



DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of April 20, 2021

Celebration of New Ministries

The Celebration of a New Ministry is the time when the community as a whole celebrates the covenant they make with their priest, to live and thrive in their various ministries with the support of one another. Congratulations to the Rev. Tom Gartin (Faith, Cameron Park), and the Rev. Anny Genato (St. Augustine, Rocklin.)



The Rev. Tom Gartin

Video of the celebration is [here](#).



The Rev. Anny Genato

Video of the celebration is [here](#).

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

From the Presiding Bishop

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

preached an impassioned and at times personal sermon during an [April 20 virtual Compline service](#) organized by the Episcopal Church in Minnesota and held hours after a jury convicted a former police officer in the killing of George Floyd.



“You have been faithful through this journey, and many of you have marched and virtually all of you have prayed and you have stayed the course,” Curry said, as he thanked Minnesota Bishop Craig Loya for his leadership on behalf of The Episcopal Church and thanked Episcopalians in Minnesota for their dedication to the cause of justice. *“There is work yet to be done,”* he added.

“For all the years of my life that I can remember, I have been taught to be wary of the police,” he said. As a Black teenager, he learned from adults that he shouldn’t talk back to officers, *“don’t provoke them.”*

“I’ve heard that all my life, and I’m aware you get conditioned by the repetition of that kind of thing,” he said. *“What happened to George Floyd has been happening [for years]. The difference was there were no cameras. It was just the Black community crying, Indigenous communities crying, brown communities crying, Asian communities crying.”*

Even during Chauvin’s trial, Curry said, he couldn’t *“give in to the hope”* for justice until the verdicts finally were read in court. *“Today, if but for one moment, love won. And today, if but for one moment, George Floyd won.”*

But the work of the church and followers of Jesus doesn’t end there, he said. *“We must continue until no human child of God is treated less than a child of God, until everybody is treated as God’s somebody, until this world and our communities are beloved communities, where there’s plenty good room for all of God’s children,”* he said. *“This is our work. This is our task. This is our struggle.”*

Watch **Bishop Curry's** sermon [here](#).

Read **Bishop Beisner's** reflection from 4/20/2021 [here](#).

From the Office of the Bishop

Bishop Megan had a knee replacement surgery on Monday, April 19. Please join in prayers of thanksgiving for Bishop Megan's successful surgery and prayers for healing as she begins her recovery.

Welcome to The Rev. Dr. John Day, our Transition Ministry Officer.

This role will focus on:

- Working with clergy who are discerning a call to a new position; for congregations in search of new clergy, and those searching for professional lay workers
- Working with the Bishop, search consultants and lay leadership,

develops a process that responds to the variety of congregational situations, utilizes technology effectively, and adapts to changing demographics and dynamics

Rev. John graduated from the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. For 20 years he was banking at First Interstate Bank as Vice President and Manager, Cash Management Department. Rev. John felt the call to ministry and attended The Church Divinity School of the Pacific where he received a Master of Divinity. Returning to the Diocese of Utah and was ordained to the Priesthood in 1991. He served at several churches in Utah and then was called to California. Rev. John attended Seabury Western Theological Seminary, earning a Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development in 2001. He is also Priest-in-Charge at St. Mary the Virgin, Elk Grove.

From Trinity Cathedral

Dean's Forum: Use Your Words!

Marilyn McEntyre will preach on May 2 at the 9:00 am Cathedral Eucharist live on [Facebook](#). Marilyn will be preaching on the theme of: "Branchings." The sermon promises to reflect on metaphor in scripture.

After the May 2 service she will speak to the Dean's Forum on Zoom at 10:30am also on May 2nd: [Register](#) in advance for this meeting:

Marilyn will be preaching on the theme of: "**Branchings.**" The sermon promises to reflect on metaphor in scripture.

The title of her Forum talk is: "**Spirited Wordplay**" *Playfulness is a sign of life and a mark of the Spirit who moves over the waters and between the lines.*

Read more about [Marilyn McEntyre here](#).

Earth Day and Creation Care

Care for God's
Creation
Earth Day 2021



In Jesus, God so loved the whole world. We follow Jesus, so we love the world

God loves. Concerned for the global climate emergency, drawing on diverse approaches for our diverse contexts, we commit to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation.

The Episcopal Church's **Covenant for the Care of Creation** is a commitment to practice loving formation, liberating advocacy and life-giving conversation as individuals, congregations, ministries and dioceses. Explore the Covenant [here](#) and sign up for the [newsletter and opportunities](#) to formally adopt the Covenant in your community.

Diocesan-wide Sacred Ground Circle



Why Attend a Sacred Ground Circle?

For the Episcopal Church, Becoming Beloved Community is a vision for a community where we grow in our love of God, our neighbors and creation. A labyrinth with four quadrants has been developed to illustrate the journey toward Becoming Beloved Community.

The first quadrant of the labyrinth is about our Baptismal vow to “*persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.*” The first step in repenting and turning away from racism is to learn and tell the truth about it. One way to do this work is through learning and communicating in **Sacred Ground Circles**.

Sacred Ground is a 10-part discussion about race, grounded in faith. Participants are invited to view selected videos and read books and articles about Indigenous, Black, Latino and Asian/Pacific American histories and how they intersect with European-American accounts.

The materials also examine the church's evolving teachings on race relations. Participants come together in small groups, aka dialogue circles, to reflect on what they have learned and how it fits with their own family stories, identities, and experiences.

There will be two Sacred Ground opportunities hosted online:

- Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. beginning May 10 hosted by [Paul Mallatt](#) from Incarnation, Santa Rosa and [Deacon Kate Sefton](#) from St. Stephen's, Sebastopol.
- Thursday afternoons 1:00 p.m. beginning May 13, hosted by social justice advocate [Bob Wohlsen](#) and Spiritual Director/educator [Sharron Simpson](#)

If you are interested in joining, email [Deacon Kate Sefton](#) or [Bob Wohlsen](#).

Grant Opportunities

The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California has joyfully committed to award \$100,000 in grants to churches and missions throughout our Diocese in 2021!



Supporting the Diocesan mission of making disciples, raising up saints, and transforming communities for Christ, the Foundation will endeavor to enhance ministry and outreach in the Diocese in five general categories:

- Evangelism
- Education
- Technology
- Homelessness Relief
- Food Insecurity

The application period is from April 1, 2021 – June 1, 2021. Click [here](#) to download an application.

To submit an application, or if you have questions, please [email Michelle Karimi](#).

The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California is continuing the ***Mustard Seed*** grant program for 2021!

Mustard Seed grants
"moving mountains"

Mustard Seed grants are grants of \$500 to promote and support grass-roots ministries at the congregation level in our Diocese.

- Available to parishes, missions, and other Episcopal organizations in the Diocese
- Linking small, creative ministries to resources: a little help in the right place at the right time in the right hands can eventually move mountains

The application period is from April 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021; grants will be awarded throughout the year. Click [here](#) to download an application.

To submit an application, or if you have questions, please [email Michelle Karimi](#).

Episcopal Community Services of Northern California will be administering five innovative outreach grants this year:

- The Ministry Development Grant
- Social Justice Grant
- The Barry L. Beisner Grant
- The Lamb Grant
- The Anita Weaver Grant



Letters of Interest due **April 15, 2021**.

To find out more about these grants visit the [NorCal ECS website](#).

Additional Resources and Links

In addition to the ongoing financial aid program the **Fund for the Diaconate** has been assisting deacons -- working, retired, or disabled -- who have insufficient funds for their needs. The Fund is unique in its mission of service to deacons by deacons. The Fund for the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church has created a special Emergency Grant Program, to aid deacons affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



For more information visit the [website here](#).

Episcopal Relief & Development offers a [new digital prayer tool](#), bringing together prayers from many sources and the opportunity to share prayers with others.



[Online resources for people in recovery](#)

To submit news/events, please email communications@norcalepiscopal.org. The submission deadline is the Wednesday before the Tuesday publication.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ
www.norcalepiscopal.org

