

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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## Services

Find services every day on our website and FaceBook page. Morning Prayer is posted daily and The Holy Eucharist is posted on Sunday mornings by 8 am. There is also a live Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 8:30. See Father Tom's article for details.

## From Our Pastor

*“Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir one another up to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more, as you see the Day drawing near.”*

The passage from Hebrews above exhorts Christians to meet together for mutual inspirations and encouragement. Because of public health concerns, we are not able to do this in the way we usually do. And this will continue for, at least, another six weeks, according to diocesan guidelines. Many of you have told me how much you miss meeting together as a church family. And I want you to know, I feel your pain. I have not missed two consecutive weeks of church for any reason since I dedicated my life to Jesus in 1977.

But even though we are not able to physically meet together for this season of social distancing, I want to encourage all of us to find other ways to connect and to consider how to “stir one another up to love and good works ... encouraging one another”. Here are three ways we can strengthen our parish family in these difficult times:

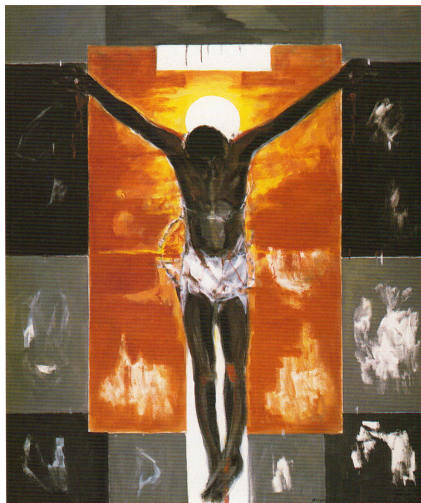
### Phone calls

As most of you know, we have made a “phone tree” and the clergy, wardens and vestry have been trying to call every parish member to keep in touch. If you haven't received a call or a message on your answering machine by now, that probably means we do not have a current phone number for you. Please call or email the church office to let us know the best way to keep in touch with you. I encourage all of you to make every effort to stay in touch with your neighbors, your church friends and family through the various communication options available. Even though we cannot be together physically, we can draw closer to one another in other ways.

### Daily Worship

Please join us for our daily worship services which are posted on our website [trinityepiscopalweth.org](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org) every day by 9 am. To prepare for these services, please read the scripture lessons before, or after, the services. The scripture lessons for daily morning and evening prayer are found on pages 961-963 in the Book of Common

(continued on page 2)



Cristo Negro by Martin Ruiz Anglada, 1995

## Readings

### April 5

#### Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 31:9-16  
 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Matthew 26:14-27:66

### April 9

#### Maunder Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### April 10

#### Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
 Psalm 22  
 Hebrews 10:16-25  
 John 18:1-19:42

### April 12

#### Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
 Colossians 3:1-4  
 John 20:1-18

These are also posted on the web site. If you do not have a Book of Common Prayer at home, please stop by the church office during office hours and pick one from the church pews. If you can't drive, please call the church office and someone will bring a copy to you.

We are also trying an interactive Morning Prayer meeting every Wednesday at 8:30am using the Zoom app. If you are interested in joining, please contact Rebecca Scruton at 413-221-0556.

### Sunday Holy Communion

On Sundays, we celebrate Holy Communion at 9am. If you have a conflict at that time, you can tune in at any time. We encourage everyone to enter this service as fully as possible. When the Holy Communion is shared, we encourage everyone to pray this prayer:

*“Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are present in this Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, please enter my heart spiritually. I embrace you as if you are already here and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.”*

It is my hope and prayer that we grow stronger as a family of faith through this health crisis. That we will pray together more intentionally, pray for one another more diligently, read Scripture more faithfully and grow deep in love with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
 Father Tom

## Our Journey Through Holy Week

Easter is almost upon us, and as we approach this Sunday of the Resurrection, the season of Lent is drawing to a close. With the observance of the “Passion of our Lord” on Palm Sunday, Holy Week will once again begin. The contemplation, meditation and reflection which have marked our Lenten journeys now come to a culmination as we commemorate Jesus’s final actions as he prepares for his crucifixion and death upon the cross. This is perhaps the most solemn and somber week of the liturgical year, but it is also what some call an invitation for each of us to be made new again, by following Jesus’s path, which leads to a fullness of life.

**Palm Sunday** marks the start of Holy Week as it recognizes Jesus’s triumphal return to Jerusalem. As he enters on a donkey, the people wave palm and olive branches and have strewn them along the path as they shout, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!” It is for this reason that we carry palms as we process from outside into the church as we memorialize Jesus’s entry to Jerusalem. Unlike the people of that era, we know what will happen and it is for that reason that we make use of the Passion gospels, to remind us of what is to come and of Jesus’s ultimate sacrifice of his life on the cross, as redemption for our sins.

(continued on page 3)

While there are no specific services for the next three days, each of them is an important element on Jesus's final journey into Jerusalem. On **Monday**, we recognize Jesus's going to the Temple and becoming angry due to the manner in which it was being desecrated. He overturns the tables of the money changers and vendors and sends them from the Temple. Jesus then spends time lecturing the people as to the necessity of the Temple remaining a sacred place of prayer. **Tuesday**, we are reminded that Jesus took his disciples to the Mount of Olives in the morning and later in the day he is questioned by the elders and priests as to whether or not he is the Messiah. Jesus responds to them with parables which speak to the end of times and his own Second Coming, but Jesus's questioners were unable to understand what he was telling them. **Holy Wednesday** is viewed as the day during which the elders and chief priests plot Jesus's murder. In these three days the die has been cast and all the pieces had been put in place to effectuate Jesus's murderous death.

**Maundy Thursday** plays a pivotal role in our liturgy for this is the day of the "last supper". As his disciples entered the upper room, Jesus washed their feet as a sign of his humility and love not just for his disciples but for all other humans. This act of humility and servanthood is often incorporated into our Maundy Thursday services. It is a reminder of Jesus's willingness to serve his neighbors and of his admonition to us that we must love our neighbors. After dinner Jesus administers the first communion using the bread and wine as symbols of his own body and blood. Jesus instructed his disciples to "do this in remembrance of me." Thus it is this act at the Last Supper on which our Eucharist has been based, as we do this in remembrance of him. This service typically ends with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday. The stripping of the altar is symbolic of the humiliation which Jesus suffers at the hands of the soldiers.

**Good Friday** memorializes the crucifixion and death of Jesus on the cross. This was the day that Jesus was tried, beaten and nailed to the cross in fulfillment of the scriptures. This is indeed the most solemn day of the church year. Formerly there were three-hour services during which meditations on Jesus's seven last words are given. Often there are services for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening.

**Holy Saturday** is the final day of Holy Week. On this day, Jesus lay in the tomb which was guarded by soldiers to insure no one broke into it. The Easter Vigil is held after sundown on Holy Saturday. It is a service of celebration that consists of four parts: Service of Light, Service of Lessons, the Baptismal service, and the Eucharist. It is a long and ritualistic service which serves to prepare the participants for the joy of Easter.

Holy Week ends early **Easter** morning, at about the time that the empty tomb was discovered. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, may we seek to find ways to follow Jesus's journey during Holy Week as we are filled with the Holy Spirit!

In peace, Father Darryl



*The Empty Tomb* by He Qi

## Readings

### April 19

#### Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

### April 26

#### Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

*You can find daily and weekly readings in a variety of places and formats. First, you can look for Sunday readings in the Lectionary section of the Book of Common Prayer. You can check online by googling "revised common lectionary." There's also a great app available called Electronic Common Prayer (eCP) for a small, one-time charge.*



Lamb by Francisco Zurbarán, 1638

## Parish Leadership

### PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer  
In the case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Father Tom at 860-212-6994.

### CURATE

The Rev. Darryl Burke

### STAFF

Linda Rubera, Administrator  
Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12  
operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org  
860-529-6825

Dorothy LaBelle, Music Director

Nick Tracano, Sexton

### VESTRY

Warren Blessing, Co-Warden  
Connie Harasymiw, Co-Warden  
Robert Heath, Treasurer  
Leslie Jones, Clerk  
Greg Joseph  
Tina LaMorte  
Cheryl Lewis  
Rebecca Scruton, Co-Warden  
J. R. Stanko  
Ann Marie Stavola  
Linda Traue

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### Lenten Project: Sewing Machines for Nana

If you want to help Nana Dogo provide young, mostly widowed women in Kafanchan Diocese of Nigeria to become more economically independent, please send a check in any amount to the church office. The money will be used to purchase sewing machines which cost around \$125 - \$135. Checks should be payable to "Trinity Parish" with "sewing machines" on the memo line. The total amount collected will be forwarded to Nigeria after the pandemic is over.

### Our Syrian American Family

Marilyn Ford has been in contact with Yaman over the last few weeks and was contacted by several people, a parishioner and a couple of other friends, about continuing our help for Yaman and her family. At one point she was down to enough food for 3 or 4 days. These friends brought food and other goods to Marilyn's house so she has been to visit the family twice with food (the last time 6 feet apart by the car trunk). Ayman is now home so everything has improved. He went shopping last week after working in Washington DC for three weeks.

### Community Dinners at the Cathedral

Thank you to everyone who donated food or money for the Community Dinner scheduled for the last week in March. We were concerned about how to manage our commitment to the folks we serve while keeping our volunteers safe. After several conversations with the folk running the dinners, they decided to move the meal from Christ Church Cathedral to the Hands on Hartford kitchen on Bartholomew Avenue in Hartford. Their kitchen is much larger and the dining room has more room for social distancing. Hands on Hartford also agreed to prepare and serve the food for us. Along with the food, we gave a check to Barbara Shaw, the Executive Director of Hands on Hartford. Trinity is happy to have found a way to deliver on our commitment. Our next dinner is not until July 27 and so, hopefully, we will be back to normal by then.

### Wethersfield Food Bank

Although we can't donate and deliver groceries to the Wethersfield Food Bank during this difficult time, many of us still want to help feed people who are hungry. The good news is that you can donate online at [rec.wethersfieldct.gov/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/donation](http://rec.wethersfieldct.gov/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/donation). The money will go to the Wethersfield Department of Social Services' Food Bank and Special Needs Fund. This fund is used to assist residents with different needs in addition to food insecurities. If you prefer, you can mail a check to Town Hall, Attn: Wethersfield Food Bank, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

## Prayers for this Season of Coronavirus

### **Pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine.**

*Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.*

### **Pray for people at higher risk of developing the disease.**

*Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 — the elderly and people with chronic health conditions, those who are poor and homeless, people in refugee camps around the world, those in nursing homes and in prisons. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones.*

### **Pray for medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting the new coronavirus.**

*God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job. Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.*

### **Pray for leaders responsible for making decisions about the new coronavirus.**

*Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.*

### **Pray for families adjusting to new ways of life.**

*Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.*

### **Pray for business owners and families facing financial stress.**

*Jesus, we thank You for Your faithfulness in how you have guided and equipped people in their jobs and have provided in the past. It can be scary and overwhelming not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for families. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them that You are there for them. Provide for them in their times of need.*

### **Pray for grocery store workers and delivery drivers.**

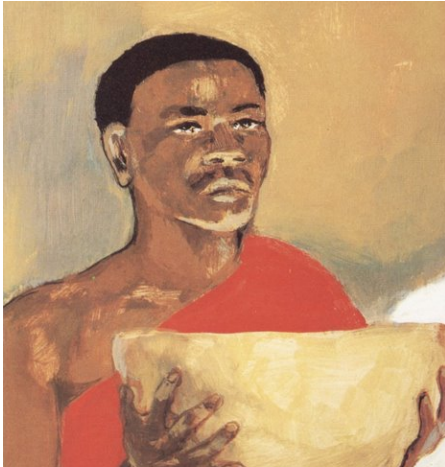
*Lord, we are so grateful for all the people who continue to work each day so that people are able to eat. We ask that You bless and protect them as they serve. Give them grace to handle disgruntled customers during supplies shortages. Keep their bodies healthy as they unload and stock boxes of supplies. Keep their cars and trucks running smoothly as they deliver needed supplies and food people have ordered online. And please protect them all from contracting the new coronavirus.*

### **Pray for the disease to stop spreading.**

*Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of traveling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands properly. And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.*

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Adapted from: <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/prayers-people-affected-new-coronavirus>



Detail of Jesus from *The Last Supper*, JESUS MAFA, 1973

## Please Keep in Touch!

The clergy and wardens are concerned for all of you, particularly at this time of quarantine and social distancing. Please contact any one of us with concerns or challenges you might have. Please remember: we are here to support you.

Father Tom, Father Darryl, Connie, Rebecca and Warren

## Business Report

### *Pledge Status (end of February)*

Total Pledge	\$ 22,155
Received	\$ 23,675
Difference	+ \$ 1,520

### *Income/Expenses (end of February)*

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 26,025	\$ 26,246
Expenses	\$ 27,532	\$ 26,246

If you'd like to learn more about the business of the church, you can check out the monthly vestry minutes on our website at [trinityepiscopalweth.org/vestry-minutes](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org/vestry-minutes) and/or attend regular vestry meetings.

## Let's Stay Connected

*By Warren Blessing*

Your wardens and clergy have discussed how we might provide religious services, as reflections or whole services, to parishioners via electronic means. This would help us reach out to you, other people in the community, and those who are not able to travel to our church. It's so important that we stay in contact, especially in difficult times. During this time of social distancing during the corona virus pandemic, it's more important than ever.

The vestry and clergy have been calling all parishioners to touch base and pray for people who are struggling. In our phone conversations, we are trying to determine what access parishioners have to the internet for either our website or FaceBook. We're also trying to determine the feasibility of using various apps such as Zoom, DUO, and FaceTime.

Trinity is putting Morning Prayer on its website [trinityepiscopalweth.org](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org) and on FaceBook every day. Sunday Eucharists are also posted online in both places. We are investigating other methods of technology to determine how we can enhance our connections with you during this time of isolation. If you have ideas about connecting via electronic means, please send me an email at [ctvalleywc@yahoo.com](mailto:ctvalleywc@yahoo.com)

## A Prayer for People Critically Ill or Facing Great Uncertainly

*Adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book*

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided. Open our eyes to recognize your presence and guidance with us always. Give us grateful hearts for the signs of grace you never fail to send. For you are God, and we need you. We place our trust in you, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

## Our Weekly Prayer List

*May Your kingdom come and Your will be done.*

### MONDAY

Susanna, Mike & Avery	Kathy	Roger
Tom & Maryjane	Carol	Rose & Ray
Jimmy & Kristine	Ginny & Mike	Ginger
Ellie, Amy & Alexandria	Clark & Joyce	Anne
Josue, Kayla & Josue Jr.	Nancy, Cole & Tate	Leslie
Mel & J.R.		

### TUESDAY

J.P. & Mauricio	Tim	Bruce
Joan & Greg	Arline	Martha
Jane Helen	Linda	Sue
Arnold & Barbara	Nick	Mary Lou
Susan & David	William & Lilyan	Joan

### WEDNESDAY

David	Sarah	Audrey
Denise	Vicki	Lorraine
Connie & Raymond	Bruce	Ken
Dorothy & Lauren	Michael & Cheryl	Joan
Paul & Keri	Jan	Dan
Denise & Carl		

### THURSDAY

Warren & Lynda	Sarah	Ashley
Mark & Cheryl	Marilyn	Corinne
Judith & Charles	Taylor	Darren
Jessie, Tom & Bernadette	Billye & Jack	Barbara & Ed
Allison & Jamie	Heidi & Brianna	Leslie
Helen, Ben, Molly, Hannah & Andrew		

### FRIDAY

William & Marion	Lorraine	Shirley
David & Mary	Rebecca & Gordon	Marilyn
Peter & Sheila	Rob & Nan	Michael
Geraldeen	Robert & Arney	Anne
Kirk, Tracey & Hayes	John & Diane	Sue
Garth, Melanie, Atlee & Phebe		

### SATURDAY

Sal & Mimi	Judy	Donna
Nancy & Paul	Ray & Denise	Theo
Rob & Mitch	Tina & Peter	Barbara
Paula & Arthur	Carl & Sue	Darryl
Linda & Tom	Brooke, Fred & Lulu	
Patrick, Jennifer, Hannah & Lily		



*Savior of the World, Antonello da Messina, 1465*

## Bishop Scruton's Daily Prayer during this Pandemic

"O Lord, keep bringing redemptive moments and actions out of this calamity day by day. Please open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son, our savior. Amen.

## Looking Ahead

After Easter, a new **Bible Study** will be led by Father Tom on Thursday mornings and **A Time for Centering Prayer** will be led by Bishop Scruton. More information will be forthcoming.

## Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, April 21, at 6:30 pm to discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. Contact Joan Joseph (golfst4@aol.com) to join the group. BYOS....Bring Your Own Snacks!

## A Prayer for Parish Mission

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Dear and Gracious God,

Please send us the people we need in order to become the church You want us to be, and please send us the people who need us in order to become the people You want them to be. Help us to respond with love to those You send, making room for them at our table and in our hearts so that together we can share Your love with our neighbors in need both locally and around the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who met people where they were, loved and cared for them, and invited them into a deeper relationship with You.

Amen



### The Belfry

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*The Belfry* is a monthly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT. Send articles and photographs to [lesliejonesie@gmail.com](mailto:lesliejonesie@gmail.com)

## The Belfry

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### Trinity Episcopal Church

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