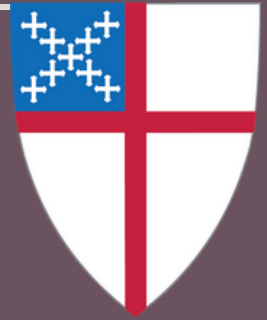


# ST ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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



## Easter Comes Again

As Easter was approaching, I got to thinking about what things were like at this time last year. We'd been hearing about the pandemic, but as late as March 7 (when I took communion to a resident of the care center in Roosevelt), life was still pretty normal. "This is a different year," I wrote in the newsletter. "The pandemic is bad enough and could get worse." A brilliant observation, right?

Back then, my heart was heavy at the thought that our usual Easter worship service would not take

place. I was grieving (with all of us) the loss of joyful hymns and lilies filling the sanctuary and Leo Tapoof's sunrise prayer. "Without the egg hunt and a feast, it just won't feel like Easter," I said, and it didn't. We couldn't have imagined how many more losses we'd be suffering: getting together with friends, hugs from our grandchildren, the Bear Dance and Pow Wow, and worst of all, the scary illnesses and painful deaths of so many of our loved ones. What an awful year it's been!

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*Easter, continued from page 1*



On the first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and the other women were heartbroken as they made their way through the darkness. Jesus had died in agony; they'd watched as he was laid in the tomb, which was sealed off by a huge stone. But Mary and the others couldn't rest until his body had been properly anointed and wrapped for burial. When they arrived at the tomb before sunrise, they were surprised to find that the stone had been moved away. Even more shocking was the presence of two angels where they'd expected to find Jesus. What could possibly be happening?

We know the answer, of course. Jesus had risen from the dead and was walking right beside them. But especially when times are tough, that can be hard to comprehend. As the impacts of the pandemic spread, as more people fell ill and we were gripped by isolation, as worship services were cancelled and

communion became just a memory, many people were submerged in grief. In the newsletter I bravely wrote, "Easter is coming and Christ will rise from the dead! Maybe not right on schedule (by the calendar), but right when we need him."

How does that look from today's vantage point? Despite all the disruptions and suffering, hasn't Jesus been with us all along? I've often felt his presence while talking on the phone with isolated elders. Wasn't he present through the first responders and ICU nurses and grocery clerks we've been depending on? And the life-saving vaccines, developed and distributed under Republican and Democratic leadership, restoring our future. Aren't they miracles of healing?

Somehow twelve months went by, and Easter came again. This year we were able to gather and celebrate, calling out "Alleluia!" and sharing communion, delighting in the simple pleasure of

each other's company. We were thankful for a beautiful spring day, since we were sitting outside in lawn chairs. We missed the egg hunt and the feast and Leo's sunrise prayer, but we felt the sense of renewal which is the promise of Easter.

And now, come what may, Jesus will be with us wherever we are, right when we need him. Christ is risen from the dead, bringing new life to those who've been worn down by the pandemic. For that precious gift we can only say, "Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!"

*Michael*



# Dreams

Most native people like our people, the Ute, believe in the power of dreams. If the dreams are in color, then they are special and have meaning, perhaps a powerful message. The following is one of my special dreams.

## The Drum

*I arrived first. The people were already assembling. I went to this wooden structure and felt for and located drum sticks wrapped in blankets. They were there, many of them. As I stepped back, my cousin/brother, Larry Cesspooch, showed up dressed in colorful regalia. I looked over and saw some strangers dressed in regalia and jokingly commented to him, "Your Russian friends have arrived." Larry looked that way and responded, "I saw them." Then I looked over and saw an elder praying before this huge drum. It must have been at least 12 to 15 feet in diameter, the largest drum I had ever seen. I called out for singers/drummers and they began filling in seats around the drum. I was hoping there would be a space for me and there was to my right. I quickly went around the drum clockwise and took a seat. As I went to sit down, I recognized a young man nearby and I slapped him on the back in a kind and loving way. He pointed to an opening in the clouds to the east with blue sky in the background and the bright light of the sun nearby shining through. He said, "Look at that bird." There was a white bird with black feathers on its wings. It resembled a dove. It was flitting around looking into the place where we were all assembled. I woke up!*



## My Interpretation

We are living in a dangerous and challenging time. My cousin and I are working to restore the power of our traditional ways (ideology) and the pastoral ways of Jesus. We use the different gifts we have been bestowed with. There are many evil and powerful forces infiltrating our land and country. We call upon our elders of the past and present to assist us with their wisdom and knowledge. They are there and ready to share, to back us up. Their songs/prayers are strong. We must join with them and earnestly call upon the power of our Creator who listens through the clouds and sends a spiritual representative to let us know he/she is nearby.

*Forrest L. Cuck*





**Shannon Wendy Gardner, 1993 to 2021**  
**Beloved Daughter, Sister, Aunt, Family and Community Member**

"Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Shannon with your saints,  
where sorrow and pain are no more, but life everlasting."



Logo art by  
Shannon Gardner

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

# Stepping Stones

**an online AA group  
facilitated by Adam Twiss**

**Thursdays at noon**



**For more info contact: Adam at [adamteutetribe.com](http://adamteutetribe.com) or 435-790-0737  
or the UIT A/SAP Program at 435-722-3234**

**Hosted on Zoom by the Ute Indian Tribe  
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Program**