

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT



Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion & Bible Study

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated each Sunday at 9 am in the church sanctuary as well as 10:30 am in the parking lot. If you want to participate in our Zoom Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings and/or Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons, please contact the office for an invite. If you're interested in the Richard Rohr Meditation discussions on Saturday mornings, email garth.myers@trincoll.edu

From Our Pastor

Dear Trinity Parish People,

There are many humorous ironies in the Bible. The following passage has always struck me as particularly ironic. It takes place after Jesus' resurrection.

"Afterward, Jesus appeared to the eleven (apostles) themselves as they sat at table; and he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.' ...So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen."

Mark 16:14 - 20

To paraphrase Jesus, he basically told the apostles, "I am very disappointed in you guys. You really let me down when I expected more from you. And now, by the way, go change the world. Preach the message that you yourselves failed to believe." And then he tells them he is leaving and they, the slow-to-believe knuckleheads, are in charge. And then, he leaves abruptly. Not the most promising start to a world-changing venture!

And then, they go change the world. And then, as promised, "the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it."

The Gospel of Jesus has changed the lives of billions of people all over the world. And it's not because of the unshakeable faith of the preachers or the stellar leadership qualities of the pastors. The Gospel has changed people's lives because of the power of the message and the Lord working with us to give us a power we lack when left to our own devices.

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SUNDAY READINGS

MAY 2

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

MAY 9

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

MAY 16

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

MAY 23

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

MAY 30

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 9

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

FROM OUR PASTOR continued from page 1

Here we are at a new beginning at Trinity following our Covid exile. It is Easter season. We are resurrection people. Jesus sends us to change the world by sharing the Gospel message with people who don't know it or who have forgotten it or who have rejected it. Jesus has a resurrection purpose for our "small but mighty" parish here in Wethersfield. He wants us to change the world by sharing the love and life-changing power of Jesus with everyone we can. He promises to be with us. He promises to work with us. He promises to send his Holy Spirit to empower us.

I invite you all to take an active role in this new resurrection and renewal season in the life of our parish. God wants to use every one of us to share the Good News of Life in Jesus with our friends, neighbors and strangers. Can God work with every one of us like he worked with those "slow to believe" apostles? Yes, if we are willing to be vessels of his presence and love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Tom

Worship during the Pandemic

New protocol will begin Trinity Sunday, May 30

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its guidance, emphasizing that outdoor visits and activities are safer than indoor activities. The risk should get even lower as more people get vaccinated and cases continue to decline.

With the advent of the vaccine and updated CDC guidelines we are updating our protocol for worship. As more of us become vaccinated and the numbers improve, we will again re-visit our protocol. (If anyone wants to be vaccinated and needs a ride, please contact one of the wardens.)

We have been trying to develop a safe and straightforward method in slowly opening up our church building. Our first step was to begin having indoor worship as well as outdoor services for those not yet comfortable being indoors to worship. And for those not comfortable venturing out, our website provides links to various places of worship so those folk can continue to worship online.

In making determinations, we are informed by the state, CDC and diocesan guidelines. We are following Bishop Douglas's admonition to honor the most at risk among us when crafting our protocols.

We believe that we are implementing procedures that create a safe environment for all who choose to come, either for indoor worship

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or outdoor worship. We have a fiduciary responsibility to do our best at creating a safe space. We ask for your help as we move forward.

Guidelines for Indoor Services

- Masks are required.
- Names will be recorded for contact tracing purposes.
- A visitor card will be given to visitors with directions to place it in the offering plate when leaving.
- Pick up your communion elements when entering.
- An offering plate is on a pedestal near the table with communion elements.
- You may seat yourself.
- Maintain 6' social distancing with anyone not in your cohort.
- There will be no socializing in the sanctuary before or after services.
- Upon dismissal, those in the front half of the church should exit through the door to the ramp and those in the rear half should exit the sanctuary through the red door entrance on the driveway side.
- Please take your service leaflet home. New weekly inserts will be provided.
- No temperatures will be taken. Please stay home if you are not well.

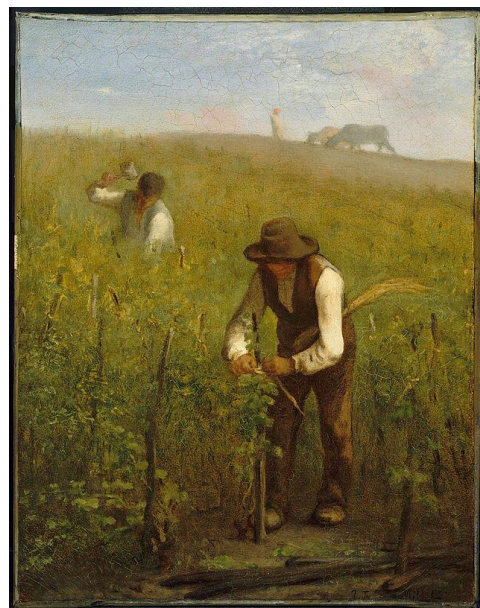
Guidelines for Outdoor Services

- Masks are recommended.
- Communion elements and bulletins/inserts are provided.
- Bring your own chair if possible. Seating is available to those without a chair.
- When outside of your vehicle, please remember to maintain 6' social spacing with those not in your cohort.
- An FM connection is available for your vehicle's radio.
- Please take your service leaflet home. New inserts will be provided each week.
- Come rain or shine. A safe place for worship is available in the garage. On rainy days, be sure to bring your umbrellas.

Thank you all for your care for each other.

The Church Opening Task Force

Connie Harasymiw, Greg Joseph, Carol Jones, J.R. Stanko, Rebecca Scruton, and Warren Blessing



*In the Vineyard, Jean François Millet,
1852-1853*

Music from the Virtual Choir

One of the great gifts of our recorded services was the virtual choir organized by Wayne Dixon of Faith Congregational Church and Mark Singleton of Emmanuel Congregational Church. The choirs include our very own, Rose Riley. Until the church choirs get back to in-person services, they will continue to record anthems. This week's anthem is *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* and can be found here youtu.be/UBdRq-Fz_E4

If you'd like to continue accessing videos as they become available, simply hit the subscribe button.



The Ascension, JESUS MAFA, 1973

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

Mission Conference this Month

The Companions in Mission Ministry Network will hold their first of three mission conferences on May 11. Come hear about the hope being brought through local mission during these challenging times. Carrie Amos, president, Jericho Partnership will share the hope that strengthens the organization's plans for the future. Jericho Partnership is an affiliation of lay people and church groups which follow Jesus in word and deed to serve an at-risk community in Danbury. They provide a "360-degree, whole person approach" to serving at risk youth.

The online event will be on Tuesday, May 11, 7 pm. You can register at <http://bit.ly/32k9Lj2>

Save this June Date

From the North Central Regional Ministry Network

Members of ECCT have begun partnering with Connecticut River Conservancy and with Hartford Riverfront Recapture to plan and bring to you a two-part event. First, on Tuesday, June 15 there will be an Evening Prayer service on the Connecticut River along with a talk about how the river has changed. This will be limited in-person and available via zoom. Second, on Saturday, June 26, there will be an outdoor multi-faceted event at Hartford Riverfront Recapture where you can paddle, hike, walk, plant trees, and generally steep yourself in God and the care of Creation. More details coming soon!

To receive updates and other news about the North Central Region, sign up for their electronic newsletter (and others from ECCT) at www.episcopalct.org/enewsletters/

Bishop Transition Team

Last month Bishop Ian Douglas announced plans to retire in the fall of 2022 and called for the election of the 16th bishop diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. The Standing Committee of the diocese gave its consent to both announcements.

Since then a Bishop Transition Committee, made up of clergy and laity from across the diocese, has been formed to oversee the transition process, including identifying nominees for the bishop diocesan position. These are the people who make up the transition team: Joy Anderson, Suzy Burke, Harlon Dalton, Luk De Volder, Bob Giolitto, Edrick Hall, Zachary Kohl, Bonnie Matthews, Harry Schmitz, Linda Spiers, Kate Wesch, Sarah Woodford, Marsha McCurdy Adell, Joseph Carroll, Scott Colvin, Laura Daly, Kevin Fenner, Jack Gilpin, Jack Hale, Rebekah Bokros Hatch, Karen Hatcher-Sneed, Kim Litsey, Helena Martin and Marissa Stuart Rohrbach.

Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership

From The Episcopal Church

It is said that we measure what we value. Through the Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership, we have surveyed and interviewed more than 1,300 members of the church's key leadership bodies about their experiences of racism, racial identity, and power in the life of our church.

Conducted by The Mission Institute in partnership with The Episcopal Church's Racial Reconciliation and Justice Team, the audit and resulting report offer data, stories, major patterns and themes, recommendations, and key questions for the church to truly become beloved community.

Join us for a series of informational webinars covering the Racial Justice Audit:

- The Racial Justice Audit: An Overview
Tuesday, May 11, at 6 pm — [Register here](#)
- The Racial Justice Audit: The 9 Dominant Patterns: Tuesday, June 1, at 6 pm — [Register here](#)
- The Racial Justice Audit: Where Do We Go from Here?
Tuesday, June 29, at 6 pm — [Register here](#)

You can also read the report, sign up for webinars and view additional resource materials on the website at www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/racial-reconciliation/racial-justice-audit/

Mission & Outreach Notes

Our next **Community Meal for Hands on Hartford** take place on May 28. An invitation to all former participants has been sent and plans are coming together. If you'd like to participate but haven't received an email, please contact Warren and Lynda Blessing at ctvalleywc@yahoo.com. As we emerge from the pandemic, everyone is looking forward to once again preparing and serving the meal in person.

Bishop Marcus and Nana Dogo from the Diocese of Kafanchan in Nigeria are grateful for our continued assistance in providing 50 student scholarships and for helping to support their job training program for women. Check back for more information about supporting both programs in the year to come.

We prepared 50 bagged lunches for our Cathedral's **Lunch in the Park** program last month and will do so again on July 5. It's a great opportunity to prepare the lunches with fellow parishioners, worship outdoors in Bushnell Park, meet new people, and distribute the lunches to people who are hungry. For more information, contact [Leslie Jones](#).



Pentecost, Sadao Watanabe, 1975

This Month's Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday May 11 at 6:30 pm. Our selection is *Her Last Flight* by Beatriz Williams. "Loosely based on the life and disappearance of Amelia Earhart...but is not about her. Her history is recreated in the story of Irene and Sam.... Suspense, romance, intrigue, and great characters make up this story." All are welcome. Contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com or 860-666-4847 for details

Public Improvements in Old Wethersfield

There will be a town-hosted informational session to discuss a series of public improvements planned for several locations. One of those will impact changes to our street parking and the intersection of Hartford Avenue Main Street. The preliminary design changes can be seen here wethersfieldct.gov/qcontent/NewsFeed.aspx?FeedID=2099



Trinity Sunday, Andrei Rublev, 1400

Fifth Sundays Across ECCT

Online, collaborative church services are offered on the fifth Sundays of the year. Dean Lina Howell from our Cathedral and the Rev. Curtis Farr from St. Paul's, Fairfield, invite you to join the online service on May 30 at 10 am. You can find the liturgical offering on ECCT's YouTube channel and FaceBook page.

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of March)

Total Pledge.	\$ 32,824
Received	\$ 31,278

Income/Expenses (end of March)

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$43,459	\$42,742
Expenses	\$38,617	\$42,741

Christmas Nativity

By Warren Blessing

After Thanksgiving, Trinity's new nativity scene was constructed in place in front of the church. After the church purchased the initial pieces, some parishioners donated additional pieces.

We invite parishioners, groups and families to purchase additional figures or make a small donation to purchase a figure. The figures shown below would be nice additions to the nativity scene. The cost does not include a shipping cost of approximately 15%.

A donation can be made directly to the office with "Nativity Scene" written on the memo line. If you'd like to purchase a figure, please contact me. Orders should be placed by the end of summer in former for the figures to be available by the beginning of the Christmas season.



Three Kings
\$1,378



Resting Ox
\$458.85



Resting or Standing
Lambs
\$184 each



Angel or Gloria
\$573

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, page 261

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)



Christ and Nicodemus, Rembrandt, 1616-1669

ECCT Reparations Task Force includes Father Darryl

Here are the members of the newly formed Reparations Task Force:

The Rev. Darryl Burke
The Rev. Donald Hamer
The Rev. Tracy Johnson Russell
The Rev. Whitney Altopp
The Rev. Mark Byers
The Rev. Shancia Jarrett
The Rev. Rowena Kemp
Cheryl Sharp
Dick Shriver
Valerie Stanley
The Rev. Ronald Steed, deacon
Lisa Yarbor

Let's keep them in prayer as they study and develop specific recommendations as to reparations by ECCT and individual parishes, worshipping communities, and international Episcopal communities in partial compensation for 400 years of discrimination and bias based on race.

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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