

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in Athens since 1842
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Lent - Holy Week - Easter - April, 2020

There are no services at Trinity until at least May 3.

Trinity suspended corporate worship after the second Sunday in March; we have not met together since March 8. Our bishop, Kevin, and our Presiding Bishop, Michael, have called on us to stay at home and to not gather together, to protect others and to protect ourselves from the Novella Covid-19 virus.

There are many, many resources available to us to continue to be faithful children of God, which will appear later in the newsletter.

A Message from Bishop Kevin: Suspension of Gatherings Until May 3

April 2, 2020

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As we continue to learn more about the current pandemic, we are discovering that more drastic measures must be taken in order to protect, not just the vulnerable, but all people in our communities. In light of recommendations from medical experts, our Governor, and our President, I once again call upon all congregations of the Diocese of Bethlehem to suspend in-person gatherings, including worship, until May 3, 2020.

Last Sunday, I joined you in worship around the diocese. I watched pre-recorded services and attended as many livestream worship gatherings as I was able. Through these virtual gatherings, I heard a resounding reminder that the Church must not be entombed! I heard strong voices demanding that we shout down fear and death once and for all. I heard a clarion call to remember who we are as followers of Jesus. As Christians, we must recover our sense of purpose. We must reach out and remind the communities we are called to serve why we are here-to proclaim a risen Christ to a broken and frightened

world. This crisis, this pandemic, this moment is like no other. And it calls us to stay strong together.

As we prepare for the holiest of seasons, I implore you to take heart. Though our buildings will be empty, we will continue to be the Church in the world. We will worship together, even while physically distant, on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, at the Easter Vigil, and especially on Easter Sunday-when we will celebrate and remember that Christ has conquered death and will raise us up to new life! Though this pandemic may keep us from gathering in person, we remain the Church, we continue to be the people of God, and we are the body of Christ!



From Fr. Ben: Ruminations While In Isolation

While sitting in isolation and under house arrest in Rome, Paul writes the letters to the Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, and possibly Philippians. This occurred during 61-63 AD. I suppose that Paul found it difficult to not be able to get out and about and to preach. The missives must have been to placate his yearnings during confinement.

With my daily visits to Walmart, clinic appointments, and need to write sermons temporarily suspended, I find myself spending more time in email correspondence. I'm sure this would have been Paul's past-time had it been available to him.

Wait a minute, that's an interesting thought!

I wonder what Christianity would have looked like in the first century had there been social media available to Paul and the Apostles? The spread of the gospel would have been phenomenal. Then again, so would have been the heresies. The reality of and the drawback to social media is the rapid dispersal of misinformation, half-truths, and outright lies.

(cont'd, p. 2)

But I digress. Please allow me to ruminate with you on prayer for a moment.

Prayer during these troubling times is terribly important. It's not so much that we should be praying for or expecting a miracle from God to sweep down and wipe out the virus by Holy Week or Easter. If Covid19 is still around at Easter, so be it. Stay in; stay safe. God doesn't require of us to form mass gatherings to demonstrate our collective faith, while jeopardizing others with our bravado.

Prayer has many forms, although intercession and petition are the forms most frequently associated with prayer. Praying for others and for our self is important, but I must admit that it too easily can put us into a mind-set of expected results.

During these difficult and different times, I might suggest two other forms of prayer which are frequently forgotten: adoration and thanksgiving. "Adoration is the lifting up of the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God's presence ... Thanksgiving is offered to God for all the blessings of this life, for our redemption, and for whatever draws us closer to God." [Book of Common Prayer, "An Outline of the Faith", p. 857]

The short and simple of these forms of prayer is to let God know that you know he's still around. In doing so, adoration and thanksgiving can quiet our soul knowing that we are keeping in touch with God. So remember that it is perfectly okay to pray to be able to find toilet paper on the store shelf, but when there isn't any remember to give thanksgiving for the dairy products you did find.

Ben+

This Easter Celebration

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. This Eas - ter ce - le - bra - tion is not like ones we've known.
 2. No gath - ered choirs are sing - ing; no ban - ners lead the way.
 3. Our joy won't come from wor - ship that's in a crowd - ed room
 4. In all the grief and suf - fer - ing, may we re - mem - ber well:
 5. We thank you that on Eas - ter, your church is blessed to be

We pray in i - so - la - tion, we sing the hymns a - lone.
 O God of love and prom - ise, where's joy this Eas - ter Day?
 but from the news of wom - en who saw the emp - ty tomb.
 Christ suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion and faced the powers of hell.
 a scat - tered, faith - ful bo - dy that's do - ing mi - ni - stry.

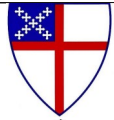
We're dis - tant from our neigh - bors— from wor - ship lead - ers, too.
 With sanc - tu - a - ries emp - ty, may homes be - come the place
 Our joy comes from di - sci - ples who ran with haste to see—
 Each Eas - ter bears the pro - mise: Christ rose that glo - rious day!
 In homes and in the pla - ces of help and heal - ing, too,

No flo - wers grace the chan - cel to set a fes - tive mood.
 we pon - der re - sur - rec - tion and ce - le - brate your grace.
 who heard that Christ is ris - en, and then, by grace, be - lieved.
 Now no - thing in cre - a - tion can keep your love a - way.
 we live the Eas - ter mes - sage by glad - ly serv - ing you.

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com | New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

(Sung to the tune of *The Church's One Foundation*)



Trinity Episcopal Church - April 2020

Lent - Holy Week
Easter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Trinity Cycle of Prayer 4/5 Roger and Mary Ann Smith. 4/12 John and Barbara Strange. 4/19 Kathy, Alexandra and Jonathan Ayres. 4/26 Ralph, Bonnie, Rose, Jeffrey, Chris, Justin Bailey.		Anglicans Around the World 4/5 The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, Archbishop James Richard Wong Yin Song. 4/12 Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of the Land of the Holy One. 4/21 The Church of Ireland. 4/28 The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, Archbishop Michael Lewis.		Diocesan Cycle of Prayer 4/5 St. James, Dundaff; Clergy of the Diocese of Bethlehem. 4/12 Trinity, Easton, The Rev. Canon Andrew T. Gerns, Rector. Clergy Widows and Widowers. 4/19 St. Margaret's, Emmaus, The Rev. Jane Arrington Bender, PIC. St. Matthew Society. 4/26 St. John's, Hamlin, The Rev. Ronald Miller. Diocesan Staff.			
		There are no services at Trinity. Holy Week and Easter Services will be livestreamed from the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bishop Kevin is celebrant and preacher.		1 AA Intergroup 5 pm AA 7:30 pm	2 AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	3	4 <i>Stephen Lake</i>
5 The Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday Livestream 10 a.m. Cathedral 	6 Monday in Holy Week AA 8:00 pm https://livestream.com/nativitycathedral	7 Tuesday in Holy Week <i>Kelly Murray, Jan Beck, Jr., Melissa Hill</i>	8 Wednesday in Holy Week AA 7:30 pm <i>Chela Bubniak</i>	9 Maundy Thursday Livestream 7 p.m. Cathedral  AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	10 Good Friday Livestream Noon Cathedral 	11 Holy Saturday Livestream 5 p.m. Cathedral <i>Rachel Cama Nemer</i>	
12 The Sunday of the Resurrection - Easter Day Livestream 10 a.m. Cathedral 	13 AA 8:00 pm	14 <i>John Gurney</i>	15 AA 7:30 pm <i>David Bean</i>	16 AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	17	18	
19 The Second Sunday of Easter <i>Jim Patterson</i>	20 AA 8:00 pm	21	22 AA 7:30 pm	23 AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	24 <i>David O'Dell</i>	25 St. Mark	
26 The Third Sunday of Easter	27 AA 8:00 pm <i>Martha Pierce</i>	28	29 AA 7:30 pm	30 AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm <i>Liberty Hollywood</i>	<i>Kajo Keji</i> 4/5 Kudupi Parish. 4/12 St. John Limi Parish. 4/19 Lubule, Koiba Parish. 4/26 St. Mark Dwani Parish.	Stay home, stay safe; pray for peace and healing now and in the days to come.	

Resources for worship at home

With all the churches closed, worship during this difficult time is a challenge. We've compiled some resources for you. If you do not have a Book of Common Prayer at home and do not have Internet access, please call the church and we will deliver one to your house, leaving it on the porch.

On Saturday afternoon, March 4, because our annual order of palms could not be cancelled, they will be placed in front of the church along with the lectionary insert for Palm Sunday, which includes the Passion. Anyone is welcome to take them home.

You will find links to the following free booklets in pdf format on our website, trinityathens.org

Holy Week Activities for Families
 Holy Week at Home
 Stations of the Cross
 The entire Book of Common Prayer

The Rev. Trula Hollywood is saying noonday prayers on Facebook.

Canon Anthony (Tony) Pompa, the dean of the Cathedral, offers a short daily message in these difficult times, also on Facebook.

If you've avoided Facebook, this might be a good time to consider joining to keep in touch with not only the clergy who are offering these daily prayers but also your family and friends, many of whom are probably there. Social distancing, should more aptly be called physical distancing because we all need to be in touch and support each other in ways that we

can. If you need help with that or any of the other online resources listed here, please call the church office and Barbara will be happy to help.

Visit the diocesan web site, diobeth.org, for the latest messages from Bishop Kevin.

The Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, (nativitycathedral.org) will be livestreaming Holy Week and Easter services (see the calendar). To watch these, visit livestream.com/nativitycathedral. Bishop Kevin, some of the cathedral clergy and the organist will be present, keeping safe distances between them, but there will be no congregation present. All of us at home will be the congregation as we gather virtually.

Please remember the people on our parish prayer list as you say your own daily prayers: Andrea, Joe, Holly, Don, Todd, John, Jenny, Marie, Barbara, Frank, Mina, Richard, Martha, Chuck, Ginny, Ritchie, Justin, Brian, Lucile, Mary, Mark, Billy, Ruth, Julia, Larry, Mary, Joyce, Allyson, and Clayton.

The calendar includes the Anglican, Bethlehem, Kajo Keji, and our own parish cycle of prayer, birthdays and anniversaries for you to include as well.

Remember that the church's expenses still go on while we are apart, so please keep your pledge current by mailing it to PO Box 9 or 701 S. Main, Athens.

Finally, please check on your friends and neighbors who live alone. A friendly phone call or a card would be most welcome. This time of physical distancing does not mean that we cannot remain close to each other, care for each other, support each other, and love each other, as Jesus commanded us to do.

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Lent - Holy Week - Easter

April, 2020

To seek and serve Christ in all people