

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Church in Athens since 1842  
703 South Main Street (office at 701) Athens, PA 18810  
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## Pentecost Season - July, 2020



### Worship begins again at Trinity on July 5 at 10 a.m.

Since we sent out the June newsletter, we have met with Bishop Kevin (by Zoom) and he has approved our plan for safe worship together. Our worship will not, however, include the Holy Eucharist or distribution of communion. The bishop feels that

there is no safe way to include that at this time.

We will gather on Sunday, July 5, at 10 a.m. for Morning Prayer and Sermon. Fr. Ben spent some time making sure he could be heard while wearing a mask, so he will definitely be with us to preach his most excellent sermons.

As you know, this will not be a return to worship as usual:

- Face coverings will be required. We will have extra masks available if you forget yours.
- Seating will be at least 6 feet apart, except for families and social distancing will be required at all times.
- There will be music, but no congregational singing.
- We will be keeping a log of attendees for contact tracing purposes.
- Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available
- There will be no coffee hour, but the parish hall will be open for restroom use.

At this time, we plan to have the entire service available in a leaflet so you will not need to handle either a prayer book or hymnal. The leaflets will be placed in each pew and will not have been handled by anyone for at least 24 hours, which is the lifespan of the virus on paper, so the leaflets will be safe. Trinity can seat about 120 people, but we can safely seat about 30 using social distance guidelines.

We asked for your input and most of you responded that you will be joining us for worship. We understand that some of you cannot at this time. Whether or not you are able to attend, you are part of the Trinity family and we hold you all in our prayers as we find our way through this "new normal."

If you have questions, please call or email the church office, 570.888.5715 or [information@trinityathens.org](mailto:information@trinityathens.org).



Memorial Garden, June 2020

### God Bless America - But First -

#### July 4 Ruminations from Fr. Ben

I've never been a big fan of the National Songs in our hymnal. There are the obvious reasons.

*The Star-Spangled Banner*: un-singable, first and foremost, (even the President, as well as Whitney Houston, were caught lip-syncing) but also there are concerns with the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse and its references to slavery (although, hardly anyone knows that there are four verses, and that only the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> appear in our hymnal). *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*: its glorification of God supporting war (although everyone thinks it is, that's not in our hymnal). *God Bless America*: I can't sing it without thinking of Kate

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Smith (again, everyone thinks it is, but it's not in our hymnal). Actually, the latter two were also considered for the National Anthem back in 1931.

Without picking apart the songs individually, I suppose my struggle with the hymnal's selection of National Songs is that the cadence is too militant, too many trumpet fanfares for the organ, calling us as if to battle.

What did Key mean when saying "hireling and slave"? Corps of Colonial Marines? American sailors pressed into British service? There is always the issue of varying perceptions or interpretations of a song's lyrics.

Arlo Guthrie told the story about when his mother visited Japan and they sang for her his father's song, *This Land is My Land*. She said it was beautiful and meaningful. Arlo commented that perhaps it wasn't very appropriate for the Japanese to sing, because of the geography of the song. "'This land is your land, and this land is my land. From California to the New York Island...', Japan," he said, "doesn't fall between those two points, mother." She thought for a moment then said, "Well, it does, if you go the long way around."

(Author's Note: Speaking of going the long way around, remember that frequently a rumination wanders a tad.)

It's not just National Songs. I'm not a big fan of either *Onward Christian Soldiers* and its support of fighting other religions, nor Martin Luther's tirade against the pope, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. Wait - I'm starting to wander, again.

Despite my abuse of the National Songs, I am not unpatriotic. In fact, I think I am quite the opposite. The thing is that in the current socio-political atmosphere, singing songs that encourage God to pat us on our backs for our behavior just doesn't seem appropriate. We've still got much to repent of, and a long way to go.

It was in the middle of the season of reflection, penitence and fasting that in-person worship stalled out for us. Perhaps this Fourth of July before singing patriotic songs, we need to remember that we never completed the Season of Lent, and pick up where we left off.

I think I would have chosen as our National Anthem one that Congress rejected: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Hymn #599 (are you paying attention hymn selec-

tor?). Especially, the ending of the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse: "*Out from the gloomy past - 'Til now we stand at last - Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*"

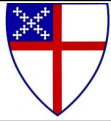
### **Lift Every Voice and Sing**

James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

1) Lift ev'ry voice and sing  
 'Til earth and heaven ring  
 Ring with the harmonies of Liberty  
 Let our rejoicing rise  
 High as the list'ning skies  
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past  
 has taught us  
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present  
 has brought us  
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
 Let us march on 'til victory is won

2) Stony the road we trod  
 Bitter the chastening rod  
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died  
 Yet with a steady beat  
 Have not our weary feet  
 Come to the place for which our fathers  
 sighed?  
 We have come over a way that with tears has  
 been watered  
 We have come, treading our path through the  
 blood of the slaughtered  
 Out from the gloomy past  
 'Til now we stand at last  
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is  
 cast

3) God of our weary years  
 God of our silent tears  
 Thou who has brought us thus far on the way  
 Thou who has by Thy might  
 Led us into the light  
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray  
 Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,  
 where we met Thee  
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the  
 world, we forget Thee  
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
 May we forever stand  
 True to our God  
 True to our native land



# Trinity Episcopal Church - July 2020

Season of  
Pentecost

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p><b>This month we return to the church building to worship together! Everyone must wear a face mask and seating will be at least six feet away from the next person. Absolutely everyone is welcome!</b></p>		<p><i>Bethlehem</i> 7/5 St. Luke's, Lebanon, The Rev. Dr. David Zwifka, PIC; General Convention Deputies. 7/12 All Saints, Lehigh, The Rev. Jane Arrington PIC. 7/19 Good Shepherd, Milford, The Rev. Van A. Bankston, Rector; The Episcopal House of Reading 7/26 St. Paul's, Montrose, Lynne Graham SW; and Episcopal Apartments of the Slate Belt.</p>		<p><i>Anglicans Around the World</i> 7/5 The United Church of Pakistan, Bishop Humphrey Peters. 7/12 The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, Archbishop Allan Migi. 7/19 The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, Bishop Joel Atiwag Pachao. 7/26 The Lambeth Conference, Canterbury.</p>			
<p><i>Trinity</i> 7/5 Kim, Chuck and Logan Cornell. 7/12 Becky Fiorello, David O'Dell, Brendon Brophy. 7/19 David and Shelly Fish. 7/26 Holly Flood, Marguerite Franks.</p>		<p><i>Kajo-Keji</i> 7/5 St. John Litaba Parish. 7/12 St. Paul Pamoju Parish. 7/19 Sera Jale Parish, Dwani-Stra of Bethlehem Primary School. 7/26 Emmanuel Parish Kiri.</p>		<p><b>1</b> AA Intergroup - 5 pm AA 7:30 pm <i>Tim Cama, Paul Kelley Dan &amp; Margaret Gerhart</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm <i>Bruce Barton</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4 Independence Day</b></p>
<p><b>5 Pentecost 5 P-9</b> 10:00 Morning Prayer and Sermon <i>Alex Maneval</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> AA 8:00 pm <i>Elise Barton</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> AA 7:30 pm <i>Jon &amp; Wendy Murray</i></p>	<p><b>9</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> <i>John &amp; Barbara Strange</i></p>	
<p><b>12 Pentecost 6 P-10</b> 10:00 Morning Prayer and Sermon</p>	<p><b>13</b> AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> AA 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	
<p><b>19 Pentecost 7 P-11</b> 10:00 Morning Prayer and Sermon --Vestry meets-- (TBA)</p>	<p><b>20</b> AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>21</b> <i>Sean Bubniak</i></p>	<p><b>22 St. Mary Magdalene</b> AA 7:30 pm <i>Blake Bivins</i></p>	<p><b>23</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm <i>Justin Bailey</i></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25 St. James</b></p>	
<p><b>26 Pentecost 8 P-12</b> 10:00 Morning Prayer and Sermon</p>	<p><b>27</b> AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29 Mary and Martha of Bethany</b> AA 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>30</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm <i>Ron Hunt</i></p>	<p><b>31</b> <i>Andy Patterson</i></p>		

**July at Trinity**

**Sundays at 10 a.m. - Morning Prayer and Sermon**

Our parish prayer list hasn't been updated since the last time we met for worship, March 8. If you have names to add or remove, please let Barbara know by emailing the church or calling (her direct line is 888.8981).

**Please Pray for** - Andrea, Joe, Holly, Don, Patricia, 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.

Thanks to Barbara Strange for this gem from 1964:

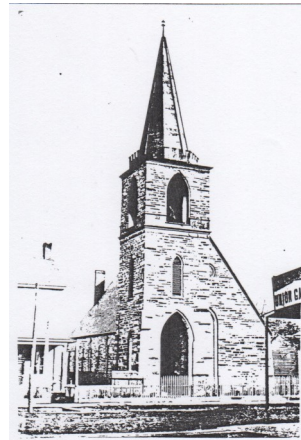
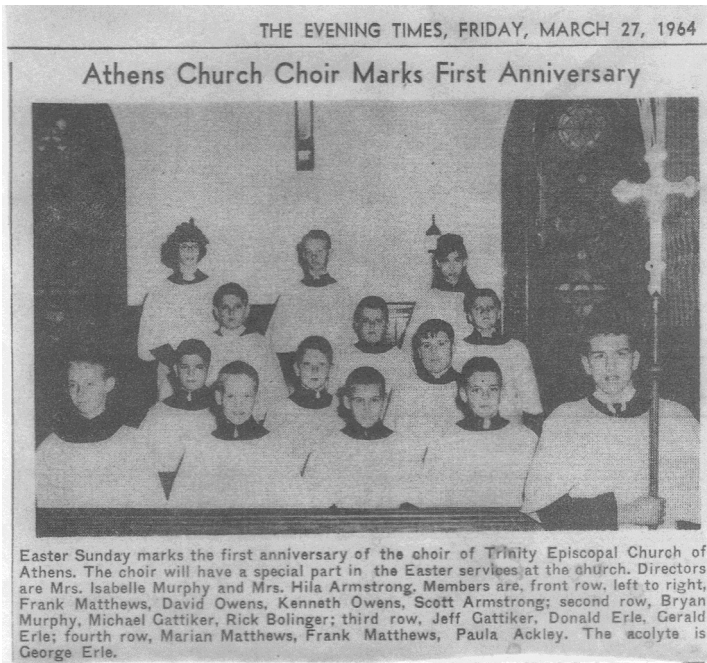
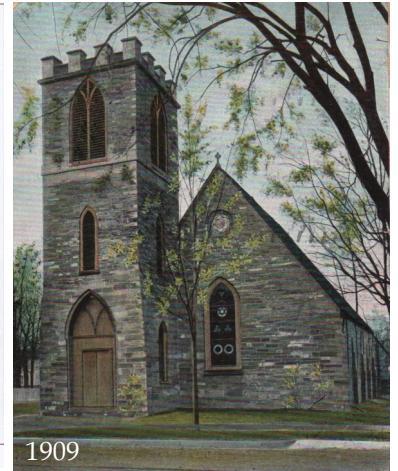


Fig. 1. Trinity Church Athens, PA, ca. 1880



1909

**A bit of history about our front doors -**

Originally there were no doors. The doors in the 1909 postcard may have been installed when the tower was changed. The doors you see in the 1992



1992

photo were designed by The Rev. Albert Holloway in 1942 - with seven trefoils representing Christmas roses; the giant faux hinges represented the keys to the Kingdom. But, the materials included plywood, which had rotted by the turn of this century and were replaced in our major renovation project (2011-13) and dedicated on Trinity Sunday, 2013. The handrail was generously donated by Vulcraft in 2015.



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**Season of Pentecost**  
**July, 2020**

*To seek and serve Christ in all people*