

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT



Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion & Bible Study

Online services are posted on our website and Facebook page. In-person services are scheduled to resume on March 28. If you want to participate in our live Zoom Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings, Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons and/or the Lenten Book Study in the evenings, call the office for an invite. If you're interested in the Richard Rohr Meditation discussions, email garth.myers@trincoll.edu

From Our Pastor

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing and her people a joy. Isaiah 65:17-18

Dear Trinity Community,

The words above were written by the prophet Isaiah when the people of Israel returned from their exile in Babylon. Through the grace and mercy and guidance of God, they returned to their devastated land and began to rebuild Jerusalem. And Isaiah constantly reminds them that this is God's work — God is creating a new reality in Jerusalem. And Isaiah also invites the people of Israel to live into this new reality with joy and hopeful expectation.

And now God is inviting us here at Trinity Parish to begin a new chapter with joy and hopeful expectation. We have been through our own little "Babylonian exile" for the past year due to the Covid pandemic and public health restrictions. Now, by the grace of God, we have vaccinations available and we can begin to imagine a new and happier chapter of our life beginning in the coming weeks and months.

So, as a first step, we are going to begin holding in-person worship services on Palm Sunday (March 28) and continue thereafter. We will begin with outdoor services in the parking lot (as we did last summer) and move services back into the church building when the public health metrics for Wethersfield have returned to a safe level and our diocese gives us the go-ahead.

Here is the schedule for outdoor services for Holy Week

Palm Sunday 10 am
Maundy Thursday 5 pm
Good Friday 12 noon
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 8 pm
Easter Sunday 10 am



Wheat Field With Cypresses, Vincent Van Gogh, 1889

SUNDAY READINGS

MARCH 7

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

MARCH 14

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

MARCH 21

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

MARCH 28

PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

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These outdoor services will be broadcast on FM radio, and if the weather is cold, you can stay in your car and listen in. For those who are not able to join us for these in-person services, we will continue to have online services as we have done over the past year.

We need your help with conducting these outdoor services — people to pass out bulletins, assist in parking cars, and so on. I encourage you all to help in any way you can. You will be receiving a letter with more information later this month. Please pray and consider how you can assist in the reopening and rebuilding of our parish community.

By God’s grace, we are beginning a new chapter in our life.

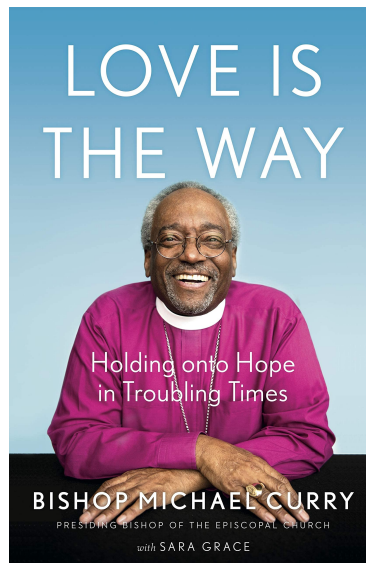
Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to Him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Ephesians 3: 20-21

We are a “small but mighty Church” and it is time for us to begin a new chapter and see how God is working in us to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. I invite you all to be a part of this new thing God is doing.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Tom

“Love is the Way” Lenten Program

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FROM 7-8
NOW UNTIL MARCH 24



As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, his ancestry, and his personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and how to go a whole lot further.

Father Tom will lead Zoom discussions of Bishop Curry’s book on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. You can buy the book online or purchase a copy from the parish office, Tuesday-Thursday, 9-2. For more information about the program, contact Father Tom. To receive a Zoom invitation, email ctvalleywc@yahoo.com

E-blast Facelift

The look of Trinity's e-blast is getting a facelift. In an effort to streamline the information presented each week, we will be trying on a new look during the month of March where we will rely on Trinity's website for information about, links to, and details on Trinity happenings.

Did you know that there is much more to Trinity's website than the Sunday Eucharist and Morning Prayer services? You can visit our website 24/7 for spiritual opportunities and information for the Lenten season and beyond. The website also includes details from — and links to — information in the weekly e-blast. Go to trinityepiscopalweth.org to explore the offerings on the homepage and then check out the menu bar across the top of the homepage to explore more pages.

Here's a sample of what our website offers: daily services; Lenten services and activities; zoom spiritual offerings; links to ECCT and National Cathedral YouTube pages for a variety of worship services, programs and meditations; past sermons, in both audio and written form; Bible study outlines and links; prayers and poems, including those written for the pandemic; The Belfry, vestry minutes, the Annual Report and Trinity policies; a photo journal of Trinity during the pandemic; and a PayPal button for online giving.

For questions, comments or suggestions about Trinity's e-blast, contact Warren Blessing at ctvalleywc@yahoo.com. For inquiries about our website, contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com

Easter Flowers

From the Altar Guild



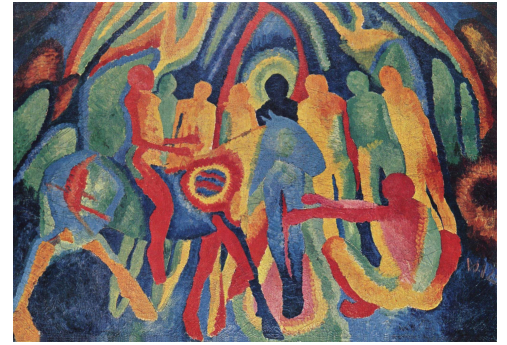
Please consider a donation to Trinity Parish for Easter flowers. During the Covid-19 pandemic, flowers have adorned the altars for our virtual services. Trinity Altar Guild will accept any amount you choose to give. We suggest a donation of \$50.

Please make checks payable to *Trinity Parish* and indicate *Flower Fund* in the memo line. Please designate (M) for Memorial or (T) for Thanksgiving after the names below.

Name(s) _____

Given by _____

Mail to Trinity Parish, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109.
Or, you may bring your check to the office on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9-noon.



*Entry of Christ into Jerusalem,
Wilhelm Morgner, 1912*

GIVE. PRAY. FAST.

DONATIONS FOR WETHERSFIELD
FOOD PANTRY AND CAPITAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the first two weeks of our effort to GIVE this Lent, donations of non-perishable food items and personal care items weighed in at more than 56 pounds! In addition, more than 35 pairs of men's and women's socks were donated for the folk at Lunch in the Park. And as if that's not enough, one of our parishioners mailed a check to the Food Pantry.

Your donations to the Food Pantry and college students are welcomed throughout Lent. Please drop off your non-perishable and personal care items on the front porch of our Parish Hall before noon on Saturdays.



Moses with the Ten Commandments, 1659, Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn

Parish Leadership

PASTOR

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

STAFF

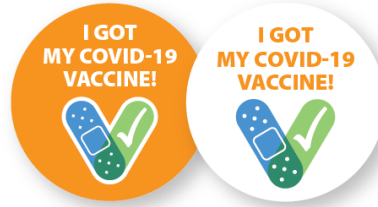
Linda Rubera, Administrator
Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12
operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org
860-529-6825

Dorothy LaBelle, Music Director

VESTRY

Warren Blessing, Co-Warden
Sarah Butters
Peter Dewberry
Connie Harasymiw, Co-Warden
Robert Heath, Treasurer
Melanie Hepburn, Clerk
Carol Jones
Greg Joseph
Rebecca Scruton, Co-Warden
J. R. Stanko
Ann Marie Stavola

Covid Vaccine and Getting Back to Church



Many members of our parish now have the opportunity to get vaccinated — and, in the weeks ahead, more and more parishioners will be eligible to schedule their vaccinations. Hopefully, our goal of gathering together in the church isn't far off, especially if we all get vaccinated as quickly as we can.

Many of us are over 65 and have received and/or scheduled our shots already. As of this writing, you can schedule an appointment to get vaccinated if you fall in any of these categories:

- Health care providers
- Medical first responders
- Long term care facility residents and staff
- Individuals age 55 and over
- Educators and child care providers

Age-based eligibility is scheduled to proceed in Connecticut as follows:

- March 22 - expands to age group 45 to 54
- April 12 - expands to age group 35 to 44
- May 3 - expands to age group 16 to 34

When you are eligible, there will be multiple scheduling options. To find out the many ways to schedule appointments, you can go to portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination-Scheduling-Options

If you want assistance in scheduling your appointment and/or if you need transportation once your appointment is scheduled, please contact Leslie at lesliejonesie@gmail.com or 860-816-2024. She and other parishioners are ready to provide assistance in navigating websites and providing rides.

As we move forward into more hopeful times, it's still important to follow CDC guidelines which recommend that everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, continue to wear a mask, avoid gathering indoors with people outside of your household, and wash your hands frequently.

Special Thanks to Father Tom

From the wardens and community of Trinity Parish

Our annual meeting of February 21 was a time to share how the past year unfolded at Trinity. We also were able to express our gratitudes to God and to and for each other. We are very grateful for each of you, your prayers and the support each of you gives as you can during this past year of profound upheaval, change and opportunity to grow in our journey with each other and our Lord.

We want to especially thank Father Tom for his leadership during this past year. We have been strengthened by his work in helping us stay connected with each other. He spends days and hours calling parishioners. He visits as Covid restrictions allow and he is always thinking about how we can be together and still be safe.

He must find it frustrating at times to tailor his visions for our being together indoors for church services and for communion at the rail with the reality of masks, social distancing and no physical contact.

As with all of us, our vision, goals and their execution have had to change. Father Tom has worked, prayed and adapted as the times have dictated. He has gracefully and energetically recorded weekly services, Sundays and weekdays. He continues to provide teaching for our spiritual growth with the goal that we might all “love God with all our hearts, our souls and our minds...and our neighbors as ourselves.”

In addition to bringing the love of God into our midst, he loves us, the people of Trinity and he prays passionately for us. We thank him for never giving in to the restrictions of the pandemic and for always reminding us in his words and by example that we are led by the love of God in all we do.

We thank you, Father Tom, for your ministry, your guidance and your care. God’s greatest blessings for your life is our humble prayer.

Mission & Outreach Planning

By Warren and Lynda Blessing

What ideas do you have as to what Trinity could support in the area of mission and outreach? This month our Mission & Outreach Committee will meet and highlight some new ideas. Our current choices for giving and supporting are great, but there is always something new and potentially better to suggest. It’s not just a matter of donating money, but what actions can we do ourselves or invite town-wide residents to help with.

On March 11, the Mission & Outreach Committee will meet to discuss new ideas. We would like to hear from you! If you have any ideas, either email or call to share your thoughts. The big unknown is the pandemic and what that will allow us to do. But share your ideas anyway and we will collect those for when the time is right.

Outreach is the activity of providing services to any population that might not otherwise have access to those services. Outreach is often meant to fill in the gap in the services provided by mainstream (often governmental) services, and is often carried out by non-profit, nongovernmental organizations.

Thank you in advance for sharing your ideas. You can reach us at ctvalleywc@yahoo.com



*Coventry Cathedral Baptistery Window,
1956-1962, John Piper*

This Month’s Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Our selection will be *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright. “...a story of hope, of one woman’s journey to save her son and another woman’s chance at redemption. It demonstrates that even in a dump in Cambodia – perhaps especially in a dump in Cambodia – everyone deserves a second chance.” Contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com to join the discussion.



Palm Sunday, William Hemmerling, 2004

Church by the Pond and Lunch in the Park

Father Tom was the worship leader on Saturday, February 27, at Church by the Pond – literally a church without walls in Bushnell Park, Hartford. Services are held outdoors at 2 pm. every Saturday, rain or shine, hot or cold, sleet or snow. Episcopal and Lutheran clergy from throughout Connecticut lead worship.

Father Tom has been a celebrant and preacher at Church by the Pond since its inception in June 2011.

This past Saturday, Father Tom and about 20 of God's people worshipped outdoors in spite of the rain and cool temperature. Trinity folk prepared bagged lunches which were shared after the service along with warm socks and face masks in a program called Lunch in the Park.

This Year's Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting for 2021 was so different from 2020, but was quite successful nonetheless. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, we had to take some unusual steps to organize and carry out this year's meeting. We met the requirements of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) that we hold a meeting and of our own bylaws as to timing. We identified the members in good standing and mailed a packet of the annual report, ballot, prayer list and cover letter to 82 households. These 82 packages contained 104 ballots.

Parishioners returned 69 ballots approving the slate of vestry members, the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting and acceptance of the written reports.

We held a service and Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 21, by Zoom which was attended by 37 members. The result of the election was presented as well as comments from Father Tom and the wardens and the treasurer's report and budget for 2021.

We all clearly missed the potluck brunch and conversation as we have had in past years in the Parish Hall, but all acknowledge that this is something we can look forward to in the new year. But, most of all we thank you for your cooperation in making this new approach work for Trinity this pandemic year.

Warren Blessing, Connie Harasymiw, Rebecca Scruton
Wardens

Diocesan Volunteer Opportunity

In 2018, The Episcopal Church in Connecticut decided to enter an ongoing Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. One of the items committed to was Resolution #7 of the 2020 Annual Convention which called on the bishops to create a Reparations Task Force. Reparation refers to the process and result of remedying damage or harm caused. Resolution #7 reads as follows:

Resolved, that this Convention direct the bishops to create a task force whose membership will consist of a majority of clergy and laity of color, with an invitation to all clergy of color canonically resident in ECCT to serve on the task force, in order to study and make specific recommendations to the 237th Convention as to reparations by ECCT and individual Parishes, Worshipping Communities, and Intentional Episcopal Communities in partial compensation for 400 years of discrimination and bias based on race.

The bishops are now soliciting applications from interested individuals in ECCT parishes who might like to serve. Individuals seeking to serve are asked to communicate their interest to the bishops by answering briefly the following questions: 1. Why do you feel called to serve on the ECCT Reparations Task Force and what particular gifts would you bring to the work? and 2. If you are a clergy person, are you canonically resident in ECCT? If so, how long? If not, how long have you been licensed to serve in ECCT?

Please send your expression of interest in serving and the answers to the questions to *Alison Hollo* and cc: *Bishop Ian Douglas* and *Bishop Laura Ahrens*.

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

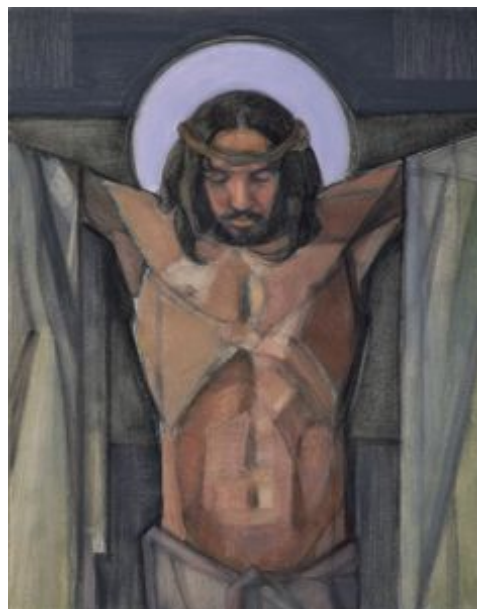
Tuesday: Tim Boardman, Dan Carcaud, Arnold & Barbara Cosgrove, Bruce Duncan, Arline Hallisey, Joan & Greg Joseph, Martha Koehler, Jane-Helen Ross, Linda Rubera, Sue Smith, J.P. Thomas & Mauricio Garcia, Nick Tracano, Joan True, Hugues Valcourt & Margarita Velez, Mary Lou Wall, Susan & David Whitehouse,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



*Jesus Dies on the Cross,
Janet McKenzie*

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of January)

Total Pledge.	\$ 11,171
Received	\$ 10,941
Difference	\$ 230

Income/Expenses (end of January)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$15,358	\$14,247
Expenses.	\$13,118	\$14,247

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



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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Wethersfield, CT 06109

If you prefer to receive The Belfry by email, please contact the office at operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org or 860-529-6825.