

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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## Services

Worship services for each day of the week will continue to be recorded until further notice. These services can be accessed on Trinity's website [trinityepiscopalweth.org](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org)

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

## From Our Pastor

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

Dear Trinity Family,

These are days of mourning and grief. Some of us are mourning the death of someone we know and love. In the past week, three people I know very well have died of COVID-19. On the day I am writing this article, I learned that another friend lost her two brothers in two weeks from the virus. Two other friends of mine have lost family members and were not able to attend the funeral nor to give and receive the hugs and tears that comfort us in times of loss.

Many of us are grieving the loss of our way of living and relating to friends, neighbors, family members and colleagues. Many of us are fearful of becoming ill or of losing our jobs or of losing our financial security.

Many of us are grieving the loss of our physical church community which gives us strength and hope and friendship and purpose. Online worship services are better than doing nothing, but still not the same as being together in person. God has created us as relational beings and our basic way of relating has been disrupted.

Yet Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Where is the blessing? When, where and how will we be comforted?

The blessing is that mourning helps us to feel and know the depth of our love for someone or some aspect of life. Someone (not Jesus) once said, "Grief is love with nowhere to go." When we feel the depth of grief, we feel the depth of the love, and we are led to appreciate that person or people more than ever before. A further blessing is that grieving helps us to understand the pain of others and to be an affirming and healing presence in their lives.

When we are grieving the loss of a way of life that is not possible at the moment, it gives us a greater appreciation for the sweetness of life as we have known it and a deeper appreciation of "normal" if and when something like "normal" returns. When I was a child,

*(continued on page 2)*



*The Day of Pentecost* by  
Andrew Wyeth, 1989

## Readings

### May 3

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

### May 10

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

### May 17

#### Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

### May 24

#### Sunday after the Ascension

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

### May 31

#### The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

(FROM OUR PASTOR continued from page 1)

whenever I would complain about being bored, my mother would tell me that there are a lot worse things in life than boring. She had lived through pretty extreme poverty during the Great Depression and boring was a big improvement on that. Boring was fine with her.

When, where and how will we be comforted? Those things are in God's plan and we can be expectant in prayer and trusting in God as we await them. One thing this season of grief has taught me is to trust more in God and less in my own plans and aspirations.

Saint Paul wrote the following words while he was sitting in prison waiting to die:

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
Let all people know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand.  
Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication make your requests be made known to God.  
And the peace of God, which passes all understanding will keep your  
hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4: 4-7

During this season of mourning and grief, I invite you to offer your deepest sorrows and worries and anxieties to God in prayer every day. Ask God for the strength and the consolation and the trust to live each day to its fullest potential while we await better days ahead. And then do it again tomorrow and then the next day and the next and the next. When you do that, you will experience a peace that passes human understanding.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Father Tom

## MEDITATION/CENTERING PRAYER

*Be still and know that I am God.* Psalm 46:10

Wednesday afternoons, 4 - 4:45 pm

Sessions will include a brief teaching orientation, practicing silence together, and a brief reflection on our experience of meditation. The facilitator is Gordon Scruton.

To register and receive the ZOOM code and initial resource notes, email Rebecca Scruton at [rscruton@gmail.com](mailto:rscruton@gmail.com)

If you wish to see and talk with those who join the group, please sign in 10 or 15 minutes before the meeting.

We plan to begin prayer at 4 pm.

## Faithfully Living Out Our Faith

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

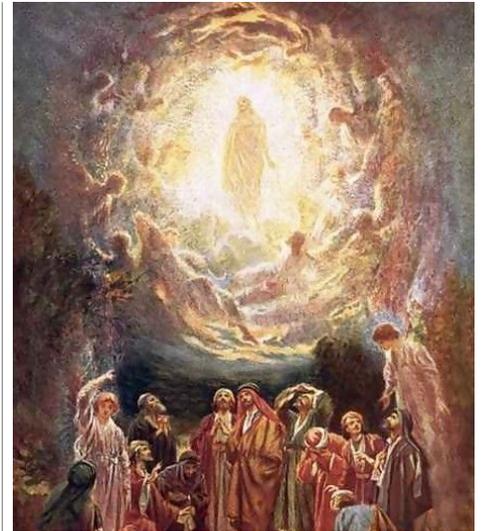
Jesus asked his first disciples to leave their families and their occupations as fishermen by telling them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” (Matthew 4:19) It was in this way that Jesus cast his net and caught those who would become his followers, and it was His expectation that they too would cast their nets and capture additional followers. This was not a capture by force, but it was one which is accomplished through their teaching and living out the beliefs and faith that Jesus had taught. It is through the casting of their nets that they would attract a new community of the faithful, which would hold a special place in the eyes of the Lord.

It was unlike the Covenant that had been established with the Israelites by God, which brought the expectation of a higher degree of holiness, by God’s “Chosen People”. The covenant that would be established with the followers of Jesus, as a consequence of His death and resurrection, is one which was and is offered to all who choose to believe in Jesus the Christ, and it comes as a consequence of our faithfully living out our faith!

In these uncertain days, we are reminded of our commitment to God’s expectation that we faithfully live out our faith. We’ve heard a wide range of explanations for the current state of world affairs. Some say it is the earth cleansing itself, while others claim that it is God’s punishment for our failures to live as He has called us to live. Still others have identified this as retribution from God for humankind’s sinfulness. As Christians we know that the God whom we know, love and worship would not and does not reap such misfortune on us, for our sins have been cleansed and our salvation assured through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! These are not the actions of the God we worship; thus, we must not seek to find reasons for the pandemic in the hands of God.

Sometimes, as trite as it may sound, bad things do happen to good people for no particular reason. We cannot let misfortune or adversity weaken our faith; thus, we cannot allow this pandemic to weaken our faith in our loving God. Instead, we must allow our faith to serve as the means for getting through the current time of fear and trials. In the midst of these days we must continue to cast the nets of our faith in our efforts to draw others into the community of Christ’s faithful. Christ walks with us in these days of uncertainty, and we must continue to ask our God to sustain and strengthen us as we seek to live out our faith, confident that by faithfully living as Jesus has taught us to live, all will fare well, and we will live into the reward that has been promised to each of us.

Peace,  
Father Darryl



*Jesus Ascending into Heaven* by William Brassey Hole, late 19th Century

## Visiting the Office during the Pandemic

In compliance with State guidelines and for the well-being of Linda and all who enter, we ask that if you plan to visit the Parish Office for any reason, *please wear a mask and gloves. Please assume someone will be in the office whenever you choose to go.* The office is used even when Linda is not there. Thank you for your caring and support.



*The Good Shepherd* by Julien Dupre,  
late 19th Century

## 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

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Lenten project. So far, \$575 has been donated. Checks in any amount can still be sent to the church office payable to 'Trinity Parish' with 'sewing machines' on the memo line. The money will be sent after the pandemic is over.

### South Park Inn

In line with social distancing guidelines, we are not able to deliver donations. We can, however, donate money. You can go online at [southparkinn.org/donate](http://southparkinn.org/donate) or you can send a check to South Park Inn, Office of Development, 75 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

### Our Syrian American Family

Following the guidelines of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut for COVID-19, we cannot drop off groceries and personal care items. Parishioners have brought cash and items like toilet paper to Marilyn's house and she has been able to safely deliver the items to the family.

### Community Dinners at the Cathedral

Hands on Hartford has been updating us about changes to their Community Meals program due to the pandemic. Instead of sit-down dinners, they are offering takeout meals in accordance with CDC and City of Hartford guidelines. They are also continuing to offer unsheltered guests a warm place to stay during inclement weather.

### 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). If you prefer, you can mail a check to Town Hall, Attn: Wethersfield Food Bank, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

### Lunch in the Park and Church by the Pond

Christ Church Cathedral has temporarily discontinued Church by the Pond worship services in accordance with suggested protocols and the City of Hartford's orders. Trinity was scheduled to provide Lunch in the Park on May 23. Instead, the Cathedral will make and distribute lunches that day and, hopefully, we'll be jumping back into the program in the summer.

## Holy Week Haiku for Reflection

By Rebecca Scruton

Haiku by Gordon Scruton

We are now in the Easter Season according to our Liturgical Calendar. However, this time of our quarantine journey seems to mirror many parts of Holy Week, moving toward Easter. Reading and reflecting on this Haiku has provided important reflection time for me, expressing real feelings and real hope. I offer this for your reflections during this unfolding time.

### Palm Sunday

Surprise! Crowd gathers.  
Who's this? Palms waved, Hosanna  
Shouts! What's all this mean?

### Monday in Holy Week

Feast at Bethany:  
Mary anointed Jesus  
For death with great love.

Judas was right/wrong.  
Right: care for poor is care for  
Jesus. Wrong: greed kills.

### Tuesday in Holy Week

Father, save me from  
This? No. I was born for this:  
Bring glory to God.

### Wednesday in Holy Week

Jesus troubled, feels  
Knows disciple will betray  
Him, Passover Lamb.

### Maundy Thursday

Body, Blood — life food  
Takes, blesses, breaks, gives  
Kneels, cleans dirty feet

### Good Friday

Whipped, bloody victim  
Paraded, mocked, nailed,  
hangs on  
Loves, forgives till end

### Holy Saturday

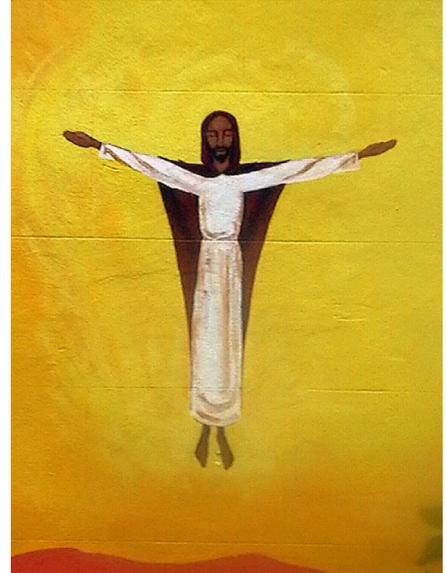
Grief, remorse, fear haunts,  
Disoriented, lost way,  
What can future be?

### Easter

Risen Christ, Raised me  
From earth's way to your  
love's way  
Mid earth's violent greed

May I live in Christ  
Christ live in me, extending  
Risen life to all.

May whole creation  
Rejoice, welcoming Risen  
Christ! Love conquers all.



Ascension, mural on a graffiti wall in  
Bristol, England, 2003

## Sunday Holy Communion

For the Sunday service, we celebrate Holy Communion at 9 am. 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.

### 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.*



Mary and Elizabeth by Lauren Wright Pittman, 2018

## Please Remember Your Pledge

While in-person church services are not being held and the Trinity campus is closed, the financial obligations of the church continue, and must be met. Please remember send in your pledge.

## Business Report

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

Total Pledge	\$ 33,233
Received	\$ 32,324
Difference	- \$ 909

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

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 38,712	\$ 39,370
Expenses	\$ 39,032	\$ 39,370

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.

## Paint Day - May 16 (May 23 rain date)

*By Warren Blessing*

Our annual "Work Day" has been changed to "Paint Day". That way, we can stay outside and easily be separated by 6 to 10 feet. If we have 8 to 10 people willing to participate, we will be able to finish our painting in about four hours.

We've had exterior painting going on over the last few weeks to help preserve the exterior of the church building. The wood around windows and trim was in poor condition. We've had it repaired and repainted. The painter is coming back to finish the higher areas.

What we have left are the metal windows around the north and east side where the lower classrooms are. We have three doors, two railings and nine windows that need painting. If you're available to assist in painting, please me at [ctvalleywc@yahoo.com](mailto:ctvalleywc@yahoo.com).

## Beware of Scammers

The Diocese advises that scammers are targeting churches and church members with fraudulent requests for donations.

Scammers have hacked into church office computers and gotten names and e-mail addresses of parish members. They send emails pretending to be the pastor asking for a donation. If you get an appeal like this from one of the clergy, wardens or vestry members, please let us know. And most importantly, *do not send money! We will never ask you for money in this way!*

If you ever have any doubts about requests for funds coming from the church or from the Diocese, please call clergy or a warden to verify it before you send funds.

## Calling All Friends to Action

*By Our Wardens and Clergy*

Is there anyone in our church community that you haven't seen for a while? Do you keep wondering how so and so is doing? Maybe you could reach out and give them a friendly call on the telephone.

Parishioners ask all the time, "Is there anything I can do to help during this time?" The answer is to stay in contact with folks you know and see how they are doing. Loneliness is a large issue during this period of isolation and not everyone can get out for neighborhood walks or do their own grocery shopping. We do have a good number of parishioners who live alone and have had their network of social contacts disrupted. Let's make sure that they hear from us.

No one needs permission to call and ask how someone is doing. So, it's time to get your directory out and make a couple of calls. If you find someone who is in need, please pass the information to one your wardens or clergy.

## 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	Mel & J.R.
Margarita & Hugues		

### 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		
Jerry, AnnMarie, Elizabeth, Catherine & Pete		



*Ascent of the Blessed*  
by Hieronymus Bosch, 1505-1515

## 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.

## Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 pm to discuss *Searching for Sylvie Lee* by Jean Kwok. Contact Joan at [golfst4@aol.com](mailto:golfst4@aol.com) to join the group. BYOS...Bring Your Own Snacks!

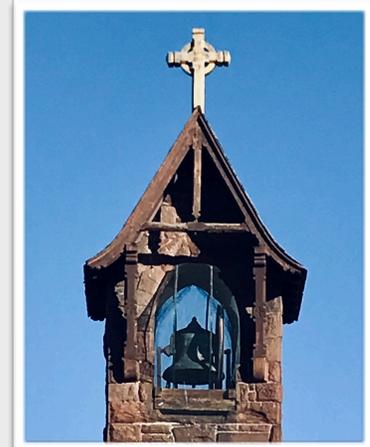
## A Prayer for Parish Mission

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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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