

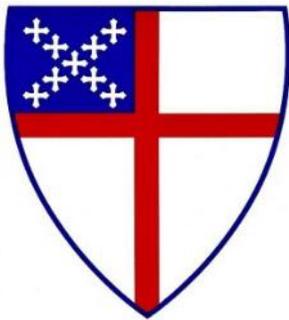


THE ANCHOR

OCTOBER 2020

St. Clement's by-the-Sea
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcoming all since 1929



**Member, Anglican
Communion**

PARISH MISSION:

*Follow Christ through the
way we live and love,
spreading the good news
of God in Christ, opening
our hearts to all, and
experience and spread*



**“This Church of
Ours is Open To
All...There Will
Be No Outcasts.”**

-The Most Rev. Edmund
Browning *Emeritus*
Presiding Bishop



Creation ...

In the wonderful story of Creation that we find in Genesis, we have a steady progression from light to sky and waters, from vegetation and to living creatures and ultimately to humankind. The last being the only created thing made in God’s own image with God like dominion (that is stewardship) over creation. The phrases are simple and direct. God said “Let there be light, and there was light.” There is no delay in the response of creation to the divine command. We encounter many lovely descriptions as in the following pericope:



And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth’...And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.” Genesis 1:20-25 (*emphasis mine*)

Pulsating and punctuating this text is the refrain, “And God saw that it was good.” Further, God blesses his creation and encourages fecundity.

My thoughts are often on creation, but always more so as we near the feast of that beloved saint, Francis of Assisi. He was certainly smitten with God’s creation and comprehended the love that is expressed by God for us in this amazingly varied and splendid world in which “we live, and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). With each passing year on the anniversary of this feast,

...Continued on next page

I confess that I believe that we have moved further and further away from the good stewardship of creation which God has entrusted to us.

I remember a couple of years ago being in the parish hall for our service, with pets present, for the blessing of the animals, and I noted at that time that in just the last forty years the number of wild birds in North America had decreased by 1 billion. That was ironic given that so many have statues of Francis featuring birds. And yet, how are we caring for the very creation that he loved so much? How well are we caring for those birds, and have we ever wondered at their reduction? Sadly, I read recently that my comment was an understatement, and that the reality is in fact worse. A recent study indicated that the number is closer to 3 billion fewer birds in North America since 1970, a loss of about one in every four.¹

On Sunday evening, I was watching the program “60 Minutes,” as is my Sunday evening custom. It helps me to get all worked up before the week really gets underway! If you saw it you know that they interviewed Sir David Attenborough, the natural historian and creator of so many of those wildlife documentaries (the *Life Collection*, as in *Life on Earth*) that leave us with our mouths agape as we discover so many new things about the splendor of God’s creatures and creation.

Now in his 90’s Attenborough noted that in the last fifty years (basically as long as I’ve been alive) the wildlife population of the planet had plummeted by two thirds.² That assertion left me stupefied. Like any logical person, I went to Google to verify his comment. And so it was confirmed. I wondered how humanity could have let that happen? Does not our very survival depend upon theirs? The study that confirmed Attenborough assertion also described our present circumstance as a “fundamental broken relationship between humans and the natural world”³ which seems accurate to me. And again ironic.

After all, don’t we travel great distances to be awed by such creatures, like seeing a bear, or an elk or some other large creature. When we were in Sequoia National Park earlier this year, one of our hikes was made so much more special, simply because we saw a bear. Our camp was more delightful for the presence of deer chasing each other around our tent (all night!). When any of us take to the seas, aren’t we inspired and thrilled by the dance of leaping dolphins or by that “Leviathan,” the blue whale, that God made “just for the sport of it,” (Ps. 104:26) or any whale for that matter? And yet we’ve seemingly left no space in our world for these living creatures that moved across our skies or teemed in our seas or crept upon the earth. We’ve not protected them as we’ve seen their numbers decrease over time.

According to the report cited above: “Nearly 21,000 monitored populations of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians, encompassing almost 4,400 species around the world,” essentially all those creatures celebrated in our Genesis passage above, “have declined an average of 68% between 1970 and 2016.” Which I find quite staggering, don’t you?

The country singer, Clint Black who I listened to a lot in late 90’s had a song that still resonates with me so many years later. It’s called “Harmony” and he rightly warns us of our stewardship.

“Our children's children's sands of time,
Are slipping through our hands,
Take heed in what's become of Eden,
You and me, from seed to seed,
Just how does your garden grow?
It's likely only Heaven knows

Harmony

From the very start weren't we changing it?
Don't we all agree, that in every part
We're more than rearranging harmony.”

I wonder if we've done that, have we taken heed of what has become of Eden? And can we do better?

Attenborough, in his interview noted how, during the Coronavirus lockdown, so many had seemingly rediscovered the natural world, and their marvel and delight in it. They have awakened to their need of hearing the birds sing. And there have been abundant stories of delight, as living and wild creatures move into spaces formerly occupied only by humans.⁴ The natural world is reclaiming one small foot-hold perhaps. But will it last?

The hard part about writing this article, apart from the obvious loss of biodiversity and so many creatures that God blessed and declared “good,” is that there are no simple solutions. There are things we could do, but they are costly and will change the way we've done things for some time. But I don't think that any of us want the only remaining space for God's living creatures to be in our zoos or in our industrial food production. We also want there to be wildlife where wildlife ought to be, in the wild!

That would require a commitment to creation of protected areas. Limits on our harvests. Work to reduce and reverse the devastating effects of global climate change (to which many species simply cannot adapt fast enough). It is a big commitment, but I believe our own survival is intertwined with the survival of the creatures of this earth. Not too mention the account of our stewardship that we will one day have to render (to God and our offspring).

Perhaps we must start with our own selves? Perhaps we start with an inward desire to work for change where we can. And perhaps we start with prayer, because we will not succeed without God's help. Francis in his delightful prayer of praise to God for all of His creation includes this line which may be a good starting point.

“Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures.”

As always, I welcome your feedback: frpatrick@scbythesea.org

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick

¹ <https://www.audubon.org/news/north-america-has-lost-more-1-4-birds-last-50-years-new-study-says>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/david-attenborough-climate-change-a-life-on-our-planet-60-minutes-2020-09-27/>

³ <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/10/911500907/the-world-lost-two-thirds-of-its-wildlife-in-50-years-we-are-to-blame>

⁴ <https://www.timeout.com/things-to-do/animals-taking-back-human-spaces-while-the-world-is-in-lockdown>

Church Music during COVID-19

by Larry Gates, Music Director

I will get this out of the way upfront: *I miss my choir! I miss seeing them arrive on Sunday mornings to warm-up and rehearse that Sunday's music for church. I miss getting to look across from the piano over to the choir stall to engage them in a smile. I miss hearing us all clearing out the morning "cobwebs" in our voices and starting to produce beautiful tones, coming together as a choir instead of individual voices. And, perhaps, what I miss most is hearing the choir and congregation join their voices during the Processional hymn as the choir moves forward to the chancel. For me, that experience of hearing the full congregation and choir singing is heaven on earth! Oh, how I miss it!* (Thanks for letting me get that out!).



It goes without saying that this has been one of the most challenging years for all of us. And, due to COVID-19, all of us have faced many adjustments in our lives. Our ability to commune together at church is one of those. And, for me and so many others, our love of raising our church family of voices in praise to God has been silenced. I had no idea that this thing called Music, which is such an integral part of church lives, could be so drastically changed in a blink of an eye. But we cannot let the music die. It is too important. I am thankful that more and more studies are being conducted on how we can safely experience live music again in the church. It will take more time, but we will figure it out.

It has occurred to me that many of you may not know how we are creating music for our hybrid services. And, despite not knowing, you have remained supportive and, for this, I am most grateful. Thank you. So, what is different and what is the same? What is the same is that the music is selected for each service as previously. I research the lectionary for a given Sunday service and choose hymns and anthems that support the scripture readings. In addition, I select an organ or piano solo that can work effectively as prelude to set an appropriate mood. Fr. Patrick and Mo. Norma review my selections and either approve or request changes. What is different is that after I practice the music, I record the hymn accompaniments using a digital keyboard at home. At this point, I email the accompaniment files to our talented choir section leaders to record individually. Recordings begin on the Sunday or Monday prior to the service date and are due on Thursdays. I verify that recordings are done correctly and then forward them to Fr. Patrick who uploads them into the broadcast system. So, instead of a choir director, I feel a bit more like a music producer. Ha-ha!

One of the unanticipated elements of this process is the amount of time it takes to do recordings. In a live performance, it is over when the last note is played and/or sung. It does not matter how many mistakes happened or the desire to have done something differently. There are no do-overs. In recordings, however, we can re-record any number of times until we are happy with it. Unfortunately, this does not play well with my perfectionism – ha-ha. I will be a minute or two into a recording and make a small mistake and start thinking about it and, yep, make another mistake. Perhaps we can liken doing recordings to forgiveness; we get a do-over when we need it. Some days I need more do-overs than others!

You may have also noticed a few *virtual choir* videos with other churches. Our first collaboration started in May with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Shelton, CT. In the early days of the pandemic, we used one of their YouTube videos of service hymns and reached out to them about copyright issues (another new consideration for our online services). A discussion was started about involving our choir members with theirs as well as prior collaborations they had started with parishes in ME, OH and PA. At present, these are audio-only recordings and are helping to establish a repository of hymn recordings that we can draw upon as needed. Our second collaboration started in late May with our sister church in Newport Beach, St. James Episcopal Church. They are fortunate to have technicians on staff to process the making of virtual choir videos. The technical requirements are demanding in equipment, time, and skill and this is just for the technicians (avg. time to put together a video is about 30 hours). For the singers, they must have two devices (e.g. tablet, smartphone, computer) to make their recordings. And there is a lead time that must be planned by our parishes for singer's rehearsal tracks, director's recording track, singer's individual recordings and submissions. We are fortunate to have this partnership as it allows for a visual representation of our choir members.

So, you can see that we are in a vastly different world as it relates to music in the parish. I am seeking out ways that we can involve more choir members in the process. And, hopefully, we can resume some form of congregational singing in the not-to-distant future. For each of you, I hope you still find meaning in the music of the church. Perhaps it is the melody of a hymn you whistle around the house or a hymn text's poetry that reaches your soul. Thank you for your continued support of the music program at St. Clement's. It is my fervent hope and prayer that, despite our inability to be together to raise our voices in song to God, that we can still find joy in our church music. I miss you all, your radiant smiles, the warm hugs, and your exuberant voices.

Yours in Christ.

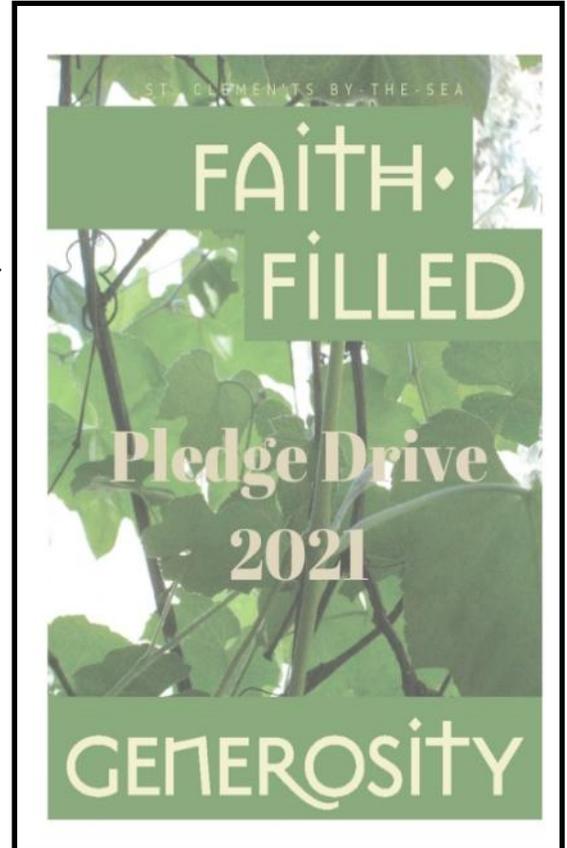
Larry Gates

2021 Pledge Drive



“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” - Peter 4:10

The theme for this year’s stewardship campaign “Faith-filled Generosity” focuses on service. This year has reminded us in so many ways of the strength and closeness of our community. Even in the months in which we were physically distant and unable to gather in person, the Spirit kept us together, connecting us. As we have experienced some weeks of not being able to gather in person, the usual focus on weekly worship was spread throughout the week as we found ways to gather virtually, taking more time to pray for each other’s needs and serve our communities. Many in the media or in our society kept referring to our churches as “closed,” but we were never closed. We continued following the Gospel call to live in love with our neighbors, finding ever new ways to seek and serve Christ in all people.



As we look to the year to come, we are more committed than ever to the ministry and love we share with our community and our neighbors. The Gospels are rich with examples of how our faith kindles our love for each other and our Christian responsibility to share our love with the world. As we move through the weeks of this year’s stewardship campaign, we will be hearing messages of Faith-Filled Generosity. AT this time, though, I invite you to pray and learn, taking these weeks to consider how your response to God’s call has been shaped by St. Clement’s and the friends who gather with you.

Thank you for being a part of St. Clement’s by-the-Sea.

Jon Ulz

Finance/Stewardship



Participation in the San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO) is an outreach ministry of St. Clement's.

SCMFO's mission is to provide emergency assistance to qualifying military families assigned to Camp Pendleton, responding promptly to requests for financial or material aid, as well as conducting seasonal morale projects for military families within the community served. In 2019

150 plus families came to our offices for emergency assistance including food, diapers, wipes, clothing, etc.

80 plus families received financial assistance based on their specific need for car repairs, dental care, and assistance items for children with special needs

\$50,000 in commissary cards were given to military families in need

A complete Thanksgiving dinner was given to 1000 families on base

39 families with a total of 93 children were adopted in our Christmas Thank-a-Family program

The on-base school was supported with musical instruments and gift cards to purchase much needed supplies for each classroom
Morale events included a baby shower for 41 moms, back to school packs for 300 families, Easter hams for 100 families, Valentine dinners & flowers for 35 military couples, and much more.

Thanks to the generous support of people like

San Clemente
Military Family Outreach
2020 Annual Fundraiser

**ON LINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER
OCTOBER 23rd-30th**

The San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO) welcomes you to join our annual fundraiser. Due to social distancing precautions, our fundraiser will be an online silent auction taking place from October 23rd to 30th. There are no fees to join the auction.

HOW TO JOIN THE AUCTION

Create an account for the online auction at

[32auctions.com/SCMFO auction](https://32auctions.com/SCMFO)

No credit card is required and there is no obligation to bid.

Bidding runs from October 23-30

Everyone who registers by October 22nd will be entered into the opportunity drawing to win one of 2 COVID-19 prevention baskets

During the auction period of October 23rd-30th, we will share a short daily video through e-mail about SCMFO's mission. Your registration ensures you will receive auction reminders and the videos by e-mail.

If you are unable to participate in the on-line auction, and wish to make a donation, you can do so by sending a check to SCMFO at 2001 Calle Frontera, San Clemente, 92673 or donate

social justice book club

All are welcome!
Zoom Meeting
Thursday, October 17th
7:00 pm

Book: *The Person You Mean To Be*, by Dolly Chugh

Contact our host, Laura Casellas to receive the Zoom link.



FAM Food Distribution...

We have recently begun working with Family Assistance Ministries as a satellite location for distribution of food to needy families. Many are facing economic hardship right now, and FAM has been blessed with food donations from farmers (who formerly sold to restaurateurs). A crew of volunteers has been here on Fridays, putting the food which FAM provides into boxes and then placing those boxes in the trunks of people's cars as they drive through our parking lot. **The distribution takes place from 2pm-4pm, with volunteers turning up at 1:30pm. The next food delivery will be Friday, Oct 9 and Oct 23.** Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers that have been serving. If this is a ministry that would appeal to you, please let us know that you can serve (info@scbythesea.org).

We'll need volunteers to set up our tables in the parking lot every other week, help to unload the food and sort it into boxes, to distribute it, and to clean up after-



In this strange age of masks, social distancing and lockdowns, Hilary Viscount and Laura Casellas are spearheading what we believe, along with our clergy and vestry, will be a welcome new ministry:

Covenant Groups

These are small group weekly gatherings to:

- *Explore our faith*
- *Prepare for and discuss the scripture readings for the upcoming week*
- *Have fellowship and prayer, and*
- *Connect with new people in our church community or reconnect*

When we covenant together with fellow Christians, we can grow in our faith, both personally and as a small group (of between 4-12 people) within our larger St. Clement's community. Each group, which could be men, women or both, will be led by a trained facilitator. Our goal is to hold our first meetings at the outset of Advent.

We will start on zoom but hope to eventually meet in each other's homes or at church.

Our prayer is that everyone will want to participate and some will be willing to lead. For more information on participating or leading, please contact :

Laura Casellas Laura.casellas@yahoo.com (203)451-7598
or Hilary Viscount hviscount@gmail.com (714) 932-2210

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

5:00pm Saturday Evening

"Casual Service"

Bring your own mask, chair and BCP

**9:00 am Sunday Morning
(English)**

Traditional / Contemporary

**With music, Live-streamed,
chairs provided**

11:00 am Domingos

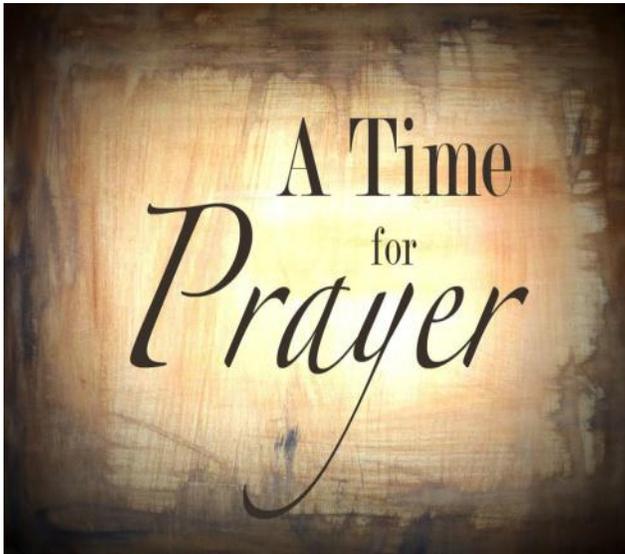
La Misa en Español

Con musica, sillas provistas,

la transmisión en vivo

If you are unable to attend outdoor worship you can view it on the St Clement's Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5kQlrSCMkmdDOhQhGeKaUA>



Join Fr. Patrick on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for a time to pray together on Zoom at 4pm. This is open to all, and without obligation (that you commit to be present with any regularity). We will have a reading and other prayers, mostly based on the daily office, which Fr. Patrick will share on the screen. So, you need not prepare or bring anything, but your intentions for God.

If you'd like to join, here is the link. It should work every week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4pm, without need for a new link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81488527537?pwd=NUhyd1hVNXRodWNGYVFEBDZLTUtHUT09>



Bible Studies



Join us on Wednesday's at 11am for our weekly Bible Study. We presently meet by Zoom. You need not be a biblical scholar to participate. Just come with a desire to learn more.

Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765551451?pwd=UXdNYUxtT29FNU1YRolkNFdPQmxqdzo9>

Meeting ID: 847 6555 1451

Passcode: 823922



Vestry Meetings

Tuesday, October 20th

7:00 pm

Currently meeting via Zoom.

- October Birthdays -



10/1	Charlene Bailey Crowe	10/16	Kate Styles
10/2	Laurie Kathleen Baxter	10/18	Justin Carbonara
10/3	Michelle Higgins	10/18	Susan Pierce
10/5	Curtis Bower	10/19	Francis Viscount
10/6	Claire Morrison	10/20	Patricia Welliver
10/7	Charles Mansfield	10/23	Karin Sherman
10/7	Max Ulz	10/25	Jim Prothero
10/9	Anne Casey	10/26	Geoffrey Harris
10/9	Kevin Higgins	10/26	Sue King
10/10	Anne Garcia	10/26	Bob Lloyd
10/10	Jerry Stevens	10/30	Sophia Suda
10/12	Edwina Quayle	10/31	Larry Sawyer
10/15	Karen Stevens		

- October Anniversaries -



10/6	Roland & Audrey Daigle
10/12	Rocco & Belkis Carbonara
10/22	Robert Jr. & Debra Miranda

St. Clement's by-the-Sea EPISCOPAL CHURCH

San Clemente's First Church

Welcoming all since 1929



SUNDAY WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR OUTSIDE WORSHIP

9:00 am Holy Communion Rite II

11:00 am La Misa en Español

202 Avenida Aragon
San Clemente, CA 92672

OFFICE HOURS

Vary during these times.

Phone: 949.492.3401

E-mail: info@scbythesea.org

Website: www.scbythesea.org

The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Rector