



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY May 21 & BEYOND

Bearing Fruit



At this stage of the Easter season, we've returned to Jesus' final conversation with the disciples at the Last Supper, to look with new light on how He's preparing them for everything that's about to happen. Jesus describes how their relationship will continue and what this will look like using the relationship of a vine to its branches. Just as branches bear fruit because they're connected to the vine, we'll bear fruit based on our connection to Him. This promise of fruit should be a consolation, a sign that Jesus continues living within us, yet many get stuck instead on the picture of the withered branches getting caught off and burned.

We shouldn't be anxiously wondering whether we're bearing enough fruit to be saved. God isn't interested in weighing everything we've done to determine our ultimate impact on the world, like calculating the spiritual equivalent of our carbon footprint. Jesus is telling us that what God's interested in is a relationship, and thinking about our natural relationships will give us an idea of what kind of fruit we should be looking for.

We all bear various kinds of "fruit" that alert the world around us to our relationships. For example, it's highly unlikely that anyone could talk to me for 15 minutes without finding out that I'm a married pastor with 2 young children. We also bear fruit that's visible, but not explicit. Imagine following a kindergarten teacher through Target or a busy supermarket; it's almost impossible for them to walk past the families they encounter without letting you know in some way that kids must be a big part of their life.

In the same way, some of the fruit of our relationship with Jesus is explicit; like going to Church and supporting others by sharing our faith. Jesus wants us to stay connected to Him so that His own divine life is what spills out of us and makes whatever we do radiant. He wants us to be able to look past our selfish desires and say, “thy will be done,” and respond to our circumstances with His patience, gratitude, and generosity. Jesus wants us to be able to say “yes” to His invitations to love our neighbors, even if they don’t know Him, they’ll experience His joy, mercy, and gentleness living in us.

Think about the things that stir your heart, and the gifts and qualities that naturally flow out of you. That’s what Jesus wants His relationship with us to be: an abundance we can’t keep to ourselves. If you don’t see that, ask Him to strengthen your bond so that your whole life can bear the fruitful love that delights Him and glorifies the Father.

Father McQueen

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)
 12:00p to 3:00p – Afternoon of Art & Music, All Saints’ Courtyard
 See the Event Poster on the following page
 —*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

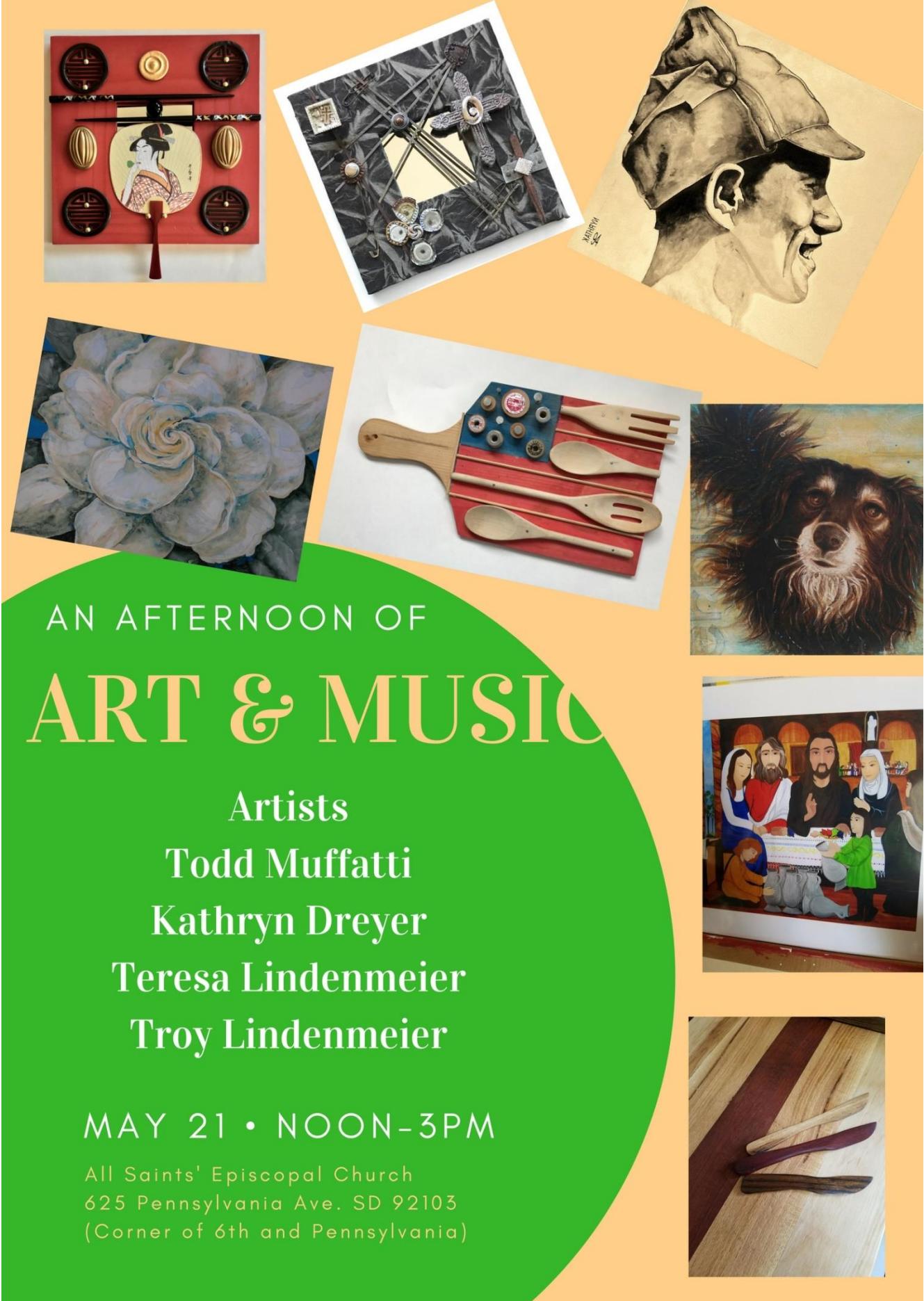
MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

THURSDAY 6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)
 9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

AA Meetings
 8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)
 8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)



AN AFTERNOON OF
ART & MUSIC

Artists

Todd Muffatti

Kathryn Dreyer

Teresa Lindenmeier

Troy Lindenmeier

MAY 21 • NOON-3PM

All Saints' Episcopal Church
625 Pennsylvania Ave. SD 92103
(Corner of 6th and Pennsylvania)