

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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Services

Worship services for Monday through Friday and Sunday will be recorded until further notice. These services can be accessed on Trinity's website trinityepiscopalweth.org

Our outdoor Evening Prayer service will continue each Sunday at 4 pm in the parking lot. Please remember to bring your chair and mask.

Please leave a contact number at the office if you want to participate in our live ZOOM Morning Prayer on Wednesdays.

From Our Pastor

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen, but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Dear Trinity Community,

I am approaching a “milestone birthday” this coming month. And right on cue, my body is letting me know that I cannot be in denial — it really is true. Earlier this week, I went to the dentist for what I thought was a repair of an old filling. The dentist informed me that the tooth was beyond repair and had to be removed. (Replacement options, none of which are pleasant, are being contemplated.)

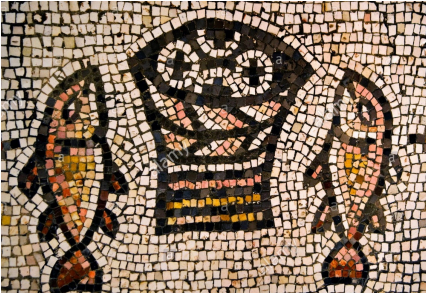
Later this month, I will be having the ball joint and socket in my hip replaced with artificial “after market” spare parts. I have been living with pain for about four years now which has gradually gotten worse. I finally decided to get it over with and do it.

These two recent experiences have reminded me of the passage above. *“Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”*

We live in bodies that are wearing out. We live in a biosphere with diseases that attack us. We live in a world of tragedies and calamities over which we have no control. And I case we forget, or are in denial, COVID-19 has come along to remind us of all three.

All of this is true. But it is not the whole truth. God’s Word and God’s promises and God’s eternal purpose are the last word. And we can have the strength to persevere through all of the afflictions of this present life, trusting in the God who has given us all things in Christ.

Your brother in Christ,
Tom



Loaves and fishes mosaic excavated from near the Sea of Galilee

Sunday Readings

August 2

Genesis 32:22-31
 Psalm 17:1-7,15
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

Genesis 45:1-15
 Psalm 133
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 15:21-28

August 23

Exodus 1:8-2:10
 Psalm 124
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Jeremiah 15:15-21
 Psalm 26:1-8
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

A Note from the Curate

It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since I was first welcomed into, and embraced by, the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church, Wethersfield. As I have begun my role as a priest, my sojourn with you has truly been a blessing for me. My time here has been far more beneficial and rewarding than I had ever envisioned. Through my interactions with members of this parish I have come to feel very much a part of the family of Trinity, and have had the joy of bearing witness to the works of faith performed by this “small but mighty” congregation. This has indeed been a God-blessed and God-inspired experience for all of us. I have come to feel very much a part of the Trinity family and this has indeed become my new/another home parish!

I have consistently felt a sense of comfort as a part of this community, and that is solely as a consequence of your willingness to accept and affirm that which I bring with me. Despite the unforeseen, hitherto unfathomable changes to our communal life and style of worship as a consequence of the precautions for the COVID-19 pandemic the quality, attributes or essence of this experience were not diminished. Rather it has caused me to stretch and explore varied approaches to the practice of the liturgy. This has been a trying period for so many of us, but it has also afforded me with the opportunity to grow in other ways, and to “try on” new and different ideas, with respect to the manner in which we “do church”. It has allowed me to discern other ways to encounter God and to express the manner in

“...I thank each of the members of this congregation for your love and support. I leave a better and more blessed man than I was upon arrival here.”

which I perceive God is calling us to serve our neighbors, by presenting interpretations from a different cultural and ethnic perception of the manner in which and to what Jesus is calling us. I continually rejoice and give thanks to God for having guided my path to join with Trinity’s in this portion of our shared journey.

My ordination to the priesthood took place this past February, just prior to the pandemic, and I witnessed the working of the Holy Spirit as the congregations of Trinity and St. Monica, my presenting/home parish, as they joined forces and came together to make this spiritually momentous occasion a true celebration of the manner in which God works in our lives. The service and the ensuing celebration were a celebration of my culture and heritage within the Episcopal Church, and offered an opportunity to interact with friends and

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A NOTE FROM THE CURATE continued from page 2

strangers, simply as children of God celebrating the manner in which God was working in my and our lives. This was a spiritually renewing and personally overwhelmingly rewarding experience for me. I continue to offer you my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to bring us together in celebration of my ordination.

Throughout this year I have had numerous opportunities to explore and grow into the various aspects and components of the role of priest. I am grateful for the example and input of Father Tom, as he has guided and assisted me in this transformation. He has served as an excellent mentor and advisor, but has most certainly become my brother in Christ. I thank the five wardens, Rose, Denise, Connie, Rebecca and Warren, for their support and encouragement over the course of this year. They have provided a structure for facilitating the ongoing relationship between clergy and lay leadership. Their openness and honesty has truly been a blessing for me throughout this time. I thank Bishop Gordon for his consistent advice, support and nurturing throughout this period. Most importantly, I thank each of the members of this congregation for your love and support. I leave a better and more blessed man than I was upon arrival here.

As I leave I commit to living out our motto in my ministry: loving God, loving my neighbor and changing the world. I thank you, and may God's peace remain with you!

Yours in Christ,
Father Darryl C. Burke



Join Us Outdoors for Evening Prayer

We gather together in the back parking lot with masks and chairs at 4 pm on Sunday afternoons. Guidelines from the State and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut are followed and, despite the social distancing and distant highway sounds, we worship and give thanks to the Lord in community. Music is often generously provided by parishioners and Father Tom and Father Darryl lead our service.



*Peter's Rescue from the Lake Galilee,
Herbert Boeckl, 1925*

Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair

Our annual fair was scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2020. Because of the uncertainty of holding public gatherings as we go forward with the COVID-19 pandemic, your vestry has voted to cancel the fair for this year. We will use this year to look at the 'why' and 'how' we do the fair and also if there is reason to do things differently.

Trinity's Photo Journal

Visit our online photo journal at trinityepiscopalweth.org/photo-gallery for visuals of what's been happening during the pandemic. The newest snapshots include a memorial service for Jean Erickson, a beloved and longtime member of Trinity.



Woman of Canaan, Sadao Watanabe, circa 1940-96

Parish Leadership

PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer
For a pastoral emergency,
please call 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

South Park Inn

In line with social distancing guidelines, we cannot bring donations to South Park Inn. We can, however, donate financially online at southparkinn.org/donate or, if you prefer to send a check, make it payable to 'South Park Inn' and mail to: South Park Inn, Office of Development, 75 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106.

Wethersfield Food Bank

Although we can't donate and deliver food to the Wethersfield Food Bank during the pandemic, many of us still want to help feed people who are hungry. The good news is that you can donate 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. Simply mail a check to Town Hall, Attn. Wethersfield Food Bank, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

Our Syrian American Family

Again, we cannot take groceries to the family we support. So far, parishioners have brought cash, personal care items, and paper goods to Marilyn's home and she is able to safely deliver them.

Hands on Hartford

Hands on Hartford used our gift for the Community Crisis Fund to help the vulnerable folks in the community as they address the impact of the pandemic. Checks payable to Hands on Hartford can be mailed to 55 Bartholomew Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities, Haiti

We've received word that 40 residents are safe and quarantined from outside visitors. The director had the foresight to purchase a two-month supply of soap, non-perishable food, and face masks. He has set up hand-washing stations around the campus, hired a residential nurse to help out, and he has expanded dormitory space to improve physical distancing. Kitchen sanitation has been improved and the space is now fully ventilated.

Education continues for the residential students. Three teachers and several residents help to teach a variety of subjects to the younger residents and staff has sent worksheets home to non-residential children. Plans are underway for the re-opening of the school, most likely on August 3. The early start adds 50 days to the school year to make up for lost time due to social unrest and the virus. Various protocols have been put in place, e.g. extra spacing in classrooms, temperature checks, hand washing, and family meetings to review safety measures to be implemented at home.

An Invitation to Prayer

By Rebecca Scruton

To say the least, we are living in challenging and conflicting times. Emotions range from extreme fear and caution to no fear and a laissez-faire approach to life. Many conversations are had or avoided during these unprecedented times. Relationships are strengthened or terminated, hope is deepened or despondency takes root and permeates life.

What are you and I experiencing personally and how are we as God's people of Trinity responding to this season? And most importantly, in what ways are we seeking God and God's presence and desires for us? In what ways are you and I coping, finding life, ministry and peace? I know there are many ways to enter into these questions and reflections. There are multiple ways in which to respond.

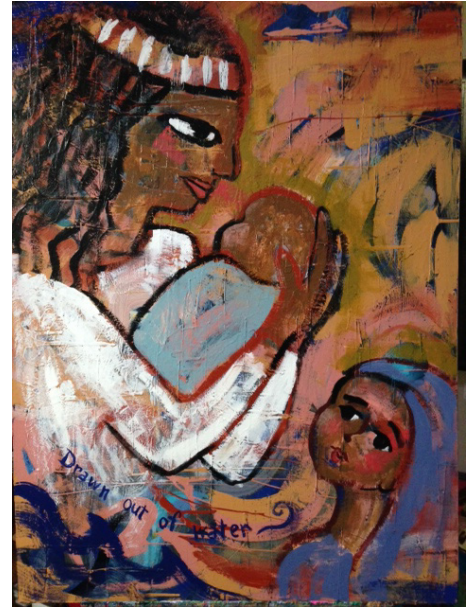
From my perspective, my first and daily response is to talk with God and to pray without ceasing. Pray for peace, healing, family, government, missions, our clergy...the list goes on. Praying for our community, for each other is vital and whoever the "other" is for you. Prayer has a profound affect on us, our relationship with God and those for whom we pray locally or globally.

I recently read the following reflection by Henri Nouwen from *The Way of the Heart*. I offer this to you as an encouragement and an invitation:

God's Heart has Become One with Ours

When we say to people, "I will pray for you," we make a very important commitment. The sad thing is that this remark often remains nothing but a well-meant expression of concern. But when we learn to descend with our mind into our heart, then all those who have become part of our lives are led into the healing presence of God and touched by him in the center of our being. We are speaking here about a mystery for which words are inadequate. It is the mystery that the heart, which is the center of our being, is transformed by God into his own heart, a heart large enough to embrace the entire universe. Through prayer we can carry in our heart all human pain and sorrow, all conflicts and agonies, all torture and war, all hunger, loneliness, and misery, not because of some great psychological or emotional capacity, but because God's heart has become one with ours. (p.87)

I invite you to join daily with me in continuing to pray for our fellow parishioners and to invite God into all areas of life. To open ourselves in becoming one with God and God's heart. To be instruments of God's hope, love and peace; heart and hands in the places God chooses for us.



Baby Moses Drawn Out of Water, Mollie Walker Freeman, 2015

Holy Communion

We celebrate Holy Communion online every Sunday. The link is on our website and FaceBook page. When the Holy Communion is shared, we encourage everyone to pray this prayer.

Prayer for Receiving Spiritual Communion

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.



Jeremiah,
Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1511

Evening Book Club

Save the date! The Evening Book Club will resume on Tuesday, September 8, at 5:45 pm (BYOE - Bring Your Own Everything) at the home of Judith Melchreit for our annual planning meeting. Bring a reading suggestion or two and your calendar. Our summer read-ahead choice for October is *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. Contact Joan Joseph at 860-666-4847 for more information.

Thanks for Remembering Your Pledge

While in-church services are not being held and the Trinity building is closed, the financial obligations of the church continue, and must be met. Thank you for remembering to send in your your pledge.

Farewell to Father Darryl

Dear Trinity Community,

It is now time to say farewell to Fr. Darryl as his one-year “missional curacy” (church lingo for “internship”) comes to an end.

I want to say how much I have enjoyed working with Darryl. It has been an unusual year, to say the least. Since the COVID-19 lockdown, both he and I have tried to learn to be TV preachers, which neither of us ever wanted to be. It was awkward and weird and we both had to learn to adapt to this new reality. I want to say publicly that I have deeply enjoyed working with him and that we have learned together.

I also want to say that I have learned from Father Darryl’s sermons following the George Floyd killing and protests that arose in its wake. He has said many things that I would not have been able to say. He has helped me to understand a little better what it is like to be discriminated against for the color of one’s skin. I am deeply grateful for having had this time to learn from him.

It is not yet clear where Fr. Darryl will be going next (talks are ongoing, but no conclusions yet), but I wish him every blessing in his next parish and I look forward to working alongside of him as a clergy colleague in the future.

Sincerely,
Father Tom



Scholarships for Nigerian Students

This will be our third year of supporting children with their education in the Diocese of Kafanchan. For \$95, you can provide a student with tuition, books, uniforms, food and housing for a year. Our goal is to provide scholarships for at least 40 students. Whether you’d like to provide a full scholarship for \$95 or a half scholarship for \$47.50, make your check payable to Trinity Episcopal Church with ‘Nigerian Scholarship’ on the memo line.

A Letter from Camp

By Sarah Marquis, Child Development Director
Tri-Town YMCA

On June 29 we started camp at Trinity for seven weeks. As of this writing, we have been able to serve an average of 40-50 campers each week. We have been able to provide 66 individual campers, many for multiple weeks, a safe environment for them to socialize with peers their age again. Every week our campers get to participate in art, science, team building, service learning, physical activity, and more!

We have Spirit Day every Wednesday which the campers love to dress up for. One of our favorite service projects includes our 8 year old children painting kindness rocks and placing them around Old Wethersfield to brighten peoples' days. Our 9 to 13 year-old group has been working hard on making blankets to donate to a children's hospital.

Allowing us to use the church space has allowed our campers to make new friends and memories that will last a lifetime. It allows them to learn new things and explore new interests and talents. Our youngest group is even learning Spanish with their teacher this summer! Some physical activity they have enjoyed include yoga, dance, and tag.

We are so thankful for the generosity of the church in allowing us to provide these activities for our families while parents work. This has allowed us to make an impact on the campers, families, the YMCA as well as our staff team. Our entire team returned for the summer and are happy to be working side by side again. We couldn't of been able to make a difference in so many lives this summer without the generosity of Trinity. The YMCA staff and campers are very thankful!

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of June)

Total Pledge	\$ 66,465
Received	\$ 66,530
Difference	\$ + 65

Income/Expenses (end of June)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 75,843	\$ 78,739
Expenses	\$ 67,343	\$ 78,739

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



Prayers at the End of the Day

The service of Compline can be found in your prayer book beginning on page 127. Or you can go [online here](#) for the nightly service with Bishop Gordon and Rebecca Scruton.

Bishop Scruton's 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.

A Prayer for Parish Mission

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

The Belfry is a monthly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT. Send articles and photographs to lesliejonesie@gmail.com

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