

The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

July 2016

From Fr. John:

On angels (Part Two): God created angels at the very beginning of creation. And the Anglican doctrine of angels developed over the centuries, as Anglican theologian Fr. John Mcquarrie has written, “directs our minds to the vastness and richness of the creation, and every advance of science opens up still more distant horizons. Any merely humanistic creed that makes [humanity] the measure of all things or regards [us] as the sole author of values is narrow and parochial. The panorama of creation must be more breathtaking than we can guess in our corner of the cosmos, for there must be many higher orders of beings whose service is joined with ours under God.”

If angels are not merely the stuff of poetry, mythology and art, and if God started created them from the beginning, where did our understanding of them come from? How has it changed? Angels are not included in either of the creation stories in the book of Genesis, and yet Psalm 148 says that God spoke and angels were created, implying that God started creating angels at some point in the earliest beginning of God’s creating activity. In the Book of Job, God speaks from the whirlwind with a summary of the first moments of creating, telling Job (and us) that when the morning stars sang together, all the angels shouted for joy, which implies that God started creating angels at least by the time that God first began creating stars.

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There are good reasons to place the arrival of angels on the very first day of creating, when God said, “Let there be light.” Being created on the first day makes sense for angels who are created spirits without physical form; entities created when the earth itself was without form and void and yet radiates God’s enigmatic and lovingly creative Word.

The lack of clarity in Scripture about when and why God began creating angels is a sufficient reminder that the creation stories in our scripture emphasize and convey essential spiritual truths far more than empirical, historical truth. The earliest reference in our Old Testament involves the “angel of YHWH,” a messenger who appears to Hagar in the desert. This messenger appears in multiple texts afterward, though with less and less frequency. The texts become increasingly difficult to understand whether they are referring to a separate order of being or to a way of God’s self-communication in the world. In the story of Moses’ encounter with the Divine in Exodus, for example, the “angel of YHWH” appears to him in the burning bush, but it is YHWH who speaks to Moses from the bush.

In the remembrance of God’s mercy in Isaiah 63:9, some translations say that “it was no messenger or angel” but God’s presence that delivered Israel, while others say that “the angel of [God’s] presence saved them.” A handful of early references to the “Heavenly Court” show up as early as the Book of Joshua and as late as the Book of Daniel, where the angels Gabriel and Michael guard and assist humans while praising God. Raphael, one of seven holy angels, is a central character of the apocryphal book of Tobit where he offers guidance and prayer. Raphael also comes close to functioning almost as an intermediary, which is what may make the Book of Tobit theologically dodgy, especially for Protestants.

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St. Elizabeth

Fund Raising - Where Shopping & Giving Unite!!

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

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

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

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

Amazon Smiles - smile.amazon.com

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

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

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

Fred Meyer has updated their Community Reward Computer/Software program.

Designations to St. Elizabeth must be updated in the new software by linking to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. If you have a Fred Meyer rewards card and have not designated St. E's....Now would be a great time!!!

Christine Ramirez or Linda Knutson can assist you.

Our Food Cupboard is well loved and well used.

Some additional ideas for items are bags of rice or beans, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, peanut butter, toothpaste, toilet paper or paper towels, cereal, condiments, and of course the usual—any kind of canned meats, top ramen and mac-n-cheese. Sorry to say this, but the healthier foods are not taken very quickly. **A great big thank you to those that regularly contribute!!!!**

Landscaping...

During July colored envelopes will be available in the pews for contributions toward the LANDSCAPE needs of St. Elizabeth. A group of landscape workers agreed on our priority need for accessible water and the addition of good soil. Any gift is appreciated. Questions? Call Carolyn Terry

The Women of St. E have cancelled their July 23rd rummage sale at the church as it coincided with a large event that Santa Isabel has had on the calendar for quite some time.

Hospitality House News

July is the month that St. Elizabeth's is designated to collect items needed for the women at HH. There is a list on the first bulletin board of the things they need and there is a basket in the office for collection of these items. Please remember the women when you are at the store.

Feel free to ask Christine or Danielle if you need any more information.

Stewardship is a reflection of the abundance and understanding that all we have are gifts from God. We can celebrate the summer season and God's gifts by continuing our monthly financial giving to St. Elizabeth.

Although we may take a summer holiday, the monthly expenses of maintaining our sanctuary at St. Elizabeth do not vary much throughout the year.

Thank you,
Linda Knutson
Treasurer

The Elizabethan

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

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

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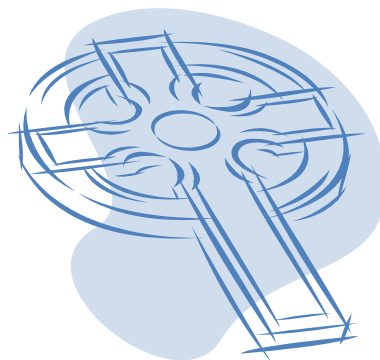
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By necessity, our concepts of angels are largely speculative. Perhaps they serve best when they inform our theology and philosophy about our own human limits. Scripture does not set angels before us as an aspiration for humans nor as intermediaries between God and humans (with the exception of the Book of Tobit). Macquarrie suggests that, like the cherubim with flaming swords guarding the Garden of Eden, “the concept of the angelic marks the boundary beyond which [humans] cannot trespass.”

These limitations can serve to inform our embodied existence and teach us to better integrate our transcendent spirituality with our earthly reality, rather than to despise this earth and our human bodies, or to distort our faith into excessive fascination with living toward some intellectualized notion of a purely spiritual existence.

(Next: In part three, we will talk about angels in the New Testament.)

Macquarrie, John. *Principles of Christian Theology*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1977.

See you in church. Fr. John

St. Elizabeth's Trinity Window

See article on page 6

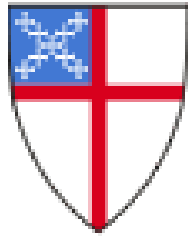


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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Exploring St. Elizabeth's...

When you enter the nave the next time, walk towards the altar, turning before stepping up into the chancel and take a good look at the huge stained glass window across the back. It took local artist Jean Frantz three years (1980-1983) to design, fabricate and install. The window was to proclaim the Trinity; reflect the congregation of St Elizabeth and be an inspiration to her people. Special care was taken in choosing the glass and the symbol. The dominant symbols you will see are the Eye of God, Christ's cross and the fiery red dove of the Holy Spirit. If you look closely at the circles and in the lower left and right corners, you might see mustard seeds encased in glass. The artist thought they represented the spirit of St. Elizabeth's.

If you would like more information on this and the other stained glass windows read the pamphlet entitled "The Windows of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church" found in the literature rack in the narthex.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed sown in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Mathew 13:31-33

Sue Tierney, Senior Warden