

# The Carpenter's Helper

*This Week, we are getting excited for Epiphany!!!*

## The Epiphany Chalk Blessing

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany and the week following. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home's entryway. If you miss the service in-person this Sunday, there will be extra blessed chalk in the church for you to pick up Mon-Thur 9am-noon, or you can email a request to have some mailed to you.

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols sink into the depths of our hearts and be manifest in our words and actions.

20 + C + M + B + 22

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

**ALL are Welcome!**

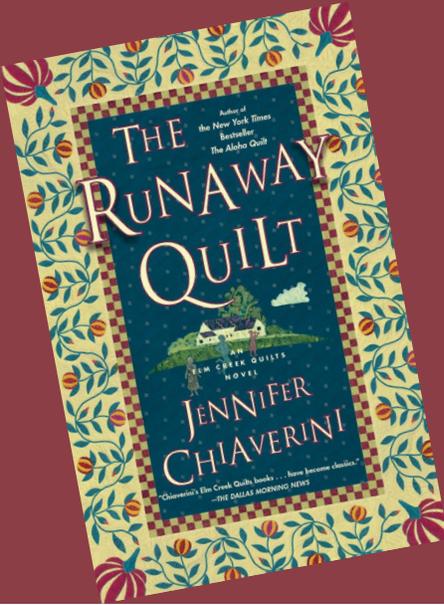
**Sunday**  
Rite 1 spoken  
8:00 am

**Sunday**  
Rite 2 with music  
10:30 am

**Wednesday**  
12 noon  
Intercessory Prayer

**Thursday**  
7 pm  
Evening Compline

January  
Novel Theology  
1/9 at 9:30am  
*All are Welcome!*



This book chronicles the founding of Elm Creek Manor and the tumultuous years when characters Hans, Anneke, and Gerda Bergstrom sheltered fugitive slaves within its walls, **using quilts as a signal of sanctuary**. But little did the staunchly abolitionist Gerda know that a traitor was among them, placing the Bergstroms in grave danger and leading to family discord, betrayal, and a secret held for generations.



## A message from Presiding Bishop Curry on the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

With the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a true friend, colleague, and mentor—and a genuinely humble, great soul—has gone before us. He has passed through the gate of death into the arms of the God who gave him life.

While on this earth, he sought to follow Jesus of Nazareth in God's way of love and life. In so doing, he showed us how to live God's dream as children of the one God and creator of all.

So, even in our sorrow that he is no longer walking among us, we can thank God that he did.

Perhaps we best give thanks by honoring his legacy—not merely with lip service to racial justice and reconciliation, but with lives dedicated to this work. We do this by learning to live together as the children and family of God, no longer hurting each other or God's creation, but together living the dream God intended. For in God's dream, as the Hebrew prophet Isaiah said, "they will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

To borrow from a friend who texted me on Archbishop Tutu's passing, may the knowledge of his life and heart keep us all strong, good, kind, and loving.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry  
Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Episcopal Church

