

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXIV, No.6

March 23, 2022

[christchurchtyler.org](http://christchurchtyler.org)



## From the Rector:

*Jesus was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." Mark 4.2-8*

The Neolithic revolution began over ten thousand years ago, when human beings began to gather and develop communities like Tell Abu Hureyra on the Euphrates River in southern Syria. From then until the Industrial Revolution, farming was the dominant type of work in our communities.

The New Testament is filled with agricultural idiom and metaphor, much of which is far removed from our metropolitan world. And yet the lessons from the parables of Jesus are timely.

Lent is many things: a forty-day season preceding Easter modeled on the length and purpose of Jesus' wilderness experience; a penitential time for spiritual reflection and course correction.

To borrow, though, from the parable of the sower, Lent is a time to tend the soil. The 'soil' of our soul does not default to health and vitality. It needs tending. Weeding, composting, mulching—there is much to do in the Spring to nurture the health of our gardens.

Likewise, Lent is a season to tend the soil of your spiritual life. Weeding, feeding, and protecting yourself, so that you will enjoy a healthy and fruitful life with God and other people.

The public health landscape has dramatically improved in Tyler. Sacramental wine is available once again. People are gathering in ever greater numbers to pray and worship and fellowship and serve others once again. Come tend your spiritual soil at Christ Church!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

David +

# from the associate rector...

The Reverend Doctor Matthew Boulter / *Associate Rector*

## "If Jesus had a Twitter Account" (Mockingbird, 2022)

This brief article, dear friends, is not the first time I've written about Mockingbird Ministries—founded by a group of Episcopalians (lay and ordained), circa 2007, in New York City—in these hallowed pages of *The Crucifer*. Indeed, for years now I've promoted the annual Mockingbird Conference (which, this year, will take place in the Fall) in Christ Church and around Tyler. It never ceases to amaze me that the two American cities which host an annual Mockingbird conference are New York and Tyler. (As I've always said, Tyler is the New York City of East Texas!)



For a quick taste/introduction to Mockingbird (website: [mbird.com](http://mbird.com)), you could check this out [youtube.com/watch?v=SJbNE\\_x8VnQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJbNE_x8VnQ).

Why is Mockingbird on my brain this morning? Two reasons. First, I'm thrilled to be able to attend this year's NYC conference in a few weeks in April. The keynote speaker is Tom Holland, who recently wrote the magisterial book *Dominion*. Magisterial and *highly recommended*: in this (relatively popular-level) book Holland gives an account of how Christianity in the West has promoted a kind of subversive undercurrent which, time and time again, promotes the underdog and displaces the powerful. (See Lk 1:52.)

Here's how commentator Ross Douthat puts it in *The New York Times*, commenting on *Dominion*:

A galloping tour of Christianity's influence across the last 2,000 years, with vivid vignettes scattered across the centuries, and a concluding argument the Christian faith, 'the most influential framework for making sense of human existence that has ever existed,' still shapes the way that even the most secular modern people think about the world.

If anyone is interested in attending the conference, let me know! (I already know of one Christ Church South friend who plans to attend.) How cool would that be?

Secondly, though, my inspiration to write about Mockingbird at this time arises from an excellent article I just read on their website, by Todd Brewer, entitled "When the Good Book Sounds Bad: Persisting with the Bible Beyond its Offence." I wonder, dear reader, if I'm the only one at Christ Church who, while reading the "Bible in One Year" finds myself scratching my head at some of the texts I'm reading, particularly in the Old Testament. All the rules, regulations, and most of all the (seemingly) harsh penalties and punishments! Yet in this short piece Brewer brilliantly undermines our modern secular tendency *either* to place ourselves over the Bible in a superior position of judgement and critique, *or* to adopt "a subservient stance toward the text, giving over oneself entirely to its truth" in a way that fails to grapple with its strangeness and difficulty. This little essay is custom made for anyone (like so many, I say from experience, at Christ Church South) who sometimes bristle against the Bible's more foreign sentiments, which sometimes appear downright offensive. Than simply dismissing any particular biblical text, there is a better way.

Friends, these two examples—the upcoming Tom Holland talk and the Brewer piece—are just the tip of the iceberg. Anything on the website or in podcast form that Aaron Zimmerman (co-founder of Mockingbird and rector of St. Albans, Waco) writes or says is likely to be pure gold. Same goes for Sarah Condon or R. J. Heijmen (both priests in Houston). Some of my favorite talks and pieces are entitled "If Jesus had a Twitter Account" (hence the title of this *Crucifer* article), "Are there really any 'good, country people?'" and "If you want fair, you probably won't like Jesus". Check out the website (and the podcasts, and the vimeo channel), and enjoy!

By the way, have you noticed how many Episcopal priests are involved in Mockingbird? Oh, and the fact that this organization holds an annual conference (together with Christ Church) at Bethel Bible Church: does it get any more ecumenical than that? (I don't think so!)



# music at Christ Church

Jeffrey Ford / *Choirmaster & Organist*

**Sunday, March 27**

## WINTER MUSIC SERIES

9am & 11am services, featured **Orchard Ensemble:**  
Mark Miller, **violin** | Ute Miller, **viola** | Laura Ospina, **cello**

## CHORAL EVENSONG

6:00pm, with the **Chancel Choir**  
Downtown in the Nave

### Holy Week & Easter Music here at Christ Church

April 10, 2022 **Palm Sunday** (Procession with palms)

The Choirs will join the processional from the Memorial Garden.

Anthem: *There Is A Green Hill Far Away*, Herbert Sumsion

April 14, 2022 7:00 p.m. **Maundy Thursday** with Chancel Choir

Anthem: *Beloved, Let Us Love One Another*, Michael Sitton

Anthem: *Tantum Ergo*, Louis Vierne

Anthem: *Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow*, Robert J. Powell

April 15, 2022 12:00 p.m. **Good Friday & Veneration of the Cross**

Holly Marsh, soprano; Michelle Hanlon, violin

April 16, 2022 8:00 p.m. **Great Vigil**

Anthem: *Christ Has Conquered*, Joseph Noyon

Anthem: *O Thou the Central Orb*, Charles Wood

April 17, 2022 **Easter Sunday** with Brass

Anthem: *Christ Has Conquered*, Joseph Noyon

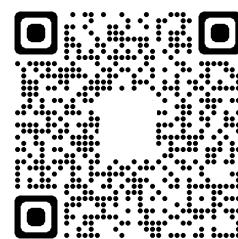
Anthem: *O Thou the Central Orb*, Charles Wood

Dear Christ Church Family:

Now that the pandemic has subsided and worship services are getting back to normal, we are in the process of rebuilding our usher program back to its status before Covid interrupted normal worship services. We need four teams each for the 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM services, which would serve one Sunday a month. Husband & wife teams are a great fit and are more than welcome. We appreciate your willingness to serve and look forward to having a full slate of ushers moving into the Easter season. If you are interested please scan the QR code >>> it will take you to a form.

In the service of Christ,  
Ted W. Walters

## Ushers Needed



Scan here →

Or email [twwalters@twalters.com](mailto:twwalters@twalters.com)

children's ministry  
Tina McGee / Director of Children's Ministries



## VBS 2022

ages 4k-4th grade

June 27-July 1

All Saints Episcopal School  
9am-12pm

Online Registration is open  
[www.christchurchtyler.org](http://www.christchurchtyler.org)

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

3/29 Anna Kate Dickerson

youth ministry

Laura Albea / Director of Student Ministries

EYCC



BELIZE

How can a week of team fellowship, service, and adventure fit inside a Crucifer article? It simply cannot. But! I now know firsthand why Christ Church's high schoolers absolutely *LOVE* Corozal, Belize. St. Paul's students and teachers are loved by our kids deeply, and the Corozal community reciprocates that love. Honestly, they embraced us from the moment we arrived at the school. Their hospitality broadened and deepened our understanding of what being friendly can look like.

The work at the school was accomplished thanks to the direction of Tina McGee & Ricky. A couple bigger items were raising their storage room's floor as well as extending a section of the roof (so the path between the bathrooms and classrooms are dry and shaded). Fresh painting was applied to salt-corroded benches, walls, and buildings. The youth also weeded walkways and cut paper towels for St. Paul's future use.

I am so grateful to each and every youth that journeyed with us on this mission trip. The grit and care these kids showed one another, as well as their openness to hearing and responding to the words of Jesus from Matthew chapter 5-7, was a gift for me to witness. *Belize* me when I say, I am so proud to have spent a week with each and every one of them. If you have a high schooler, when the 2022-2023 school schedule is released, mark your calendar for Belize. Let them experience firsthand how special the week truly is.



### *In Our Prayers*

***Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:***

Lisa, Cynthia, Christi, Charles, John, Jim, Jennifer, Virginia, Dalton, Kirby, Chris, Sally, Rhonda, Isaiah, John, Gregory, Russell, Mike, Mark, Linda, Marian, Larry, Paul, Frieda, Suzanne, Diane, Ian, Frieda, Betsey, Gates, Wayne

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Kitgum (Uganda)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Missouri & Montana*

**Diocese of Texas:** *Trinity Episcopal—Jasper & Christ Episcopal—Jefferson*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please contact The Rev. Stephen Stine with prayer list changes or additions 903.530.8168.

## **LENTEN Opportunities**

### **LENTEN TEACHING SERIES Tuesdays at Noon**

#### **[The 23rd Psalm: Walking with Jesus]**

Tuesday, March 29 | *Thou preparest a table before me* | Fr. Ted

Tuesday, April 5 | *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me* | Fr. David

Please join us for the study of this most popular Psalm that points us to Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

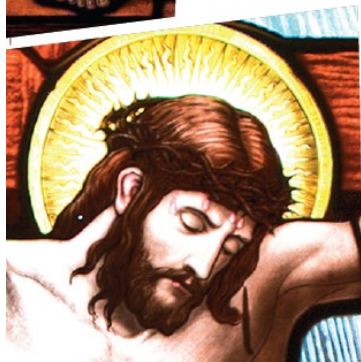
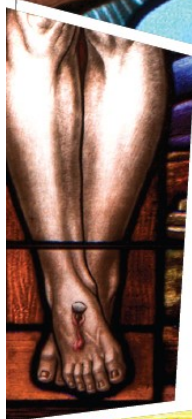
**A light lunch will follow the service in the Parish Hall.**

#### **Praying the Rosary**

11:30am Tuesdays in the Chapel

#### **Virtual Morning Prayer**

available at 6:00am Weekday mornings at  
[www.christchurchtyler.org](http://www.christchurchtyler.org)



## *Holy Week & Easter*

- April 10 > Palm Sunday (with Palm Procession) **CCD & CCS**
- April 11-13 > Noon Eucharist **CCD**
- April 14 > Maundy Thursday > 7:00pm **CCD**
- April 15 > Good Friday > noon **CCD**  
Stations of the Cross > 1:15pm **CCD**
- April 16 > Easter Egg Hunt > 10:00am **CCS**  
> Great Vigil > 8:00pm **CCD**
- April 17 Easter Sunday  
> 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am **CCD**  
> 7:00am (sunrise service) & 11:05am **CCS**

## SCHEDULE:

Sunday, March 27

9 & 11 | **Winter Music Series**

6:00pm | **Choral Evensong**

Tues, March 29

8:00am | **Men's Bible Study with the Rector CCD**

11:30am | **Praying the Rosary CCD Chapel**

Noon | **Lenten Teaching Series CCD**

*followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall*

Wed, March 30

7:15am | **Men's Bible Study CCD Undercroft**

10:00am | **Wednesday Morning Small Grp CCD**

6:00pm | **Women's Depth Group CCS**

Thurs, March 31

10:30am | **Women's Bible Study with the Rector CCD**

Sun, April 10

**Palm Sunday**

Sat, April 16

10:00am | **Easter Egg Hunt CCS**

Sunday, April 17

**Easter Sunday**

## Supper Club

Join us!



**Friday, February 18**  
**March 18, April 8, May 13**

contact Kim Meyer (903) 530-6186 or Stacey McKinley (903) 939-0125

## The Bob Rowlett Memorial Open Golf Tournament



**Friday, May 6, 2022**

*Pine Springs Golf Club*

**5630 CR 334 | Tyler, TX 75708**

Find more information on our website:  
[www.christchurchtyler.org](http://www.christchurchtyler.org)

### Bible Study with the Rector

**The Epistle to the Colossians**

**Men** > Tuesdays 8:00am

**Women** > Thursdays 10:30am

**Christ Church Downtown  
Parish Hall**



**BioY**

We are reading the entire Bible.  
**YOU CAN STILL START!**

*All Christian Formation in 2022 will be  
based on the previous weeks readings.*

Scan the QR code or go to  
[christchurchtyler.org](http://christchurchtyler.org) for more information.



### Women's Depth Group

1st & 3rd

Wednesdays

6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Christ Church South**



***Sunday, April 3***  
**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
 Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126,  
 Philippians 3:8-14, Luke 20:9-19



Christ Church | Episcopal  
118 S. Bois d'Arc  
Tyler, TX 75702

903.597.9854  
office@christchurchtyler.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.christchurchtyler.org](http://www.christchurchtyler.org)

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday Schedule

7:30 am CCD: The Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:00 am CCD: The Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:00 am~ CCD: The Holy Eucharist Rite I  
11:05 am~ CCS: The Holy Eucharist Rite II  
~live-streamed [christchurchtyler.org](http://christchurchtyler.org)

### CHRIST CHURCH: ONE CHURCH—TWO CAMPUSES

CCD: Christ Church *Downtown*, 118 S. Bois d' Arc, Tyler, TX 75702 (office address)

CCS: Christ Church *South*, 15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, TX 75703

[www.christchurchtyler.org](http://www.christchurchtyler.org) | office@christchurchtyler.org

Please Note: *The Crucifer* is published twice monthly (except July and December).  
If you have something you would like to see published in *The Crucifer*, please contact  
Samantha Hague at 903-597-9854, [shague@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:shague@christchurchtyler.org).



*The vision of Christ Church is  
to be recognized as a joyful,  
spirit-filled community of  
apostles reaching out and  
transforming lives for Christ.*