaching them below, and be suspicious of information that comes to you which begins with "I heard that...." or "Someone told me that..." Don't accept such statements, challenge them, lovingly, and be careful about spreading it if you don't feel you have it substantiated.

Let me say, that by and large, the talk has been good, positive, hopeful, and cooperative. Let's work together, in this season of preparation, patient waiting, and reflection, in being that ourselves as our Call Committee organizes, and begins its work. You will not be left out of communication on this, this is a promise of mine, and has been clearly conveyed to the committee, the consultants, and my staff. But also know, that the very nature of such searches requires some care in how and when communication comes.

I have met no one in this process who I believe does not ultimately want, and is working for, finding the best leader possible for the future of St. Mark's. I live in thanksgiving for the wonderful community you are, and for all we can yet become, together.

Advent Blessings, and Merry Christmas!

+Greg

The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel

**Interested in reading more
from Bishop Greg?** Read his blog at
www.bishoprickel.com





Sunday Service Times

8 a.m. Eucharist
in Thomsen Chapel

9 a.m. Eucharist
in the Nave

11 a.m. Eucharist
in the Nave

5:30 p.m. Evensong
in the Nave

7 p.m. Eucharist
in Thomsen Chapel
(Co-sponsored by Integrity, LGBT
ministry of the Episcopal Church)

9:30 p.m. **Compline** in the Nave,
chanted by the Compline Choir and
broadcast live on KING 98.1 FM



Weekday Service Times

Wednesdays,
12 noon
Holy Eucharist
in Thomsen Chapel
6:45 p.m. Evensong in
the Nave (Sept.—May)

Thursdays, 7 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
in Thomsen Chapel

6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday in McCaw or Thomsen
Chapel

For more information
about Worship at
Saint Mark's,
please go to

<http://www.saintmarks.org/Worship/worship.php>

10 Rules for Respect

In every Letter of Agreement I have had with congregations, and now with the Diocese of Olympia I have asked that the "*Rules for Respect*" spelled out below be made part of the agreement. I first saw these in an article by Church of the Nazarene pastor Charles Christian. I think they are quite helpful in framing our communication and life together. I vow to do my best to follow them and invite you to do the same. We will all fail, but through gentle challenge and loving encouragement these can become a foundation for healthy communication for us all. Blessings to you! Greg

1. If you have a problem with me, come to me (privately).
2. If I have a problem with you, I will come to you (privately).
3. If someone has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me. (I'll do the same for you)
4. If someone consistently will not come to me, say, "Let's go to Greg together. I am sure he will see us about this." (I will do the same for you.)
5. Be careful how you interpret me-I'd rather do that. On matters that are unclear, do not feel pressured to interpret my feelings or thoughts. It is easy to misinterpret intentions.
6. I will be careful how I interpret you.
7. If it's confidential, don't tell. If you or anyone comes to me in confidence, I won't tell unless a) the person is going to harm himself/herself, b) the person is going to physically harm someone else, c) a child has been physically or sexually abused. I expect the same from you.
8. I do not read unsigned letters or notes.
9. I do not manipulate; I will not be manipulated; do not let others manipulate you. Do not let others manipulate me through you. I will not preach "at you." I will leave conviction to the Holy Spirit (she does it better anyway!)
10. When in doubt, just say it. The only dumb questions are those that don't get asked.

Our relationships with one another, at the end of the day, are the most important things so if you have a concern, pray, and then (if led) speak up. If I can answer it without misrepresenting something, someone, or breaking a confidence, I will.

Greetings from the Canon Missioner



Dear Ones,

For the last two weeks of December, I have been living very small, rarely leaving my son and daughter-in-law's home, walking the three blocks to the grocery, library and local coffee shop, operating within the order and chaos of a young family with a new baby. I am writing this from Baltimore while listening for Maxine's cries – she is two months old today and it is my job to tend to her this morning. I remember this way of living as a young mother,

waiting for the baby to wake-up, listening for those stirring sounds, praying that she would ease back into sleep, ready to move before the wailing sobs began, quickly but not too quickly – a perpetual state of readiness becoming a way of life.

Experience teaches us parents just the moment to act – we know when it is time; we drop everything and go to the child. This way of being requires a posture of readiness that mirrors the waiting we are called to in this season of Advent. We wait even as we continue to do our work and tend to our lives. We are ever vigilant to the sounds that will call us to drop everything and act decisively, especially to the cries of those in great need. It is a curious way to live and demands a willingness to operate in a kind of ordered chaos – on the one hand exercising the due diligence of preparation, planning, managing, and tending to the daily business, while at the same time, ready to drop everything in the face of a greater call, a greater need.

Such a life can be challenging for us as individuals and even more difficult



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PARISH FRIENDS

Parish Friends are trained visitors who offer fellowship and spiritual support to members who are no longer able to participate actively in the Saint Mark's community, for example, those who are hospitalized, homebound or resident in long-term care or assisted living. Parish Friends work in small teams that meet periodically for mutual support and ongoing training in ministry of presence.

Seeking a Parish Friend team?

Leave a message at 206.323.0300, ext 340 or find Deacon Earl after services.

Training The next session will be offered on January 8 – contact Deacon Earl if you are interested!

Deacon Earl Grout at egrout@saintmarks.org or 206-518-2833.

for us as a collective body. The predictable is held hostage to the urgent which is often demanding and out of control. But we must be able to shift and to do so without getting caught up in the chaos.

In the world of organizational systems experts often speak of "being nimble". How do we as the church prepare ourselves for ordered chaos? Some things are obvious – to live this way calls for a sense of common mission and purpose, and a deep commitment to our unity as the Body of Christ. Adopting a practice of deep listening prepares us to hear and discern the call to action when the moment comes. We do our work, practicing holy living through our worship, going about the business of the church *and* dropping everything to respond to the cries of a suffering world. It is a curious tension requiring wisdom and maturity.

As we wait and wonder during Advent, we remember Mary who was preparing to wed Joseph. And soon, we will hear about the shepherds in the fields tending their sheep and the Magi going about their business of watching the heavens. These were the ones who responded to the call that changed everything – Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi – they were ready to drop everything for the sake of a newborn child and the radical reordering of the universe.

But, enough of quiet reflection! Maxine is awake and I must sign off. Ordered chaos beckons again!

All is grace,

Rebecca

The Rev. Canon Rebecca L. McClain

The business of the parish



Vestry in Action

By Virginia Lenker, Clerk

on behalf of the Vestry

One of our favorite hymns this time of year is "*in the bleak midwinter*". Whether Seattle's weather is bleak -- "*earth hard as iron, water like a stone*" -- or sunny, your Vestry will be working on many important tasks.

The Finance Committee will be drafting our Operating Budget for 2012. Each year, Saint Mark's annual operating budget is based upon the pledges that come in. As you know, the Public Phase of this year's pledge season ***Feasting on Gratitude*** began with an Agape Feast in October, and ended with a Thanksgiving and Celebration Feast on Sunday, November 20. Many parishioners appreciated that we ended so early this year. The Vestry commended the Stewardship Committee for taking their theme from Isaiah "*See, I am doing a new thing!*" *All pledges are sacred, and are gratefully accepted at any time.*

Members of the Vestry and Foundation will work together on a Project Analysis committee this winter. Over the years, parishioners and community members have thought about building an outdoor labyrinth at Saint Mark's. Stay tuned for more details!

The Vestry will be losing several members at the Annual Parish Meeting. Marge Anderson, Bob Kirkman, Janet McCully and Mark Eichinger-Wiese will finish their terms. Elsie Ford will also leave to move closer to family. Patty Baker, outgoing diocesan rep, spoke for everyone: "*just as things get interesting, we have to leave!*"

Many thanks to all the candidates who will be standing for election at the Parish Meeting on January 29.

Vestry meetings regularly occur on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 6 – 9 p.m. in Diocesan House. All are welcome.

The business of the parish

Saint Mark's Counseling Service

Located on the second floor of Leffler House, we offer professional counseling, for topics such as:

- * Spirituality
- * Career issues
- * Relationship Concerns
- * Pre & Post Marital/Union Counseling
- * Major Life Cycle Transitions
 - * Grief & Trauma
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Kathleen Tyrrell

M.S., L.M.F.T.,

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The Diocese of Olympia
(njoslyn@ecww.org)

More links.
([http://](http://www.saintmarks.org/About/links.php)

www.saintmarks.org/About/links.php)

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL PARISH PROFILE SEATTLE WASHINGTON

Saint Mark's Profile Posted

By Kae Eaton,
Vestry Liaison, Profile Committee

The summer of 2011 may have held time for slower schedules for some, but not for the eight members of the Profile Committee. Weekly meetings from June through October, along with hundreds of emails, produced not only dizzying activity but also a document of which we are proud. Saint Mark's profile was posted to the Cathedral website on November 16th, 2011.

As members of the committee, we were nominated by the congregation and selected by the bishop and vestry. We represented a broad range of ministry involvement, professional skills, and personalities, with each person bringing a particular part of the community's identity to the process.

Our work was divided into two main tasks. The first was to represent as accurately as we could, both historically and currently, the beauty and the challenges we embody as Seattle's Episcopal Cathedral Parish. Over the many years of her existence, Saint Mark's has had stellar moments and decimating moments. Our Bishop and our tradition promote a lengthy but beneficial process for recognition and repair or, in the language of faith, confession and repentance. As a committee, we found this part of our task compelling, as well as revealing.

The second task, of course, was to pinpoint the characteristics and skills we hope for in our 7th Dean as we move into our next season of life together. We gathered information from the many documents developed throughout the Bishop's Transition Process, held Sunday forums, video-graphed stories, and reviewed questionnaires as well as historical documents and statistical data.

Most importantly, though, we took our own pulse as a representative group moving through the process. The surprise result for us was a sense of belonging, an openness to the difficulties we experience as a community, and a most definite building of hope for the future of Saint Mark's Cathedral!



Download a copy of the
parish profile
from our website:
www.saintmarks.org

If you would prefer a
printed copy, contact
info@saintmarks.org or
206.323.0300, 219

Annual Parish Meeting and Elections and Festive Meal

The annual meeting of our parish, including elections of new Vestry members and delegates to convention, will follow a festive community meal on Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 12:45 pm in Bloedel Hall. Information about candidates will be available in early January. More about the annual meeting can be found at <http://www.saintmarks.org/About/Governance/AnnualMeeting.php>



Top 10 Christian Teachings on the Environment

The Rev. Fletcher Harper,
Executive Director of GreenFaith

God created the universe, and is its ultimate Owner.

In the beginning when God created⁴ the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God⁴ swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

Genesis 1: 1-3

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; ²for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Psalms 24: 1-2

Then David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly; David said: 'Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, for ever and ever ... for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours. For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.'

1 Chronicles 29: 10-16

"I'd grown up in the Baptist Church in South Central Los Angeles – in the heart of the city - and I'd sung the hymn 'How Great Thou Art' a thousand times. But the first time I really understood what that hymn meant was when I went on a Boy Scout camping trip. We climbed Mt. Whitney – it was a huge mountain, and I'd never climbed or seen anything so huge. I thought we were never going to get to the top – it was a struggle – and when we did, I looked out over miles and miles of mountains and plains beyond. It was stunning. Right then, at that moment, I knew for the first time what the words of that hymn meant – 'My God, how great Thou art.'"

Pastor Darrel Armstrong, Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton NJ

It's so simple a teaching, so monumental, and so easy to overlook. From the very beginning of the Bible,



About this column

*This is the first in a series **Top 10 Christian Teachings on the Environment** by the Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith (www.greenfaith.org). Saint Mark's is participating in the GreenFaith Certification Program for Environmental Leadership, supported by the Sustainability Committee.*

Christianity teaches that God is the Creator of the universe and everything in it. This is the first Christian teaching about Creation, and it is the foundation on which every other Christian environmental teaching stands. God made the earth. Period – and beginning of story.

This is a teaching whose meaning we realize only if we go beyond the mere words themselves, and pause to feel their impact. Read Pastor Armstrong's story above, and you begin to get a sense of what it means, what it means to say that God is the Creator. Step outside and look around you from horizon to horizon – and gain a sense of the scope of Creation. Look at a simple tree – its elegance, the curve of its limbs, the texture of its bark and leaves, the reach of its roots. At night, look up at the stars – if you can see them – and realize that the light you're seeing has been travelling through space at unimaginable speed for decades, from a far corner of our galaxy. Watch a bird in flight. Look at a green plant growing through the cracks of a city street. Listen to the rush of the wind. Look at a human hand. If we pause to look, the force of this teaching hits us. Because of Creation's size and scope and stunning beauty, it is a remarkable thing to acknowledge that God is its Creator.

Christianity, however, doesn't stop at stating that God simply made the universe – it also teaches that God owns the universe, that God still claims it as God's own. The passage from Psalm 24 captures this nicely by asserting both that

God owns the earth and that God created it. The passage from 1 Chronicles further amplifies this theme. King David has called for the collection of the building materials for the Temple and the response has been overwhelming. The people of Israel have given more than generously. David stands in front of an enormous offering of silver and gold, bronze and iron, and semi-precious stones. And when the people see the fruits of their generosity, they are thrilled – the passage reads, "Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the LORD; King David also rejoiced greatly." (1 Chron. 29:9)



All God's Creatures, Great and Small

By Caleb Richmond,
GreenFaith Action Team

What does it mean to be a creature of God's Creation? The conclusion I have come to is that I must live in a manner that allows all other creatures room to thrive alongside me. That is not only my role as a member of the dominant species of the global ecosystem, but integrally part of my calling as a Christian. As that plays out in my life, it leads me both to social and environmental justice; trying to love my human neighbors and also caring for my non-human neighbors throughout Creation.

Caring for Creation effectively requires a multifaceted --not to mention monumentally communal -- effort from humanity. Our planet is much more fragile than we would like to think. But don't let that intimidate you; it does not mean that sustainable life on this planet is unattainable. There are many tangible steps that each and every one of us can take, each one with very rewarding outcomes for our future. Take species conservation for example. We have only identified a small percentage of the species on this planet but of just those we know about, a large minority are endangered or threatened because of human action or non-action.

The steps that you can take to help prevent further loss of biodiversity range in complexity from small, individual efforts to large human endeavors. The first step is to "know your enemy." Habitat loss, invasive



About Caleb Richmond

"I recently graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a degree in field Ecology. I have spent most of my life studying Conservation because I find myself most connected to God when I am in the forests and fields surrounded by the Creation. I recently had the opportunity to join 17 other Episcopal young adults from across the nation here in Seattle for an EcoJustice Immersion experience which has motivated me to join the Saint Mark's Sustainability Team. I am excited to see what this community will accomplish together."

species, pollution, human over-population, and overharvesting are the largest contributors to species loss and so those are the areas where we can focus. We each have some level of control over our own contribution to those factors. For example, we can help create natural spaces and ecosystems in our own "backyards" by removing invasive species and fostering native flora and fauna. Whether that is in a public park or greenbelt or in your literal backyard, each micro-habitat makes a difference. We can also support, both politically and financially, the creation of more protected areas across the globe for species preservation, especially in biodiversity "hot spots," areas with high concentrations of threatened life forms that are particularly vulnerable to habitat destruction.

Sustainable living does not begin and end with preservation, however. Wise and sustainable use of our resources plays a much larger role for the continuation of most species. That means making informed choices about what we eat, buy, and use as well as working in every area of our lives to live in a way that will allow the earth as we know it to exist for our grandchildren. Every choice truly does matter and that means that we have the power, as one of God's creatures, to follow our calling to act as good and faithful stewards of Creation.

Top 10 Christian Teachings (cont'd)

Then, David prays, and his prayer is simple and direct. He states, twice, that the people of Israel have given back to God that which God already owns. The King James Version of the Bible translates one of these verses beautifully: "All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee." It's a remarkable statement on a remarkable occasion. Imagine what it's like to see the wealthiest, most powerful leaders of a nation, gathered in the presence

of almost unimaginable wealth – and to have the most powerful man among them state clearly that all their wealth is, ultimately, not their own. This combination of power and humility, pride and faith is of Biblical proportions. Again, it's a story, a teaching that needs to be felt in order to be understood.

In sum, Christianity teaches us that God is the Creator and Owner of the universe – a simple set of teachings with a powerful reach.

Practice What I Preach

By the Reverend Irene Tanabe, Curate

Readings for Sunday, Oct.30, 2011:

Micah 3:5-12

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

I thought I had this gospel all figured out: practice what you preach. The sermon was ready on Thursday, and all I needed was a contemporary situation to illustrate Jesus' teaching. So I prayed for a story. Be careful what you pray for because I got the situation. But I also discovered I needed a different sermon. I spent last night writing an entirely new sermon!

I was driving east on Jackson Street; I was the third car back. I could see that a car was stopped across the center line – my first thought was that the car had stalled as it was crossing the intersection, especially since the pickup truck in front of me finally turned left to take a detour. As the car directly in front of me moved forward, I saw that it wasn't a stall; there had been a horrible collision. The driver's side door was wide open, air bag deployed, left front was torn away, glass everywhere.

A woman was standing in the middle of the road, frantic, wailing. I pulled over. "Where is the driver?" I asked. "Is she the driver?" No, she was the passenger, the driver is over there. Across the street, there was a huddle of people, and I could see another car on



This column is an opportunity to read personal stories of inspiration and transformation— two of our guiding stars at Saint Mark's.

The Rev. Tanabe, who was ordained at Saint Mark's in August 2011, delivered these two sermons in the fall of 2011. The readings from the Sunday are listed at the beginning of each section. Irene is a curate at Saint Mark's Cathedral.

the sidewalk, up against a telephone pole. Did you see what happened? A man who had stopped in the westbound lane and said, everybody saw. An ambulance is on its way. As I was about to get out of the car, I realized I wasn't wearing a collar. I looked around for my prayer book, but it wasn't in the car. And I knew I had just given away my last business card.

How can I just go up to these people – how will they know I am a priest? The woman and the people around looked Southeast Asian, and there's a Buddhist temple just a block away -- I don't think they are Christian. Will they even want a priest? I paused for an instant.

In today's gospel, Jesus denounced the religious leaders of the day for not practicing what they preach. Jesus recognized their authority, acknowledging that they sit on Moses' seat and are due deference and respect. The problem is that they misused their authority and seem more concerned with looking good than doing good: "wearing their phylacteries broad and their fringes long." Phylacteries are cube-shaped leather cases that



are still worn today on foreheads and arms, as a literal representation of the Lord's command to bind the law on the hand and between the eyes. Inside the leather cases are tiny scrolls inscribed with verses from Exodus and Deuteronomy:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

The passages are about orienting your lives toward God, but instead the leaders were drawing everyone's eyes to themselves. Jesus told them it's not about looking good; nor is it about the respect and whatever else you can get from your position of power. No, he said. The teaching is good. It came from God, passed down by Moses to Jacob, through the priests and prophets to the scribes and the Pharisees, and now to the disciples.

But Jesus wanted them to get it right. He knew that power is intoxicating; as we heard from Micah, even the prophets led people astray for pecuniary gain. We also heard from Paul as he defended his conduct against those who were critical of the religious leaders in Thessalonica. The sin here is one of pride: confusing your own interests with God's. There is only one Father, Jesus said, and that is God. We are brethren, children of a common father. We are to humble ourselves; to be servants. We are to serve, not to be served.

The passages are about orienting your lives toward God, but instead the leaders were drawing everyone's eyes to themselves.

police car rushing to the scene, then a fire truck. I thought you need to turn back, why did you leave? But I can't go back now, they will think I'm just one of those people who run to accidents and watch others people suffering.

That's not me. But why did I leave without offering care and compassion? I certainly didn't leave because I felt powerful. In fact, it was the opposite. I felt powerless. And without my "symbols" of authority, I decided there was nothing I could contribute. Yet as soon as I left, I knew that I had made the wrong choice. The decision haunts me.

I told my son about what I did -- he's a trained first responder and acts instinctively in those situations. I was telling him about what I had done, how I felt like I couldn't act because I didn't have my collar -- the visible signs of priesthood. It occurred to me that this gospel applied to me as well, even though I hadn't misused a position of power. I wasn't sure how so I did a bit more research.

I found that feminist theologian Anne E. Carr said that *"sin is the breaking of relationship both with God and with human beings that can take the form of weakness as well as pride in its denial of human responsibility."* Dr. Tim Beach-Verhey, a theologian at Davidson College in North Carolina wrote:

"While Augustine describes sin primarily as pride, contemporary feminist and liberation theologians note that this is the form sin takes among the powerful. The weak and the oppressed sin by withdrawing from God and neighbor. They assume they have nothing to offer...Equality before God insists not only that the proud humble themselves but that the marginalized take their place among

At that accident scene, I paused for a moment. And then I restarted my car and I drove away. I drove away. As I continued east, I saw a

An excerpt from the sermon:

Watching for Eternal Time

God's children. Not everyone has the same gifts or fulfills the same role in the community, but all are children of the same God and students of the same teacher. Everyone has a role to play and gifts to contribute in God's kingdom."

Now that I understand how in my weakness I felt I had nothing to contribute, I know I won't be able to turn my back like that again. Yes, I did feel powerless. I am not a member of the dominant culture in my society and I have learned the ways of the other. Yes, I felt like I might have intruded, but maybe I wouldn't have. Maybe I could have simply put my hand on that woman's arm, let the victims of that accident know I was there if needed. I have more roles than that of a priest. I am a baptized person. A follower of Christ. A caring and compassionate person. A child of God.



Can you recall those moments in your life when you experienced that something more was present, sacred moments that fill our lives with direction and meaning?

On Sunday, November 27, the Rev. Irene Tanabe added a postscript to her sermon sharing an experience that revealed a new awareness of her spiritual gifts.

Incidentally, the last time I preached, I talked about driving away from an accident scene because I didn't have my collar and prayer book and I felt powerless to help. I have a postscript. Three days after I preached, I was in Washington DC to attend the bestowing of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Japanese American Veterans of WWII. My father was one of the few elderly recipients still alive today. In the hotel, I came upon a group of people looking very distressed.

Without playing any of those "tapes" in my head, I asked, "Is something wrong?" It turned out that their father didn't come down for the ceremony so they came up to the room and found him dead. Without hesitation, I said: "I'm a priest. I can help." I never stopped to think I wasn't wearing my collar, no prayer book, no business card. I was able to

sit with the family through this difficult time and deliver the prayers commending their father to his maker.

Can you recall those moments in your life when you experienced that something more was present, sacred moments that fill our lives with direction and meaning? There is no need to hang on anxiously to moments that are past. God's reign is on the horizon. Remember, as Paul said to the Corinthians, "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of Lord Jesus Christ." Bestow your gifts on others so that they also will grow to realize fullness of time. In this way, we will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

Complete text of this sermon is available on our website at www.saintmarks.org/Publications/Sermons/sermons.php

All of us have many roles in our lives; we have more power in some relationships, and less power in others. I pray that through the telling of my moment of weakness, God will not let you forget that we are all children of God. When confronted with suffering, I hope you will respond as Micah did when he spoke truth to power. I hope you will respond as Paul did when he called on the Thessalonians to live a life worthy of God. I hope you will respond with love, one for one another, as Christ has commanded us. "All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted."

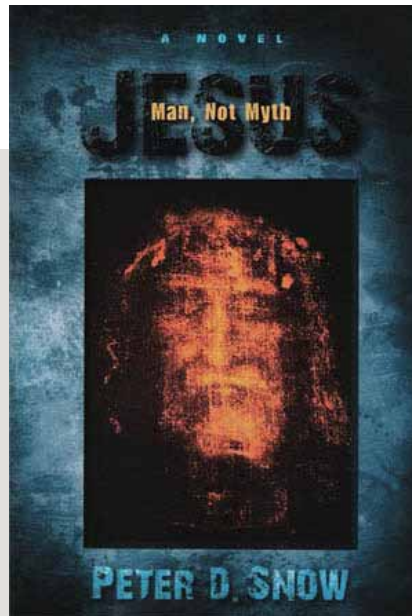
JESUS: *Man, Not Myth*

Review by the Rev. Denny Allman

This is a novel, narrated in the first person by John, the beloved disciple, who went on to become St. John the Divine, to whom the Book of the Revelation is attributed as well as the gospel which bears his name. It begins with his reminiscences as an old man on the Isle of Patmos where he has been exiled. He begins remembering how as a young man he met another John, who was baptizing. The story then unfolds into his telling many of the stories found in the four Gospels. All of the well-known characters are fleshed out very nicely by the author. He even adds a few stories of his own. After all, it is fiction.

One of these stories he creates revolves around a diary written by Annas, who was the high priest, along with his son-in-law Caiaphas, during Jesus' trials. Annas writes of how those who were in power came to fear Jesus and why they set out to eliminate him. The politics of Jerusalem during Jesus' ministry has been one of great conjecture for centuries. The Rev. Peter Snow makes it come alive in the writings from the "diary." In my opinion it is a very effective literary ploy.

Just as the stories contained in the gospels themselves serve to inform and educate the disciples, so likewise the conversations between Jesus and his disciples, as envisioned by Snow, serve to inform and educate the reader. Jesus becomes a "real" person. Not just some words from a page. In this book, Jesus teaches both by lessons and conversations. The theology that comes from these lessons is honest and



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This book is available at the Cathedral Shop— contact George at 206.323.1040 or gtreusch@saintmarks.org or order through www.episcopalbooksellers.org/

accurate; at least as we Episcopalians understand it. For the person who attends church regularly the stories will sound familiar. For those who might be wondering what this "church stuff" is all about it will be less so. But whatever your experience or training, the book serves to make Jesus human.

Any writer who sets out to fictionalize the life of Jesus, the Christ, should probably do so with fear and trembling. If the writer ventures outside what is written in the four gospels he or she runs the risk of offending someone. Sometimes someone will be offended big time. I think that Snow did approach this book with the proper sense of awe. He may still offend some, but I don't think too many.

The search for the "historic Jesus" has been going on for well over a century. Much ink has been spilled proving and disproving his existence. For those who would like to know more and are not ready for the exhaustive scholarship of the *Jesus Seminar* I recommend this book. It does not pretend to answer all the questions scholars have been pondering for generations. It does, however, serve to give us an understanding of this first century

evangelist and why his teachings still live over two millennia since he first voiced them. The book is a novel, fiction. However, it will be a great conversation starter regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey.

The Rev. Denny Allman is a retired priest living in Vicksburg, Miss. He also is the father of Kerry Allman, internet strategist in the Diocese of Olympia and a member of Saint Mark's Cathedral.

Additional comments available at www.jesussannotmyth.com

*Through the lens of our community:
Feast of St. Francis, Agape meal, Feasting on Gratitude: Thanksgiving meal*



Do you take photos of your ministry in action? Have any photos of our community you would like to share?

Send them to info@saintmarks.org– please include any information you have about when, where and who is in the photo. Thanks!

The Rubric

The Rev. Canon Rebecca McClain, Canon Missioner; Liz Sloat, Editor

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