

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT



Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion & Bible Study

Worship services for Monday through Friday and Sunday are posted on our website and Facebook page. Please leave a contact number at the office if you want to participate in our live Zoom Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings and/or Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons. If you'd like to participate in the Richard Rohr Meditation discussions, email garth.myers@trincoll.edu

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Ash Wednesday, Book of Common Prayer, p. 265

*The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps even in strength eighty;
yet the sum of them is labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

Psalm 90:10, 12

Dear Trinity Community,

Ash Wednesday (February 17) marks the beginning of Lent this year. You probably already know this but as a reminder, Lent is a season of special preparation for celebrating Holy Week and Easter. It is a time in which we are invited to examine our lives, to see where we have fallen short of the life we know God wants us to live, and to “repent” (get a new mind) about our relationship with God and our fellow human beings.

The past 12 months have been challenging for everyone in every walk of life all over the world. It has been a humbling time for everyone. The irony of an Ash Wednesday service in this pandemic season is that most of us are more acutely aware than usual of the fact that “*you are dust and to dust you shall return.*” And yet, the ritual of ashes reinforces recognition of the reality in which we live. And that is not a bad thing. As Psalm 90 says, “*...teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom.*”

Numbering our days — acknowledging the brevity of our time on this earth — should not be a morbid exercise. It is a rendezvous with reality. And it can give us an increased awareness of the precious and transitory gift of life, and the urgency of the present moment God has given us each today. How am I going to live this precious day most meaningfully, most faithfully and most fruitfully?

Like everything else in this COVID plague season, Ash Wednesday will be different this year. We will have an online Ash Wednesday

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Christ Healing Peter's Mother-in-Law, Rembrandt, 17th century

SUNDAY READINGS

FEBRUARY 7
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER
THE EPIPHANY
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11,20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

FEBRUARY 14
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

FEBRUARY 21
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY 28
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38 or
Mark 9:2-9

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service for everyone to participate in. If you like, you can prepare your own ashes at home and apply them to your own head at the appropriate time in the service.

Or you can come to our first outdoor service of 2021. At this Ash Wednesday service, we will have individual containers of ashes. Each person will get a container and apply ashes to their own head at the appropriate time. This outdoor service will be brief (15 minutes or so) beginning at 12 noon. Please wear a mask and maintain a 6-foot separation from other attendees.

As we move into the spring, we will begin to hold more outdoor services to coincide with the warmer weather. Hopefully, as more people receive their vaccines, the Covid metrics will trend downward and we can begin to contemplate returning to indoor services.

Spring is the season of lengthening light. This year, let us hope and pray that this physical reality will be the outward and visible sign of God's love for us and God's brighter future for us, both on this earth and in the life to come in God's Kingdom.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Tom

The Virtual Choir



Our Sunday service on YouTube usually includes a beautiful anthem sung by a virtual choir. The choir is organized by Wayne Dixon of Faith Congregational Church, Hartford and Mark Singleton of Emmanuel Congregational Church, Hartford. It includes singers from both of those congregations as well as several other churches including ours. Each singer makes a video of her or himself singing the anthem for that week. The video is forwarded to Mark Singleton who transforms all of the videos into a single choral piece.

Rose Riley is a member of the virtual choir. Trinity was invited to participate by Wayne Dixon, who was the music and choral director at Darryl Burke's ordination last February.

In this time of global pandemic, Trinity has been fortunate to be able to enrich our Sunday and holiday services with the musical offerings of this virtual choir. Thanks go out to Rose, Wayne, Mark and all of the singers for this blessing.

Trinity Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting this year will take place on Sunday, February 21, at 10 o'clock via Zoom due to the pandemic.

The meeting will start with an abbreviated worship service and then go into the annual meeting. Parishioners are welcome to call in by telephone and listen to the proceedings as well.

The 2020 Annual Report has been mailed by USPS. The mailing includes a ballot for voting and a self-addressed, return envelope. Our bylaws allow us to have an annual meeting via Zoom and we will fulfill our need of having a quorum for our meeting by mailing the Annual Report and ballot sheet to all eligible members.

We are providing the link to the Annual Meeting in the February below and this information will be followed up in weekly e-blasts, and two specific reminder emails will be sent in advance of the meeting.

Join Zoom meeting on February 21 by going to:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82523818104?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82523818104?pwd=bVdCay9WQ3ZWcoZobHppYTFRK2FqZz09)
[pwd=bVdCay9WQ3ZWcoZobHppYTFRK2FqZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82523818104?pwd=bVdCay9WQ3ZWcoZobHppYTFRK2FqZz09)
Meeting ID: 825 2381 8104 Passcode: 871804
Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Ode to Trinity in Christmas 2020

By Linda Traue

Many traditions and gatherings won't happen this year;
The world's upside down, because COVID is here
It started last Spring when a pneumonia epidemic
Came out of China and caused a global pandemic
World leaders and scientists were scratching their heads
About what could be done to stop the spread
Borders were closed, travel restricted
As we all endured lockdown still the virus persisted
Businesses foundered, some had to close
Jobs were lost and anxiety rose
Depression and loneliness have become commonplace
As we continue to isolate, and cover our face
Though we all social distance, wash our hands, and wear masks
Why does our church have to close? we all ask
They're keeping us safe, while the cases are spiking
And we all must stay home much to our disliking
For some, 2020 has been lonely and sad
Yet there's plenty of things for which to be glad
Our homes, indoor plumbing, sunshine, and laughter
Our fine church and its people, and a wonderful pastor
And though we still want to all be together
Let's take comfort in knowing this won't last forever
So, I decorated my house and put up a tree,
And listen to Christmas carols, I do it for me
We must care for ourselves and stay healthy and sane
'Til we all can go out in the world once again.

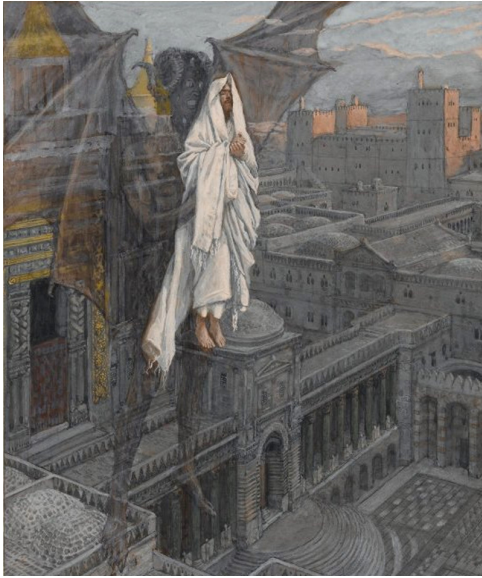


Reminder, Mike Moyers, 2012

Belfry Contributions

We appreciate contributions from our parishioners. On this page is Linda Traue's *Ode to Trinity in Christmas 2020*. On page 5 is Bishop Gordon's *Poetry Inspired by Scripture*. And on page 4 is a contribution by Peter Dewberry about *The Gospel According to Saint Mark*. Rose Riley provided the article on page 2 about *The Virtual Choir*.

If you have a poetic reflection or article to contribute, please send it to the editor at lesliejonesie@gmail.com



Temptation of Christ, James Jacques Joseph Tissot, 1886

New Documentary Series Features Interview with Presiding Bishop Curry

PBS has announced a new documentary series, *The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song*, which airs February 16 and 17 at 9 pm.

PBS writes, "In this intimate four-hour series from executive producer, host, and writer Henry Louis Gates, Jr., we trace how this came to be in the 400 year-old story of the black church in America, all the way down to its bedrock role as the site of African American survival and endurance, grace and resilience, thriving and testifying, freedom and independence, solidarity and speaking truth to power."

The documentary features interviews with Oprah Winfrey, John Legend, Jennifer Hudson, Bishop Michael Curry, Cornel West, Pastor Shirley Caesar, Rev. Al Sharpton, Yolanda Adams, Rev. William Barber II, BeBe Winans, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie and more.

The Gospel According to Mark

According to Peter Dewberry

Mark's Gospel begins suddenly, dramatically maintaining a fast pace, recounting events in quick succession. The frequent use of *straightway* and *immediately* gives the effect of rapidity and action.

Mark, aka John Mark, was companion and co-worker with Peter (1Peter 5:13) and Paul (Colossians 4:10). Mark collected Peter's eye-witness accounts of Jesus. He did not just throw this material together randomly but carefully arranged them to tell his story of Jesus: "*The good news of Jesus Christ...begins here...*" (verse 1, The Message)

Mark's Gospel can be seen as a drama in three acts.

Act 1 includes chapters 1-8a and is set in Galilee. The theme? the amazement of people who hear Jesus teaching and witness his miracles. "*Who is this amazing man? Where does he come from?*" Enter John the Baptist, a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord, "*make the way smooth and straight.*" Jesus's baptism with the heavens opening and the Holy Spirit descending as a dove. God says, "*You are my Son.*" Jesus's message is "*The Good news of the Kingdom of God*" which is authenticated by miracles of healing and deliverance. There are differing responses: some become followers, others puzzled and confused, most (including the religious leaders) reject him and his message outright. His parables of the Kingdom highlight each of these responses.

Act 2 includes chapters 8b-10 and tells of the journey to Jerusalem. Focus is now on the disciples' struggle to understand how Jesus is the Messiah. There's a crucial conversation where Jesus asks, "*Who do you say that I am?*" and Peter answers, "*You are the Messiah.*" But Peter and Jesus are not on the same page. Peter expects a militaristic Messiah to drive out the Romans and restore the Jewish kingdom. Jesus says that he is not such a Messiah but the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. Following him means giving up violence and conquering by acts of service and love, taking up the cross and denying oneself. Two more conversations conclude with, "*The son of man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.*"

Act 3 includes chapters 11-16 and begins with a public royal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus asserts his authority in the Temple, by evicting the money changers, "*My house shall be a house of prayer for all nations.*" Then there's a week of discussion and debate with the religious authorities. They plot to get rid of Jesus while he predicts the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple as well as his return in power and glory. The week culminates in the Last Supper, "*This is my body, this is my blood.*" Then the story rushes forward. Jesus is arrested, put on trial, is crucified and dies. He is buried and on the first day of the new week, three women come to the tomb and find the stone rolled away. An angelic man tells them that Jesus has risen, "*Go tell his disciples and Peter that he will meet them in Galilee.*" Terrified they run and told no one."

Recommendation: Watch David Suchet's dramatic reading of the Gospel of Mark in St. Paul's Cathedral, London. It lasts 2 hours so you may want to break it up into shorter sections, such as the outline above. Follow the YouTube link: youtu.be/JjOgcMQXvSc

Mission & Outreach Update

- We just fulfilled our latest commitment to Hands on Hartford's Community Dinner on January 25. Our next dinner is planned for March 22. We have a good head start with many hams in the freezer. We were happy to see folks taking advantage of the grocery store holiday sales.
- We also received a thank you note from Hands on Hartford. Executive Director Barbara Shaw stated, "As this challenging year comes to a close, we want to thank you for your generous \$350 gift. We recognize and appreciate your generosity and compassion for our neighbors. We are so pleased to have you on our team."
- With the leadership of Ginger Smith, she has arranged a number of deliveries of mac & cheese for the Hands on Hartford food pantry which has been gladly received.
- We've received a newsletter and a thank you note from St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti. They have been touched by Covid-19, but the major impact in Haiti is still poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, fuel scarcity, and violence against the government.
- We also heard from Judy Keane of the Keane Foundation thanking us for our donation which "made a big difference for our after school program."
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center sent us a thank you note for our \$200 gift in December. "Your gift is more meaningful than ever as we navigate these uncertain times. Your support has an immediate impact on our patients and families during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond."
- We will have a Mission and Outreach Team meeting in March to discuss ideas and suggestions for 2021. If you have any new ideas to add in for consideration, please send them along or join us. At this point, everything is planned to be done via Zoom until we can meet in person. Thanks, Lynda and Warren ctvalleywc@yahoo.com

Poetry Inspired by Scripture

By Gordon Scruton

Matthew 25:14-30

God's gift to us: our
Unique life. Our gift to God:
Way we live our life

Know, live, steward now
God's/your gifts, calls. Let go fear.
Share Life. Don't hide Light

Matthew 25:1-13

Do you refill your
Spirit-oil flask often so
You have enough to

Sustain your Christ-Light
Shining through long draining
times?
Be wise, not foolish.

Human energy
Burns out quickly, needs daily
Spirit renewal.



Transfiguration, JESUS MAFA, 1973

This Month's Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet on February 9 at 6:30pm via Zoom. Our book this month is *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards. "What would happen if you lost your child and she grew up without you? It is also an astonishing tale of love and how the mysterious ties that hold a family together help us survive the heartache that occurs when long-buried secrets are finally uncovered." Contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com to join the discussion.



The Baptism of Christ, St. John's Cathedral in Lyon, France, 18th century

Helpful Reminders From the Diocese

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) is reminding us that with the increasing availability of a Covid vaccine, fraud is occurring in the form of phone calls that offer to put your name at the top of the list in exchange for money. Remember that there is no cost for a vaccination, they are free.

Also, remember that the bishops will never call, text or e-mail asking for money for any cause. These are phishing attempts and do not respond to them.

A Lenten Discipline of Loving and Caring for Our Neighbors

Our Neighbors in Wethersfield

Just as in Advent, we'll be collecting non-perishable food items and personal care items during the Lent for people who visit the Wethersfield Food Pantry. Here are some suggestions:

dried or canned beans, rice, mac & cheese, canned vegetables, toothpaste, canned fruit, oatmeal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned tuna or chicken, applesauce, shampoo, peanut butter, canned soups, toothbrushes, cereal, deodorant

Students in Hartford

The Cathedral has invited us and other North Central churches to join in a Lenten discipline of loving and caring specifically for students at Capital Community College.

The statistics indicate that 48% of community college students suffer from food insecurity. Many are beneficiaries of SNAP Vouchers (formerly Food Stamps), which does not allow for the purchase of personal hygiene products. Therefore, we invite North Central Region and its members to collect one personal care hygiene product for each week of Lent to benefit Capital Community College (CCC) Food Pantry. The most needed hygiene products include:

soap, shampoo, deodorant, conditioner, men's and women's razors, feminine hygiene products

Where to Leave Your Donations

You may leave your donations on the front porch of our Parish Hall on any Saturday morning before noon during Lent. Wethersfield Food Pantry donations will be delivered weekly. Donations for community college students will be stored and delivered to Christ Church Cathedral after Easter.

For more information about the Wethersfield Food Bank or the student collection, contact Anne Tranberg at tranberg5@yahoo.com

Church by the Pond and Lunch in the Park

Trinity is scheduled to participate in both of these programs on Saturday, February 27. Father Tom will lead a brief service at 2 o'clock in Bushnell Park, Hartford, and we will distribute bagged lunches when the service concludes. Cathedral coordinator Nancy Jacobs anticipates needing 25-30 bagged lunches. If you'd like to join in the fun by making sandwiches and/or handing them out at the park, let Leslie Jones know at lesliejonesie@gmail.com For those who would like to contribute in another way, new warm socks are always a welcome donation.

Updated Weekly Prayer List

May your kingdom come and your will be done

Monday: The Brown family (Susanna, Mike, Avery Catherine); Kathy Cole; Roger Dickinson; Tom & Maryjane Furrer; Jimmy & Kristine Gonzalez; the Diaz-Lopez family (Josue, Kayla, Josue Jr.); Carol Jones; Nancy Knapp (Chloe & Tate); Rose & Ray Riley; Ginny & Mike Rowland; Ginger Smith; Mel & J.R. Stanko; the Steidel family (Ellie, Amy, Alexandria); Clark & Joyce Tomlinson; Anne Tranberg; Leslie Watson

Tuesday: Tim Boardman, Dan Carcaud, Arnold & Barbara Cosgrove, Bruce Duncan, Arline Hallisey, Joan & Greg Joseph, Martha Koehler, Jane-Helen Ross, Linda Rubera, Sue Smith, J.P. Thomas & Mauricio Garcia, Nick Tracano, Joan True, Hugues Valcourt & Margarita Velez, Mary Lou Wall, Susan & David Whitehouse, Marc Yves Regis

Wednesday: David Anderson, Sarah Blessing, Audrey Booker, Denise Carson, Vicki Crafa, Lorraine Ficara, Connie & Raymond Harasymiw, Bruce Henley, Leslie Jones, Dorothy & Lauren LaBelle, Michael & Cheryl Lewis, Paul & Keri Milne, Joan O'Brien, Denise & Carl Paternostro, Jan Rouse

Thursday: Warren & Lynda Blessing; Sarah Butters; Mark & Cheryl Chadsey; Ashley Marek; the Desrochers family (Helen, Ben, Molly, Hannah, Andrew); Marilyn Ford; Corinne Helfant; the Karpf family (Jessie, Tom, Bernadette); Billye & Jack Logan; Taylor Measel; Judith & Charles Melchreit; Allison Read, James Ebert & Jamie; Barbara & Ed Rowley; the Tummesheit family (Heidi, Hubertus, Olivia, Philip, Clara, Jacob); Heidi Viola and Brianna Narducci; Darren Yovan and family

Friday: William & Marion Boornazian; Lorraine Brodeur; David & Mary Chellstorp; Shirley Davies; Sue DeCesare; Peter & Sheila Dewberry; Marilyn Galek; Rob & Nan Heath; Michael Kucka; Geraldeen Lohman; the Myers family (Garth, Melanie Hepburn, Atlee, Phebe); Anne Pimm; Robert & Arney Pulford; Rebecca & Gordon Scruton; the Watson family (Kirk, Tracey, Hayes); John & Diane Zarillo

Saturday: Sal & Mimi Basile; Donna Brown; Darryl Burke; Nancy & Paul Buttaro; Ray & Denise Colburn; Theo Fitzgerald; the Gebhardt family (Patrick, Jennifer, Hannah, Lily); Rob Jensen & Mitch Grayson; Tina LaMorte & Peter Spangenberg; Paula & Arthur Massa; Barbara Napolitano; Carl Rafala & Sue Krupenevich-Rafala; Judith Shaw; the Stavola family (Jerry, Ann Marie, Elizabeth, Catherine, Pete); Linda & Tom Traue; the Xavier Family (Brooke, Fred, Lulu, Za)



Get Thee Behind Me, Satan!
James Tissot, 1886

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of December)

Total Pledge	\$ 132,930
Received	\$ 122,798
Difference	\$ -10,132

Income/Expenses (end of December)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$141,824	\$157,478
Expenses	\$139,381	\$157,478

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-

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



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