

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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Epiphany - Lent - February, 2021

Rumination: February, 2021

Mid-Season of Epiphany

The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?'"

Matthew 21:16]

Previous starts of Epiphany blur together for me, but I cannot believe that I will ever forget this past January 6th. It goes without saying that so far this has been quite some Epiphany.

This year, the start of the Christian season of Epiphany, the celebration of the manifestation of Christ to the world was sullied by insurrection. This year many "christians" (yes, read with a small 'c' and with 'finger quotes') have manifested to the world who their true god is.

Many of these misguided (delusional?) "christians", instead of sharing with the world the light of Christ filled with love and shalom (true peace), chose rather to spew hatred and fear. Evidently they forgot: *"But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles."* [Matthew 15:18]

A skewed political agenda trumped their faith in the Christ they profess to follow.

It seemed that this was going to be a very light-less Epiphany, but that turned out only to be a false start. Epiphany got a "jump-start" two weeks later when onto the stage stepped a "child". In the very place others tried to spread darkness, Amanda Gorman proclaimed:

*"For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it,
If only we're brave enough to be it."*

[Amanda Gorman, 1/20/21, Inaugural Poem]

Not literally a child, but when you're my age – well – you understand my perspective. To say I was impressed is insufficient – I had tears in my eyes listening to her poem.

In a time of darkness brought about by political self-interest and pandemic, in a time of dark social media posts by conspiracy theorists, our faith is challenged more than ever. She responded: *"For there is always light, - IF..."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor, theologian, and ultimately martyred by the Nazis, put being a Christian in perspective: *"It is only because he became like us that we can become like him."* [The Cost of Discipleship]

This is the reason for the incarnation: so that we can become Christ-like. To have the faith and courage to strive to be the light of Christ to a broken and sinful world is the call of every Christian.

I find on social media that many think that simply re-posting "religious memes", by saying 'Amen' and sharing it, is all it takes to be faithful. Bonhoeffer would have called this "cheap grace".

No 'ifs': discipleship, being a Christian, is to be brave enough to be the hands and feet and heart of Christ where we are – all the time.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

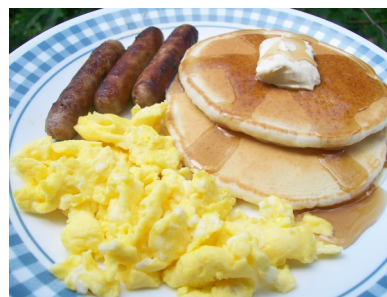
CartoonChurch.com



It's going to be a very different kind of both Super Bowl and Souper Bowl this year. Usually, we place a soup pot at the

baptismal font and folks drop in a dollar or more for each family member (pets, too!). The amount of money collected is reported to the national organization, but, all funds are used locally.

This year we're asking you to mail a donation to the church office to fight hunger - Lord knows that people are hurting during this pandemic as jobs are lost and rent is due. Make your check out to Trinity and write "Souper Bowl" on the for line. We'll then write one check and send it to the Valley Food Pantry.

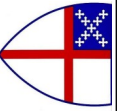


Shrove Tuesday

This will be the first year, possibly in Trinity's long history, but certainly in the 30 years your editor has been here, that there will





be no Pancake Supper. So, here's a suggestion - have your own at home. Check the pantry for some Krusteaz or Bisquick, or get some buttermilk and make your own favorite recipe, or my Grandfather's: Papa's Buttermilk pancakes:

- 2 C. Buttermilk
- 1 tsp each: sugar, salt, baking powder, baking soda
- 1 egg
- 1 C flour (plus up to 1/2 C more to get the consistency of heavy cream)
- Grease the griddle each time.

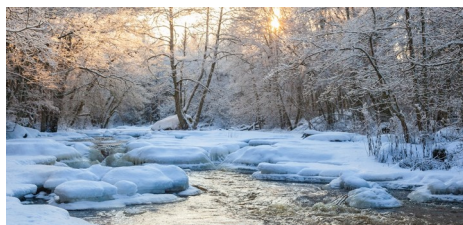


Trinity Episcopal Church - February 2021

Epiphany
Lent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Trinity Cycle of Prayer: <i>2/7</i> David, Chela, Brandon, Sean Bubniak. <i>2/14</i> Tom and Shannon Bubniak, Rick Bubniak. <i>2/21</i> Joe and Laura Cama; Rachel, Cole, Dennis Cama-Nemer; Tim, Jennifer, Lily Cama. <i>2/28</i> Barbara, Alan Caum, Nate Schwartzberg.</p>						
<p><i>Our Sister Diocese of Kaijo Keji:</i> <i>2/7</i> St. Luke, Bajur. <i>2/14</i> St. James, Longira. <i>2/21</i> St. Joseph, Lire and Andejo Parish-les. <i>2/28</i> Kigwo Parish</p>			<p>There are no services scheduled this month due to Covid-19. But, you can celebrate Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday at home with your own pancake supper (recipe included in the newsletter), and on Ash Wednesday, you can read through liturgy beginning on page 264 of the Book of Common Prayer. If you don't have one, the church will lend you one. It is also available online.</p>			
 7 The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany Souper Bowl Sunday	1 AA 7:00 pm AA 8:00 pm	2 The Feast of the Presentation	3 Intergroup 5:00 pm AA 7:30 pm	4 AA 5:30 and 8:00 pm	5 Jonathan Ayres Alexandra Ayres	6
	8 AA 7:00 pm AA 8:00 pm	9	10 AA 7:30 pm	11 AA 5:30 and 8:00 pm	12 Chuck Cornell	13
14 The Last Sunday After the Epiphany	15 AA 7:00 pm AA 8:00 pm	16 Shrove Tuesday Pancakes at home! 	17 Ash Wednesday AA 7:30 pm 	18 AA 5:30 and 8:00 pm Peg Murray	19	20 Jacob Brivins
21 The First Sunday in Lent	22 AA 7:00 pm AA 8:00 pm Logan Cornell	23 Adam Hunsinger	24 St. Matthias AA 7:30 pm	25 AA 5:30 and 8:00 pm	26	27
28 The Second Sunday in Lent	<i>Diocese of Bethlehem.</i> <i>2/7</i> Trinity, Athens, Daniel Gerhart, SW; The Rev. Benjamin Lentz, Supply. <i>2/14</i> Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Dean Anthony Pompa, Rector. <i>2/21</i> Trinity, Bethlehem, The Rev. Dr. Pamela Payne, Rector. Retired Clergy of the Diocese. <i>2/28</i> Trinity, Carbondale; Christ Church, Forest City.		<i>Anglicans around the World:</i> <i>2/7</i> The Anglican Church of Burundi, Archbishop Martin Nyaboho. <i>2/14</i> The Anglican Church of Canada, Bishop Linda Nicholls. <i>2/21</i> The Church of the Province of Central Africa, Archbishop Albert Chama. <i>2/28</i> The Anglican Church of Central America, Bishop Julio Murray.			Coming in March: Daylight Savings time begins March 14. Spring begins March 20.

February at Trinity



Worship on Sundays in the church is currently suspended due to Covid-19.

Weekly envelopes - replacements have finally arrived, this time, they were not left in 3 feet of snow. Some of them have been delivered, some of you will pick yours up at the abbreviated Annual Meeting on January 31. If you did not pledge, but would like a box of envelopes, we do have some extras. Call or email the church office. **Pledges for 2021.** Many of you responded with either one-time gifts or pledges for 2021 and your gifts and promises will keep the church and her ministry going another year. It is not too late to send in a pledge.

Our 179th Annual Meeting - by the time you read this, the meeting will have been held. The diocese required us to have some sort of meeting in the month of January - our regularly scheduled time is the last Sunday in January. Bishop Kevin allowed 10 to gather, which is more than 10% of our active members. A vote of our membership is required for the vestry members. The current vestry will continue to serve if approved. We have the minimum required number of vestry members and would welcome more; we can revisit this when we begin corporate worship again. At this time, we have no idea when that might be.

Bible Study Proposal

While writing my latest rumination for the newsletter, I realized that I am basically raising questions that I think you might have, then I answer these imaginary questions. This is a safe approach but sometimes avoiding the really difficult questions.

This Lent - Ash Wednesday is February 17th - I'd like to experiment with a Bible Study that we can do during the pandemic. I am proposing that I will weekly formulate a written presentation offered through the newsletter mailing list, both on-line and snail mail. As you look through the presentation, I encourage you to make note of questions you might have rising from the presentation. You can then either email them to me (or Barbara) or text or telephone them into me.

The next week I will attempt to address those questions before moving on to another presentation. Don't be afraid that your question isn't important. You'd be surprised at how many other people might have the same question. Besides, I'll keep the authorship of the questions anonymous.

I'm thinking that the Gospel According to Mark might easily fit a weekly Lenten study. If this is successful, we could consider continuing with Biblical books that you suggest.

Interested? Let me know by texting or phoning (570-423-1858) or emailing (blentz69@gmail.com).

Fr. Ben

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To seek and serve Christ in all people