

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

Online and Zoom Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion and 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



From Our Pastor

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is an everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no strength,
he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait upon the Lord
shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 39:28-31

Dear Trinity Community,

We are at the beginning of a new year. It is a common thing to wish each other a better year ahead. But this year that generic greeting carries more weight and urgency, doesn't it?

We have just been through an exceedingly difficult year. Everyone has felt the burdens in different ways. And we all hope

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The Magi, 2007, He Qi

Sunday Readings

January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:10-18

January 10

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

FROM OUR PASTOR continued from page 1

for a better year ahead. Being a congenital optimist, I am always looking for the sunshine. So, without reservation, I wish you all a blessed and healthy and happy year ahead!

On the other hand, we all need to recognize that the challenges we face arising from the COVID plague and its many unhappy consequences will not magically disappear on January 1, 2021. There *is* a light at the end of the tunnel in the form of two or more viable vaccines that hopefully will allow us to move toward something approximating normal life again. But there are many unknowns about the efficacy of the vaccines, not to mention the political, economic, social and tribal disruptions that will arise from real or imagined inequities in the distribution of them. While the year ahead shows promise of improvement, it also has many serious challenges in store for us.

And this is where the words of the prophet Isaiah (quoted above) are relevant. The words were written about 2,500 years ago in the midst of a great national calamity for the people of Israel. The prophet says that, in tough times, even the most energetic and vigorous people will fall flat from exhaustion. But those who gain their strength from God — who rely on the strength and inspiration and perseverance from trusting God — will rise to the challenges and overcome them.

*Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run
and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

Why is that so? Because God is the inexhaustible source of strength. No matter how much optimism, strength and perseverance a person has, we all reach our limits. When we wait upon the Lord, we draw on an infinite source of energy and strength.

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is
an everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not
faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power
to the faint, and to him who has no strength, he increases strength.*

My hope and prayer and New Year's wish for all of us is that we can learn to wait upon the Lord and renew our strength and "rise up with wings like eagles" to meet the challenges of this coming year. And may our church community be a shining light of the world-changing love of Jesus in the midst of all of the people we meet amidst the trials that are ahead.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Tom

Praying through the New Year

Rebecca Scruton

This year, as we all know, has been like no other. It has been a year of enormous change in our day to day routines and relationships. The scope of emotional responses is legion. As we move into our 'new year' of 2021 we head into an unknown, into a mystery of time, space, realities and relationships. As a community of faith we know that in the unknown there exists one 'known' and that is the presence of God and the love of God with us and for us. We also know that we are not in this journey alone. Even though we might not know each other well, or at all, we are connected by the Holy Spirit. As we pray for each other we invite the presence of God into each one's life, knowing that

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Three More Kings, 2007,
Annette Gandy Fortt

January in the Church Year

Lesser Feasts & Fasts of The Episcopal Church

- 1 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- 8 Harriet Bedell, Deaconess and Missionary, 1969
- 9 Julia Chester Emery, Missionary, 1922
- 10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645
- 12 Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167
- 13 Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, 367
- 17 Antony, Abbot in Egypt, 356
- 18 The Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle
- 19 Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095
- 20 Fabian, Bishop and Martyr of Rome, 250
- 21 Agnes, Martyr at Rome, 304
- 22 Vincent, Deacon of Saragossa, and Martyr, 304
- 23 Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts, 1893
- 24 Ordination of Florence Li Tim-Oi,
First Woman Priest in the Anglican Communion, 1944
- 25 The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle
- 26 Timothy and Titus, Companions of Saint Paul
- 27 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407
- 28 Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Theologian, 1274

You can read more about what is remembered and celebrated on these dates by going to prayer.forwardmovement.org/the_calendar.php#jan

Book Club

Trinity's Book Club will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm. Our selection is *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. This powerful book examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. The author links the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany and shares stories of how caste is still experienced on a daily basis. All are welcome. Contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com or 860-666-4847 if you would like to join the discussion.



The Nativity, 1792, Benjamin West

Parish Leadership

PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer
For a pastoral emergency,
please call 860-212-6994.

STAFF

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

Dorothy LaBelle, Music Director

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

An Invitation to Listen

Rebecca Scruton

I invite you to listen to the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah while reading the words printed below. It's a wonderful expression of hope for 2021. I invite each of you to listen to this frequently, if not daily, this month and this new year. This becomes our reality and our hope. You may want to check out a YouTube here youtu.be/9jynUQjIXxM

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world

Is become the kingdom of our Lord
And of His Christ, and of His Christ
And He shall reign for ever and ever
And He shall reign for ever and ever
And He shall reign for ever and ever
For ever and ever, forever and ever

King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords (King of kings and Lord of lords)

And He shall reign

And He shall reign

And He shall reign forever and ever

King of kings (Forever and ever)

And He shall reign (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)

And He shall reign forever and ever

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign forever and ever

Forever and ever

Forever and ever

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

Mission and Outreach Update

Community Dinners at Hands on Hartford

Warren and Lynda Blessing

We continue to appreciate everyone who has been supporting the success of these dinners. We have our next dinner on January 25. Thank you to all who have committed to a donation for this dinner. Community Meals has just confirmed to us the following dinners for 2021. They are as follows, so please add them to your calendar for reference: January 25, March 22, May 24, July 26, September 27 and November 22. If you would like to be added to our list of contributors, please let us know and we will add you on. If any questions please call us at 860-742-3253 or email ctvalleywc@yahoo.com

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

St. Vincent's offers hope as they chart a course out of illness, poverty, and unemployment to productive citizenship. They have been doing so for 75 years. This life-changing pattern is possible because of many institutions and churches like Trinity Parish who provide support. This month we forwarded \$1,000 to assist with the wonderful work they are doing.

Trinity Parish Donations

Donations were made last month to support the efforts of Kateri Medical Services, Hands on Hartford, and St. Monica's Episcopal Church for their Christmas celebration for their neighborhood families in need.

Church by the Pond and Lunch in the Park

Christ Church Cathedral has confirmed the dates for our participation this year: February 27, April 24, July 2, October 2 and December 4. Father Tom will lead worship at Church by the Pond on those dates and parishioners will put together bagged lunches for distribution in Bushnell Park after the service.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Thanks go out to everyone who so generously contributed non-perishable food items during the season of Advent. A truckload of food and personal care items were delivered to the Wethersfield Food Bank just after Christmas. Since we aren't yet able to receive donations in church each Sunday, we're thinking about another way to collect food during Lent. Suggestions? Send them to Anne Tranberg at tranberg5@yahoo.com



*Streetcar Madonna, 1946,
Allan Rohan Crite*

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of November)

Total Pledge	\$ 121,853
Received	\$ 112,317
Difference	\$ 9,536

Income/Expenses (end of November)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 129,043	\$ 144,355
Expenses	\$ 126,024	\$ 144,355

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-



*Adoration of the Magi, 17th century,
Matthias Stom*

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting this year will take place on Sunday February 21 at 10 am. It's probably no surprise, but the meeting will be via Zoom due to the pandemic. The meeting will start with an abbreviated worship service and then go into the annual meeting.

We will be mailing out the 2021 Annual Report by USPS mail. The mailing will include 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 will provide a link to the Annual Meeting in the February Belfry and an e-blast, and a reminder email will be sent in advance of the meeting.

Connie, Rebecca, Warren

PRAYING THROUGH THE NEW YEAR continued from page 3

this is the tie that binds us and sustains us individually and as a community.

Our parish as an entity and as individuals is going through enormous challenge and change. We need God's wisdom and guidance as we navigate this season. So, we need to "pray without ceasing". As we enter this New Year, I exhort you to please pray daily for those on our weekly prayer list. I offer the following Saint Patrick's Breastplate prayer as a way of focusing on God and inviting God to enter into your daily round and common tasks. As you pray for another perhaps you can insert their name into the prayer to make the prayer more personal and specific. Remember, at this time many are not able to pray for themselves, we might be the only one to intercede on their behalf. We are the heart, hands, feet, love of Jesus to and for each other. Let us be diligent in praying into and throughout the coming year. May the peace of the Lord fill you and be with you always.

I arise today

Through God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through a confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.

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 Tumnesheit 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 Buttarro; 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; Xavier Family (Brooke, Fred, Lulu, Za)



Adoration of the Magi, 1904,
Edward Burne-Jones

Holiday Hallmarks

Kindness, compassion, loving and giving are all hallmarks of the holiday season. This year, Trinity families were the recipients of a holiday meal delivered to their homes by parishioners who were living out those hallmarks. We thank them and perhaps we can look to increase the tradition they have started as we move into the next year.

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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