

Rector's Report December 2023



- On Tuesday November 21, I participated in a zoom webinar conversation between Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the Most Reverend Hosam Elias Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Primate of Jerusalem, moderated by Archdeacon Paul Feheley, the Middle East Partnership Officer for the Episcopal Church. You can watch the conversation here: <https://fast.wistia.net/embed/iframe/651kp9n1rr?dnt=1#?secret=vjSe428RrU>; and I encourage you to make a donation to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem here: <https://afedj.org/give/give-online/>. The diocese supports the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, which is the only healthcare option for thousands of families in Gaza. Learn more here: <https://afedj.org/institution/ahli-arab-hospital-gaza-city/>



- On Wednesday November 29, Ashley and I brought my mom, Janet, to the Dick Taylor Christmas Tree Lighting event, where we ran into parishioners and met Adam Dick and Dustin Taylor, who are the co-founders of the chocolate factory as well as lead members of the indie folk and bluegrass band Huckleberry Flint. I invited them to consider performing at Christ Church sometime.



- On Thursday November 30, as John and Vickie Patton were hanging up a new Joy Mass banner above the chapel door facing G street, I took some photos of a rainbow that seemed to be bursting out from the Joy Mass altar. The rainbow showed up moments before I recorded my introduction to the *Ad orientem* altar formation in the chancel, which made me feel like the heavens had approved of the decision.



- On Tuesday December 5, before sharing some of my Sabbatical Adventures in Europe at the Advent Soup Supper, I received a phone call from Amos Clifford, the founder of the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy, inviting me to consider co-authoring a book on pilgrimage together.



- On Sunday December 10, Ashley and I attended the Hanukkah and Human Rights gathering in the fellowship hall of the United Congregational Christian Church in Eureka. After an interfaith study of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (on the 75th

anniversary of the global pledge), we lit Hanukah candles, sang songs with the Temple Beth El Choir and the Redwood Peace Choir, followed by Dances of Universal Peace led by the Garden of the Heart Sufi Community.



- I was honored to have an article of mine included as the leading article in the Spring issue of the Anglican Journal of Theology in Aotearoa and Oceania, which was published this month. The editor writes, “The first article ‘The Sensual Gospel of St John the Evangelist’ traces a theological whakapapa of incarnational spirituality that is rooted in the Gospel of John, one that rejects the artificial separation of the natural world and the spiritual. The author, Daniel London, is an Episcopal priest and scholar, who spent a portion of his research leave this year at St John’s College. He shares the fruit of that research with us through the lens of reception history. That is, drawing on the writings of Celtic and Anglican scholars over several generations he shows how the Gospel of John holds the spiritual and natural together in the Incarnation. Out of that he encourages us to celebrate the gift of enfleshment and appreciate those spiritual practices that ‘help us connect to the earth and our own human flesh, through which God chose to make his glory known.’”
- On December 14, I attended a daylong working retreat with the Worship Planning Committee for the Revival, *Fearless Faith: Planting Love & Harvesting Hope*. We met with musicians Lacey Brown (from Church of the Apostles in Seattle), Quincy Dover (NY) and Alejandro Thanh Montes (Houston TX) who are planning to lead music at the Revival. The three of them led music at the EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) in Maryland last summer. The Revival will take place in Roseville on **April 26 & 27**. Christ Church is slated to serve as the remote location for a livestream of the Revival. Please visit this website <https://www.fearlessfaith2024.org/> and fill out the survey before December 22.

FEARLESS FAITH

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA **REVIVAL** PLANTING LOVE & HARVESTING HOPE



Revival Prayer

Gracious God, you know our hearts for all our neighbors: help us and guide our path as we seek to live lives of fearless faith, loving service and confident hope. We give you thanks and praise for all the ways you are present and moving in our community. May this time of revival bring both Spirit filled personal-renewal and social transformation marked by justice and healing. For these and all your blessings, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Revival Biddings for Prayers of the People

We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, for his recovery to health and wholeness and for Bishop Megan and other leaders preparing for revival.

In Your mercy, hear us.

We pray for our own revival and renewal of strength of purpose, where concern for others in our communities leads to fearless faith and love in action.

In Your mercy, hear us.

We pray for revival throughout the Diocese of Northern California that we may be a haven of hope for those in our communities living in despair.

In Your mercy, hear us.