

# ST ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, 11th Bishop of Utah

The Rev. Michael Carney, Vicar

**SUNDAY WORSHIP, HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM**



## The Road to Recovery

The time of reckoning had come for Adam Twiss. After years of developing the concept and months of focused work, the deadline had finally arrived. As he was completing the Intermediate Welding course at Uintah Basin Technical College (UB Tech), Adam was invited to enter the SkillsUSA Welding Sculpture competition. When he struggled to make progress in the school's shop, his instructors encouraged him to take his project home, suggesting that he obtain a 110-volt welder. Adam stayed up late at night, literally grinding away after full days at his job, keeping his family awake. Slowly, steadily, a magnificent warbonnet began to take shape.

The fact that his instructors were so supportive made it harder for Adam to show them his work, which didn't seem complete to him. Earlier in his life, pressure like that might have sent him running

away as fast as he could go. But having a teacher like Jeff Taniguchi, who believed in him as an artist and a man, made a huge difference. Jeff's Native students had entered the SkillsUSA competition before, but none had ever won a medal. Jeff said the time had come for that to change.

So many threads of his life came together for Adam during that pandemic year. Entering UB Tech had been

the biggest tipping point. On probation after leaving prison, he had to be working or going to school. UB Tech seemed approachable, with a simple online application process. With a country scholarship and a stipend from the Ute Indian Tribe to pay his expenses, Adam enrolled in classes and began looking for a way to support himself. After being locked up it felt good to be doing meaningful work, progressing from clearing brush

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and preparing for the Sun Dance to working at a temporary job in the tribal custodial department. Finally, he was invited to apply for a position as a Case Manager for the tribe's Alcohol/Substance Abuse Prevention program, and suddenly he was busy all the time.

That, of course, was based on another important thread: his own recovery. Adam was already struggling with substance abuse when he entered high school, but "every attempt to quit and every treatment program made a difference in the end." Again, it was a progression, from thriving in a rehab dorm at boarding school to emerging as a leader in prison to bonding in the local men's fellowship to starting an online AA group. The name Stepping Stones grew up organically from Adam's own experiences. If you look closely at his sculpture, you'll see the recovery medallions that celebrate this new stage of his life. The concept drawing of the eagle feathers for the warbonnet had been sketched out in prison and was finally being realized.

Adam's faith and family have been growing up alongside his art, work and recovery. Scripture studies in prison were transforming, helping him learn from his past that he needed to ask for God's help. Letters from Jim and Sue Duffield reminded him of his place in the community back home and that God was always with him. The shift continued as Adam began to attend worship again at St. Elizabeth's, offering his gifts of reading Scripture and playing music. Joining in sweat ceremonies and helping Forrest Cuch build a new lodge were also important. Steadily, with some bumps in the road along the way, his healthier roots began to take hold and give him a solid foundation for moving forward.

Adam needn't have worried about displaying the warbonnet. His instructors were blown away by the challenges he'd set for himself and the skillful ways he'd responded. Jeff complimented not only the work itself, but Adam's attitude and his approach to becoming an accomplished craftsman. And he won the Bronze Medal! Now new challenges are beckoning, as Adam both



enters the Advanced Welding course and gets additional training as a Professional Peer Support Specialist. Work and art and recovery and family are growing closer together, linked by God's presence and Adam's faith.



## Connecting with Creation



Michael and I recently took a trip to California to see family. I was super busy before we left, because it was finally warm enough to plant out the vegetable plants I'd grown from seed. I had a lot of help from the young man who mows the church lawns. We planted tomato, cucumber and squash plants as well as flowers, both in pots and in the garden beds. I also planted some of the kinds of seeds you can plant outside once it's warm enough, like corn. The young man came by every day while we were gone to take care of things.

When we came back home, the first thing I did was go around and look at all the plants. I was totally amazed to see that the tomatoes had grown about a foot taller in

the ten days we were gone! Everything was thriving and the corn was coming up. I felt so happy. Hopefully everything will keep growing and we'll be able to harvest lots of vegetables this year.

When I'm in my garden, I feel such a deep connection with nature, with creation and the Creator. When I spoke with the man who helps with the garden, he told me how good it felt to come over to care for the plants. It was so peaceful, and he could see how much things were growing every day. He felt a connection with nature from his relationship with the plants, and I invited him to share in the harvest.

The Prophet Ezekiel speaks of how we are all related (see box). We're related to the plants and animals around us, and God is at the center and holds us all in that relationship. We can do our part in caring for creation—the air, the soil, the water, the plants and animals—all those things we need to nourish us, to keep us alive, to fill our hearts. We must do our part, but we're not in control. We can't make seeds sprout or make plants grow. We can help, but our Creator is at the heart of it all.

We received some wonderful reflections from The Rev. Dr. Brad Hauff, the Indigenous Missioner of the Episcopal Church and a member of the Lakota Sioux tribe. This is part of what he wrote:



Like other Indigenous people of the Western Hemisphere, we believe that all things are related—people, animals, plants, rocks, mountains, clouds, and the stars and planets of the Universe. Everything is connected to one another inextricably. We also believe that the objective of all that exists is relational harmony and balance, living together and supporting one another to exist. The trees support me, the animals support me, the rocks support me, the mountains support me, the stars support me. And my role is to support them back, through courtesy, kindness, cooperation, understanding, and love. Love in the sense of agape, unconditional love shown not necessarily through emotion but action; acting in the best interests of one another.

# The Students

*I still hear and feel them  
Ghosts of the past  
Their freshness as it begins to age and ripen  
Their cries of delight with one another  
The exciting anticipation of new friendships growing  
The anguish of a declining one, the despair of betrayal  
The dreamy, heartfelt songs sung in assembly and choir  
Their fears sounding out, some real, some not  
Their screams of joy in winning a game  
The lowly heartbreak of losing  
Their bloody broken hearts, great sadness that fills the air  
Their cries for help and guidance  
As though we really know the way  
The guessing game we play, the chance at the wheel  
Sometimes we get it right, sometimes we fail them  
But we love them and push them forward  
Although it hurts to see them go  
It is exulting to hear of their success and achievements  
We see their beauty passed on to their offspring and families  
And devastating when we hear one of them has passed  
The students are sacred to those of us who serve  
They are our life-blood, our soul servers  
They live on and revitalize, they are one with us!*

*Forrest S. Cuch*

*“Meditate upon these things. Give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them, for in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee.”*

*1 Timothy 4:15-16*

## Stepping Stones

an online AA group facilitated by Adam Twiss

Thursdays at noon



For more info contact: Adam at  
[adamteutetribes.com](http://adamteutetribes.com) or 435-790-0737



## St. Elizabeth's Updates

As more of us are vaccinated, it becomes safer and more comfortable to gather together again. We're worshipping in person every Sunday at 10:00 am, still wearing masks but now enjoying singing (especially when Adam Twiss is leading). It's wonderful to be together, and we enjoy sitting in the shade afterwards with our iced tea and cookies.

By the time you read this, the Art Empowers Summer Camp for kids will have taken place, and the Teen Camp is set for July 12-16. If you haven't received your shot yet, we encourage you not to delay. I'm feeling much more relaxed about being with people than I have for a long time!

*Michael*

ART EMPOWERS (formerly Arts-Kids)



TEENS SUMMER CAMP

Monday, July 12  
to Friday, July 16

at St. Elizabeth's Church in Whiterocks

- Daily Schedule 10:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Snack and lunch included
- Art activities, outdoor games, packed with fun
- Masks required—no transportation can be provided
- All youth ages 13-18 are welcome—bring a friend!
- No cost to families

For more info, text or call  
Becca Gardner (621-4029)  
or Sadie Santio (621-3740)

All Teens  
Welcome!



## Ezekiel 17:22

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord.

***St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church occupies and operates upon the ancestral and traditional lands of the Ute Indian Tribe.***