

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

Inside This Issue

- 1-2 From Our Pastor
- 3, 7 Some Simple Guidance
- 4-5 Outreach & Mission
- 6 Miscellaneous. Articles
- 8 A Prayer for Parish Mission

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.

Two in-person services on Sundays begin this month. There will be 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

Hallelujah!
Praise God in his holy temple;
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts;
praise him for his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn;
praise him with lyre and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe.
Praise him with resounding cymbals;
praise him with loud-clanging symbols.
Let everything that has breath
praise the Lord.
Hallelujah!

Psalm 150

Dear Trinity Family,

We live in challenging times. No doubt about it. And yet, we live in a wonderful world. We have this precious gift of life

(continued on page 2)



*The Red Vineyard, 1888,
Vincent Van Gogh*

Sunday Readings

October 4

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

FROM OUR PASTOR (continued from page 1)

that God has given us as a free gift. The Master of the Universe loves us with an everlasting love! And we have people who love us. And people for us to love back.

We are living in a season of high anxiety and a whole lot of negativity coming from many directions. Recently, I went to the barber who has been cutting my hair for 20 years. During Phase 1 of the COVID reopening, he was allowed to cut hair but all of the customers were required to wait in their cars; only one customer in the shop at a time. Now, in Phase 3, he is allowed to have people in the waiting area. But he's not bringing the chairs back. Why? He is tired of having to break up political arguments which threaten to get violent. He tells me he feels like he's running a honky-tonk bar rather than a barbershop.

This is the negative world we are living in right now, but we do not need to marinate in it. We can choose to rise above it and look for reasons to give thanks and to praise God in every circumstance and to call our friends and neighbors to a better way of being in this present season of anxiety.

I invite you to take the first few minutes of your waking hours every day to make a list of the things for which you are thankful. And then spend the rest of the day focusing on these things and thanking God for your blessings.

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Hallelujah!*

I have breath. You have breath. Let's use our breath to thank God, to lift up our fellow breath holders and lift our sights to the Kingdom of our Great God as the model for our lives on this earth.

Have a blessed and thankful month of October.

In Jesus' Name,
Father Tom

Some Simple But Urgent Guidance

By Richard Rohr, Center for Action and Contemplation

I awoke on Saturday, September 19, with three sources in my mind for guidance: Etty Hillesum (1914–1943), the young Jewish woman who suffered much more injustice in the concentration camp than we are suffering now; Psalm 62, which must have been written in a time of a major oppression of the Jewish people; and the Irish Poet, W.B. Yeats (1865–1939), who wrote his “Second Coming” during the horrors of World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic.

These three sources form the core of my invitation. Read each one slowly as your first practice. Let us begin with Etty:

There is a really deep well inside me. And in it dwells God. Sometimes I am there, too ... And that is all we can manage these days and also all that really matters: that we safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves.

Note her second-person usage, talking to “You, God” quite directly and personally. There is a Presence with her, even as she is surrounded by so much suffering.

Then, the perennial classic wisdom of the Psalms:

In God alone is my soul at rest.

God is the source of my hope.

In God I find shelter, my rock, and my safety.

Men are but a puff of wind,

Men who think themselves important are a delusion.

Put them on a scale,

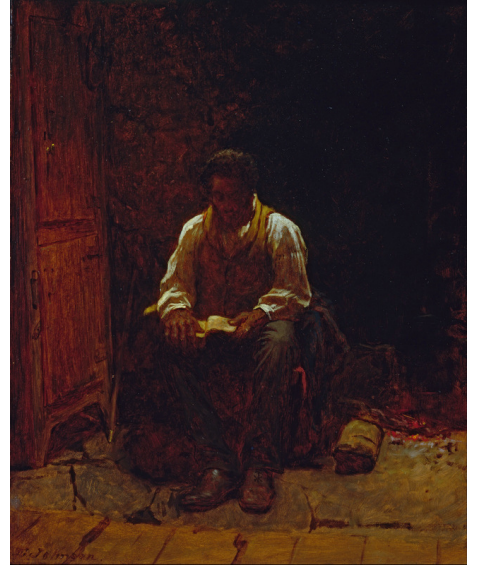
They are gone in a puff of wind. Psalm 62:5–9

What could it mean to find rest like this in a world such as ours? Every day more and more people are facing the catastrophe of extreme weather. ...The pandemic that seems to be returning in waves continues to wreak suffering and disorder with no end in sight, and there is no guarantee of the future in an economy designed to protect the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor and those subsisting at the margins of society.

It's no wonder the mental and emotional health among a large portion of the American population is in tangible decline! We have wholesale abandoned any sense of truth, objectivity, science or religion in civil conversation; we now recognize we are living with the catastrophic results of several centuries of what philosophers call nihilism or post-modernism (nothing means anything, there are no universal patterns).

We are without doubt in an apocalyptic time. Yeats' oft-quoted poem *The Second Coming* then feels like a direct prophecy. See if you do not agree:

(continued on page 7)



Lord is My Shepherd, 1863,
Eastman Johnson

Evening Book Club

Trinity's Evening Book Club will meet LIVE on Tuesday, October 13 from 5:45-7:15 pm in Trinity's Choir/Music Room. Our selection is *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Bring your own chair and masks are required. For more details on how to join us, contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com or 860-666-4847.



Mary's Tears, detail from Descent from the Cross, 1435, Rogier van der Weyden

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

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

Nigerian Scholarships

We met our goal of sending 50 Nigeria children back to school! Thanks to all who renewed their scholarship and to those who participated for the first time. The money was wired to Nigeria in mid-September. This is a great accomplishment considering the challenges we all face this year.

Backpack Programs

We received the following thank you note: "The Town of Wethersfield would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$300 towards our Weekend Meals Program. Your donation will allow us to help residents who are struggling to meet basic needs. Thank you for caring about our community during this difficult time."

South Park Inn

In line with social distancing guidelines, Trinity is asking that we do not go to South Park Inn to deliver donations. We can, however, donate financially either online at <https://www.southparkinn.org/donate> or, if you prefer send a check made payable to South Park Inn at Office of Development, 75 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106.

Wethersfield Food Bank – Although we can't donate and deliver food to the Wethersfield Food Bank during the pandemic, many people still want to help feed those who are hungry. The good news is that you can donate to the Wethersfield Department of Social Services Food Bank and Special Needs Fund. This fund is used to assist residents with different needs in addition to food insecurities. You can mail a check to Town Hall, Attn. Wethersfield Food Bank, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

Our Syrian American Family

Here again, following the guidelines of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) for Covid-19, we cannot take groceries to the family we support. So far, parishioners have brought cash, personal care items, and paper goods to Marilyn's home and she is able to safely deliver these items to the family.

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

Hands on Hartford

Hands on Hartford used our gift for the Community Crisis Fund which was established to enable them to continue to help the most vulnerable folks in the community as they address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Checks payable to Hands on Hartford can be mailed to 55 Bartholomew Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

Sewing Machines for Nana

\$630 was wired to Nigeria so that Nana Dogo can teach young women in the Diocese of Kafanchan a skill in order to support themselves and their children as many are widowed. After two weeks of training, the graduates return to their villages with a “starter kit” which includes a sewing machine, fabric, and thread. This was our 2020 Lenten project and thank you to all who participated.

Copprome Orphanage

Sister Teresita, founder of Copprome, was sick with coronavirus and has fully recovered. The children are all well now and only a few adults are ill. The current issue is a great need for food. Ginger Smith is hoping to visit the orphanage in Honduras this winter. She invites you to help with food expenses by buying her jams or soups. She can be reached at ginger43@cox.net

Lunch in the Park and Church by the Pond

Church by the Pond services have resumed in Bushnell Park on Saturdays at 2 pm with a liturgy that does not include Holy Communion or physical contact. Members of the congregation must be masked and keep a safe distance from each other. Lunches are made available after the service at 2:30.

Trinity is scheduled to make and distribute lunches next on November 7. If you'd like to join in the fun, let Leslie Jones know at lesliejonesie@gmail.com



*Tribute Money, 1633,
Jacob Adriaensz Backer*

Blessing of the Animals

A Blessing of the Animals will take place on St. Francis Day, Sunday, October 4 at 2 pm on the front lawn of the church. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Bring your animals either crated or on a leash restricted to six feet.

Bishop Gordon's Prayer during this Pandemic

O Lord, keep bringing redemptive moments and actions out of this calamity day by day. Please open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son, our savior. Amen.



The Young Activists Photography Exhibit

Marc Yves Regis, photojournalist and friend of Trinity, will present his photographic exhibit "The Young Activists" on the front lawn of the church on the afternoons of October 23, 24 and 25. Marc says, "The photos capture and display the formidable spirit of the leaders of tomorrow. Their voices matter and they make a difference by getting involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. As many adults are fighting over policies and politics, the resilience of "The Young Activists" can play a role in lifting communities and drive them to do better by those who are marginalized." Marc has worked at various newspapers around the country and is just completing his book of poetry, *America Through My Eyes*. He will read select poems of his manuscript on Saturday the 24th.

A Season for Prayer

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; throughs Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 822 #24

We are living in very tumultuous times, and coming to the time where we will be voting for various positions at various levels in our government. This is truly a season in which we need to be faithful and purposeful in prayer. I commend to you pages 820-824 in the Book of Common Prayer. Throughout these pages are prayers specific to this season. Please take some time to explore this section of the prayer book and be aware of those prayers that resonate with you and use them on a regular basis.

Out of caring for our Trinity Community, I also encourage you to refer to the parish weekly/daily prayer sheet and pray for each one on this list. We are truly in a time where prayer is needed on so many levels and for so many folks.

Thank you for your faithfulness and prayers,
Rebecca Scruton, Connie Harasymiw and Warren Blessing

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of August)

Total Pledge	\$ 88,620
Received	\$ 85,672
Difference	\$ -2,948

Income/Expenses (end of July)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 98,369	\$ 104,985
Expenses	\$ 85,367	\$ 104,985

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-

SOME SIMPLE GUIDANCE (cont'd from page 3)

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.*

Somehow our occupation and vocation as believers in this sad time must be to first restore the Divine Center by holding it and fully occupying it ourselves. If contemplation means anything, it means that we can “safeguard that little piece of You, God,” as Etty Hillesum describes it. What other power do we have now? All else is tearing us apart, inside and out, no matter who wins the election or who is on the Supreme Court. We cannot abide in such a place for any length of time or it will become our prison.

God cannot abide with us in a place of fear. God cannot abide with us in a place of ill will or hatred. God cannot abide with us inside a nonstop volley of claim and counterclaim. God cannot abide with us in an endless flow of online punditry and analysis. God cannot speak inside of so much angry noise and conscious deceit. God cannot be found when all sides are so far from “the Falconer.” God cannot be born except in a womb of Love. So offer God that womb.

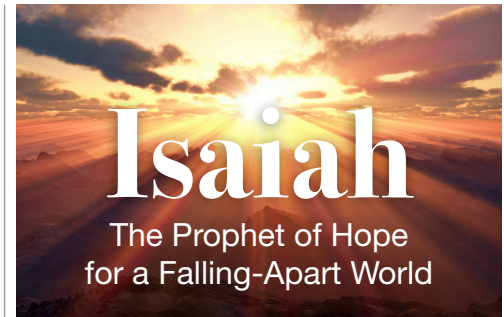
Stand as a sentry at the door of your senses for these coming months, so “the blood-dimmed tide” cannot make its way into your soul.

If you allow it for too long, it will become who you are, and you will no longer have natural access to the “really deep well” that Etty Hillesum returned to so often and that held so much vitality and freedom for her.

...I recommend for your spiritual practice for the next four months that you impose a moratorium on exactly how much news you are subject to—hopefully not more than an hour a day of television, social media, internet news, magazine and newspaper commentary, and/or political discussions. It will only tear you apart and pull you into the dualistic world of opinion and counter-opinion, not Divine Truth, which is always found in a bigger place.

Instead, ...use this time for some form of public service, volunteerism, mystical reading from the masters, prayer—or, preferably, all of the above. You have much to gain now and nothing to lose. Nothing at all.

And the world—with you as a stable center—has nothing to lose. And everything to gain.



Bible Study on Isaiah Begins October 8

We live in a time when it feels like everything is falling apart: worldwide pandemic, economic trials, racial tensions, destructive fires, increasingly intense hurricanes, international tensions, vitriolic rhetoric and partisan political divisions. Where is God in all of these troubles?

Isaiah lived in a similar time. His beloved nation was falling apart and on the verge of collapse. In the midst of the gathering gloom, God spoke to Isaiah and sent him to bring hope to his people in the midst of the darkness. We have a lot to learn for our own time from this majestic book of the Bible.

BIBLE STUDY – ISAIAH

Thursdays beginning October 8

10 o'clock, online teaching at
www.trinityepiscopalweth.org

10:30-11:30, group discussion
on Zoom. Email operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org to receive a Zoom invitation.

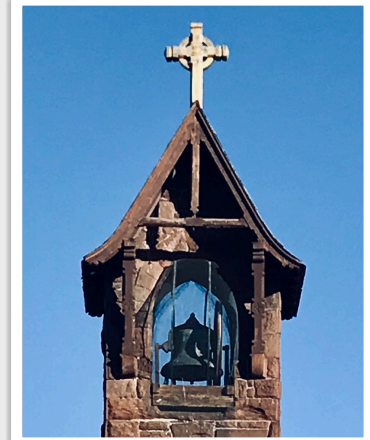
For a detailed description of the Bible Study, go to our website at trinityepiscopalweth.org

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

The Belfry

Trinity Episcopal Church

300 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109

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