

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

## Services

Worship services for Monday through Friday and Sunday are posted on our website and Facebook page. Information about Bible Study is on the website as well.

There are two in-person services on Sundays. There is a 10 am service in the Church Sanctuary and a 4 pm service in the Parish Hall. Our outdoor Evening Prayer services have ended.

Please leave a contact number at the office if you want to participate in our live ZOOM Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings, Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons, and/or Bible Study on Thursday mornings.



## From Our Pastor

Dear Trinity Family,

November is a month of thanksgiving.

It begins with All Saints Day, a time to give thanks for all of the holy ones in the family of God who have shown, and still show, us the way to live as faithful followers of Jesus. It is followed immediately by All Souls Day, in which we remember all of our loved ones who have gone before us in faith and who await us in the Kingdom of God.

Next is Veterans Day, when we remember “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” in which the Armistice that ended World War I was enacted. And we give thanks for the soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice to bring peace and justice to our world.

Next is November 22, Stewardship Sunday, in which we remember all the ways that God has blessed us and we express our gratitude by offering our pledges of support for our church community here at Trinity. In our Sunday communion liturgy, we often say these words when presenting the offering to God: “All things come of Thee, O Lord. And of thine own, have we given thee.” Everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God: every breath of life, every beat of our heart, every minute of every day is a precious gift from God. When we offer our money (which is a product of our time and energy) to God it is our “thank you” to God for the precious gift of life that God has given us every moment of our time on this earth.

Next is Thanksgiving Day. (Not turkey day. Not gluttony day. Not football day. Not get ready to join the shopping mob on Black Friday day. Not argue with my relatives about politics day.) It is a day for giving thanks to Almighty God for the gifts we have been

(continued on page 2)



*Sermon on the Mount, 2010,  
Laura James*

## Sunday Readings

### November 1

#### All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:9-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

### November 8

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

### November 15

Judges 4:1-7

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

### November 22

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

### November 29

#### First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

*(FROM OUR PASTOR continued from page 1)*

given for life and happiness. Give thanks. Give thanks. Give thanks. Everything else is distraction.

Lastly, on November 29, we begin the season of Advent, a time to give thanks that God does not give up on us when we have turned away from Him. A time to give thanks for God's greatest gift of all: "God so loved the world, He gave his only begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish but have everlasting life."

November is filled with all of these occasions to give thanks. I invite you all to set aside a time every day in November to write down something for which you are thankful. And share your list with someone else during one of the many times of thanksgiving in November.

Oh, and by the way, — I almost forgot! — we are having an election on November 3. Whatever happens on election day this year, I think it is safe to predict that many millions of people will be very unhappy. We live in the midst of the most polarized environment in living memory. I invite you all to put this event, and however you may feel about the outcome of it, into the bigger context of gratitude to God for all that God has given us. And to share that perspective with people you know who are expressing their extreme unhappiness.

Whatever happens on election day and its immediate aftermath is in the hands of God. God's Kingdom is bigger and stronger and longer-lasting than whatever happens this week, this month, this year or this century in the United States of America. We Christians need to love our country and its people. And we can love our country most helpfully by remembering that this is not our ultimate homeland — the Kingdom of God is. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us "that where I am you may also be." Our ultimate home is the New Jerusalem, in which there will be "no more tears, no more crying, no more pain any more, for the former things [including partisan politics] have passed away." And for that, we give our ultimate thanks.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Tom

## Annual Convention

The 236th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut was an online success; three days participating in 'World Cafe' topics, a full business day, and a worship service. [Click here](#) for a recap of convention events. Also included are contact people for a number of additional workshops which may be of interest to you. Contact the individuals listed for each workshop or your convention delegates, Kathy Cole or Rose Riley, for more information. There is also a link to the worship service [here](#).

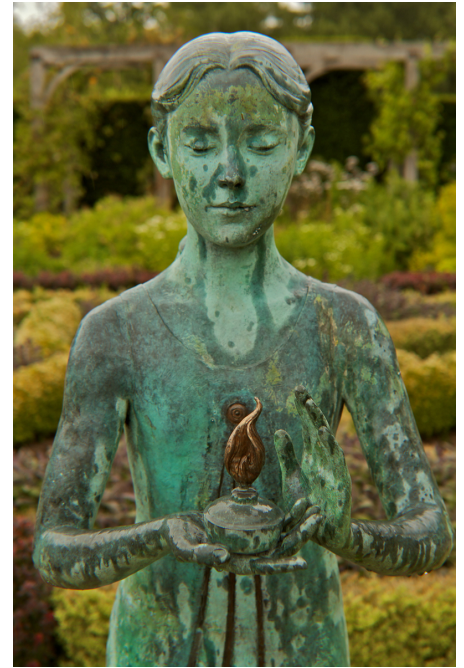
## St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti

Here's an update from Kenneth Quigley, board president: "There is good news to share about our work in Haiti and our volunteer team in the United States, and I am eager to bring you up to date. First, classes at St. Vincent's began in August on our Santo 17 campus following months of delay because of political unrest and COVID-19. Thanks to an additional bus and new schedules, the bus ride to school was reduced from several hours to 45 minutes. That means more time for academic instruction and extracurricular activities. All of our teachers are beginning to learn sign language as an important step toward full inclusion for our deaf students. Everyone wears a face mask, observes social distancing, and uses the newly installed washing stations for frequent hand washing. Thankfully, we have had no COVID-19 cases. At our downtown medical center, the new x-ray machine, a gift from the Japanese Embassy, officially opened on October 7, meaning that we can now do diagnostic work on site, saving our families time-consuming trips and expense in finding another location for that work. In the United States, where we have no paid staff, we now have an experienced volunteer development manager and a software system for her to manage! This means that our communications and acknowledgments are timely, prompt, and personalized."

## Jesus is coming

We have a nativity scene coming to the front yard of the church. We have purchased three figures to start it off: Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. The property committee is in the beginning stage of designing the stable and then will build it. It will be made in such a way that it can be assembled right after Thanksgiving. It will be constructed to allow for easy assembly and disassembly and storage in the garage. With all the pedestrian traffic and automobiles, it should get a lot of attention.

We will build the stable so that there is space to include additional figures next year. It could be a good idea for someone who would like to obtain a Christmas present for the church.



*Lamp of Wisdom,  
Waterperry Gardens, Oxford, UK*

## Book Club

Trinity's Evening Book Club will continue to meet LIVE on Tuesday, November 10 from 5:45-7:15 pm in Trinity's Choir/Music Room. Our selection is *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. Bring your own chair and masks are required. For more details on how to join us, contact Joan Joseph at [golfst4@aol.com](mailto:golfst4@aol.com) or 860-666-4847.



*In Tune (Deborah), Lauren Wright Pittman*

## 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  
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

## Online Contributions

An enhancement has been added to our website that allows for online contributions to Trinity. This option is designed to provide everyone, not just parishioners, an alternative way to give or donate to Trinity and the causes we support, especially since our online worship offerings have attracted followers outside of our parish family.

All of the transactions are processed via PayPal. You can use your credit card, debit card or PayPal account to complete the transaction. You do not need to have a PayPal account to make a donation. When making an online donation, you are able to direct it to one of many initiatives, i.e. pledge, Kateri Medical Services, etc., via a drop-down box which includes a write-in option.

The account has been set up as a non-profit operating as a 501(c)(3) so all contributions remain tax deductible. This gives Trinity the ability to establish the best transaction fee rate of 2.3% plus .30 per transaction. So, for a \$100 donation, the transaction fee would be \$2.60. Please note that you will receive credit for your full donation. The transaction fee will be absorbed by Trinity. Contributions can be made at [trinityepiscopalweth.org/give](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org/give)

## Business Report

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

Total Pledge	\$ 99,697
Received	\$ 93,453
Difference	\$ -6,244

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

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 106,625	\$ 118,108
Expenses	\$ 98,338	\$ 118,108

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](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org/vestry)

## It's Stewardship Month

November is traditionally Stewardship/Pledge Month. It is a time when we can reflect on our journey, God's presence throughout, and the journey with our parish community. As we reflect over the past year, we can't help but see the pain and challenges coming from so many quarters, for so many people around the globe. At the same time, we see so much of God's loving presence and provision in the midst of many stories and situations. One of the ways we see God's loving presence is through the lives, activities and choices of parishioners of Trinity. Through so many we see the hands, heart, feet and love of Jesus.

Traditionally we have had speakers at each of the four Sunday services. They share their views of stewardship and in what way this parish is part of their reason for pledging.

This year we will do a theme and variation of this sharing. During each of the four weeks of November, a stewardship reflection from one of our parishioners will be sent in an e-blast.

We hope that these reflections will encourage you and help you reflect on your own reasons for pledging to sustain God's work in and through Trinity. From your prayerful reading of these reflections and your personal reflection, we invite you to fill out the pledge response card which will be arriving in your mail with a stamped envelope.

Our Ingathering Sunday will be November 22. Because of COVID-19, we ask that you send your pledges to the office so that they can be handled efficiently and safely. They will be brought to the altar on the 22nd to the honor and praise of God.

Please continue to pray daily for Trinity, that we might be a light to all. Thank you.

Connie, Rebecca and Warren,  
Wardens



*Christ in Glory, 2010, Helen McClean,  
Mosaic in the Church of the Transfiguration,  
Barnstable, MA*

## Find Out What's Happening

There are a variety of e-newsletters chock full of information about events, training programs, and resources available specifically to us in the North Central Region as well as throughout the Episcopal Diocese in Connecticut. There's a weekly, statewide enews; a monthly, regional enews from our missionary; and periodic enews communications from our bishops. To find out more and sign up, go to [episcopalct.org/enewsletters/](http://episcopalct.org/enewsletters/)

## Bible Study on Isaiah

Bible Study will continue on Thursday mornings through December 10.

10 o'clock, online teaching at  
[www.trinityepiscopalweth.org](http://www.trinityepiscopalweth.org)

10:30-11:30, group discussion  
on ZOOM. Email [operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org](mailto:operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org) to receive a Zoom invitation.

For a detailed description of the Bible Study, go to our website at [trinityepiscopalweth.org](http://trinityepiscopalweth.org)



*Praying Hands, 1508, Albrecht Dürer*

## The Trinity Prayer Team

The team accepts requests from parishioners who wish to have prayers for a particular person in immediate need because of illness or impending surgery. The communication and all details will be confidential to the team.

Members of the team will pray for that person daily for two weeks from the time received. At the end of two weeks, if there is further need for prayers the parishioner who originally put in the request will need to get in touch again to arrange for another two weeks.

Calls may be made to Janice Rouse at 860-529-5139 (leave a message) or email [dickandjan@cox.net](mailto:dickandjan@cox.net)

Team members are Janice Rouse, convenor; Rebecca Scruton; Sue Smith; Mimi Basile; Sue Krupenvech-Rafala; Cheryl Chadsey; Tina LaMorte; and Nancy Buttarro.

## Praying Through This Season

*By Rebecca Scruton*

As we journey through this season of intensity and unknown, what we do know is that God is love and that prayer is key for our grounding and for sustaining our hope. God comes to us in ways often unknown to us and others as we pray. What a privilege we have to be prayerfully in the presence of God and to bring others with us through intercessory prayer.

I am offering the following for yours and my daily practice. This comes from The Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE). "In praying for others we learn really and truly to love them. As we approach God on their behalf we carry the thought of them into the very being of eternal Love, and as we go into the being of him who is eternal Love, so we learn to love whatever we take with us there."

*-Richard Meus Benson, SSJE (1824-1915)*

This form of prayer is Intercessory Prayer and I find that, for me, it can be challenging at times, because I'm aware that often I don't know how to pray for another. So what might be a helpful way to engage in this form of prayer? The following is a suggestion from the SSJE.

### An Intercessory Lord's Prayer

*Where "N" appears below, substitute the name of the person whom you hold in prayer.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name in N.,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven for N.  
Give N. this day his/her daily bread.  
And forgive N. his/her trespasses,  
as he/she forgives those who trespass against him/her.  
And lead N. not into temptation,  
but deliver him/her from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

Please continue to pray for our parish daily prayer list. May God's kingdom come and God's will be done. Amen.

## Our Weekly Prayer List

### Monday

Susanna, Mike & Avery	Kathy	Roger
Tom & Maryjane	Carol	Rose & Ray
Jimmy & Kristine	Ginny & Mike	Ginger
Ellie, Amy & Alexandra	Clark & Joyce	Anne
Josue, Kayla & Josue Jr.	Nancy, Chloe & Tate	Mel & JR
Margarita & Hugues		

### Tuesday

JP & 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	Leslie
Jessie, Tom & Bernadette	Billie & Jack	Barbara & Ed
Allison & Jamie	Heidi & Brianna	Darren
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
Mitch	Tina & Peter	Barbara
Paula & Arthur	Carl & Sue	Linda & Tom
Brooke, Fred & family		
Patrick, Jennifer, Hannah & Lilly		
Jerry, AnnMarie, Elizabeth, Catherine & Pete		



## Vida Dutton Scudder and Prayer

Vida Dutton Scudder (1861-1954)

Educator and Witness for Peace made this profound, challenging and inviting statement: "If prayer is the deep secret creative force that Jesus tells us it is, we should be very busy with it. There is one sure way of directly helping on the Kingdom of God. *That way is prayer. Social intercession may be the mightiest force in the world.*"

From Psalm 20:7, "Some put their trust in chariots and horses, but we put our trust in the name of the Lord."

Where do you and I put our trust? The list can be long. I invite you to examine your heart, your life choices and life "go-to's" and see in what you trust. In what way can you and I draw closer to God and truly put all our hope and trust in God?"

Along with this time in our history, we also need to be praying for our parish family. I invite you to re-connect with the our Weekly Prayer List and intercede on behalf of the people named.

## 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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### Trinity Episcopal Church

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*If you prefer to receive The Belfry by email, please contact the office at [operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org](mailto:operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org) or 860-529-6825.*