

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY ~ MARCH 29, 2020 ~ 9:45 AM

Conference Call

Dial: 712-770-5505

Access Code: 189853#



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

www.christchurchtomsriver.org

WELCOME! AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FROM YOUR HOME FOR TODAY'S SERVICE!

WHILE WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PHYSICALLY COME TOGETHER TODAY FOR WORSHIP, WE APPRECIATE YOUR SPIRITUAL PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THIS SERVICE.

WE THEREFORE INVITE YOU TO REPLICATE MANY OF THE SAME PRACTICES THAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY DO IN A SUNDAY WORSHIP. FOR EXAMPLE, WE INVITE YOU TO SPEND SOME TIME IN QUIET PRAYER TO PLACE YOURSELF BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS.

DURING THE SERVICE, WE INVITE YOU TO PERFORM THE SAME GESTURES THAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY DO IN CHURCH (SIGN OF THE CROSS, BOWING, ETC.).

ALSO, IN THOSE PLACES IN THE SERVICE WHERE THE PEOPLE WOULD NORMALLY SAY A PRAYER (SUCH AS, THE COLLECT OF WELCOMING) OR RESPONSE (SUCH AS, "AND ALSO WITH YOU") , PLEASE SAY IT ALOUD. YOUR PHONE IS MUTED BUT OUR VOICES WILL RISE TOGETHER IN AFFIRMING OUR FAITH. THANK YOU.

TODAY'S MINISTERS

PRIEST: The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg

DEACON: The Rev. Ted Foley

LECTOR: Melissa Briggs

INTERCESSOR: Helene Phillips

MUSIC: Polly Moore & Andrew VanBuskirk

+ + +

OPENING HYMN

All My Hope on God is Founded

Hymnal 665, vs. 1, 2,5

*All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew,
Me through change and chance He guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown, He alone
Calls my heart to be His own.*

*Mortal pride and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray His trust;
What with care and toil He buildeth,
Tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.*

*Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ, His Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.*

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Priest Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins
People *His mercy endures for ever.*

THE DECALOGUE *The people kneeling as able.*

Deacon Hear the commandments of God to God's people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your
God.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon Honor your father and your mother.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon You shall not commit murder.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon You shall not commit adultery.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon You shall not steal.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon You shall not be a false witness.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Deacon You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

The Priest says the following sentence.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

THE CONFESSION *The people kneel, as able.*

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Priest and People say the following

LORD, HAVE MERCY **Kyrie**

Priest Lord, have mercy.

People *Christ, have mercy.*

Priest Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray. Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The following is said by all

THE COLLECT OF WELCOMING

Almighty and gracious God, we are your church, serving your mission. Lead us forth beyond our walls to seek out all people in our community, to invite and love them as Jesus would. Empower us to welcome to Christ Church all who are hurting or in need, all who are searching for you or for answers to life. Open our eyes to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. Transform us all into disciples of Christ. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The following is said by all

PRAYER FOR THE SELECTION OF A RECTOR

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for Christ Church that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The people sit as the lessons are read

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath

to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The following is spoken by all

PSALM 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD,
for with the LORD there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption,
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Deacon Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they

thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may

believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

TODAY’S REFLECTION

The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg

A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon.

HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

Hymnal 482

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.*

All stand, as able.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

** "catholic" here means the universal Church across time and place*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Deacon calls the people to prayer, saying

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Following each prayer the Deacon or Leader will say: Lord in your mercy...

Following each prayer the people will respond : Hear our prayer.

Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Please listen to the following prayer

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced

Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors

Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home

Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close

Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips

Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,

let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

by Cameron Bellm, a Seattle mom of two young boys. She calls herself “a great lover of Ignatian spirituality, Catholic social teaching, and strong black coffee.”

The following is said by all

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**We use the modern translation of Lord’s Prayer because it is closer to the Greek original text; particularly for the verse, Save us from the time of trial’since God does not deliberately lead us into temptation.*

The following is said by all

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (*St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787*)

Please listen to the following

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

Deacon Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel as able

Priest Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord.

People Amen

CLOSING HYMN

O Love of God, How Strong and True

Hymnal 455

*O love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought.*

*O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,
we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below,
in seas that swell and streams that flow.*

*We read thee best in him who came
to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high,
our life to live, our death to die.*

*We read thy power to bless and save
e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of thy might.*

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PARISH NEWS!

CHRIST CHURCH WELCOMES THE REV. MARY FRANCES

SCHJONBERG, D.D., “...retired on July 1 as the senior editor and reporter for the Episcopal News Service, a denominationally sponsored organization. She spent nearly 25 years working as a newspaper reporter, editor, photographer, copy editor and page designer before becoming a priest. Mary Frances served as assistant rector at Christ Church in Short Hills, New Jersey, before joining ENS in 2005. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and mass communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master of divinity degree from Church Divinity School of the Pacific. In 2010, CDSP, the Episcopal Church-related seminary in Berkeley, Calif., granted her a doctor of divinity degree, *honoris causa*, for her body of work since graduation. She lives in Neptune, New Jersey.”

JOIN US FOR “SERVICE” FROM THE SAFETY OF YOUR HOME!

During this time of “public service suspension” your Clergy and Staff are providing multiple times a week live and recorded services via phone and email.

The current weekly schedule of live services via phone are:

Sundays, 9:45am — Wednesdays, 10:00am — Fridays, 7:00am

We plan to have each service recorded and then provided to you via email as well as posted on our website www.christchurchtomsriver.org.

To listen to the live service please:

Dial: 712-770-5505

Enter Access Code: 189853#

If you have any difficulty, please email or call the church office (leave a voicemail).

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS RECEIVING VOICEMAILS, EMAILS & MAIL:

If you need to reach us for any reason, please either call the church office at 732-349-5506 and leave a voicemail. Voicemails are being immediately received offsite and we are calling you back as soon as possible. Emails as well to NicoleStrada@ChristChurchTomsRiver.org are also immediately received offsite and replied to as soon as possible. We are also receiving our USPS mail.

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU ARE DOING — We want to hear from you! And know that you are doing “ok” amongst this pandemic. Please leave us a Voicemail or send us an Email!

CORONAVIRUS DISCRETIONARY FUND: While everyone's life has been impacted by the coronavirus, we have become aware of several people in our parish who have already lost their jobs and income and are in dire need of emergency assistance. Also, as this disaster continues, we expect that more jobs will be affected. For this reason we are setting up a Coronavirus Discretionary Fund. This fund will provide emergency assistance to people affected by this disaster. If you are in need of emergency assistance, please contact one of the clergy (Mother Petrina, Deacon Jose, or Deacon Ted). If you are able to contribute to this fund, please send a check to Christ Church (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753) with "Coronavirus Fund" in the memo. A restricted account has been established specifically for this purpose. May God bless us all. We will get through this together.

The **FOOD PANTRY** is OPEN its regular hours, Tues & Thurs 9:30am-12pm. Currently **MOST IN NEED OF:** canned fruit, apple sauce, microwavable foods/meals, long-life milk (whole, skim, 1%), ketchup, mayo, mustard, beef stew, vegetable oil, canned corn, peanut butter. If you feel comfortable dropping off non-perishable food donations during the OPEN hours, our volunteers are happy to receive. If not comfortable or not able to do any shopping but still want to help, gift cards to Shop Rite and Stop & Shop as well as monetary donation with “food pantry” in memo of your check is also greatly appreciated. Please mail to Christ Church, 415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753. Thank you for your continued support!

REST IN PEACE: Mary C. Humiston, formerly a member of Christ Church, Toms River, died peacefully the night of March 20, 2020 with her daughter by her side. Her time in Toms River was filled with the pleasure of friendships built here and her community service. Mary's obituary is available at <https://www.jamesrgray.com/obituary/Mary-C-Humiston>. Please feel free to leave a note on the “Tribute Wall” at that site. Memorial services will be held at a later date when travel restrictions are lifted. Please keep Mary's family and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May Mary's soul, with the souls of all the departed, rest in peace with God.

THE EASTER GIVING TREE IS UP! Even though physically taking a tag off the giving tree is not possible at this time, please consider picking up a Gift Card as you are able and only if you are at a store getting your necessities. The Christ Church Food Pantry is still open its regular hours to assist those who are in desperate need of food. Since the Christ Church Food Pantry relies heavily on food donations from our parish and due to the current pandemic, gift cards will be helpful more than ever now to be able to help families in need in both our parish and community. Gift Cards in any increment to the following stores are appreciated: ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Walmart, Wawa, QuickCheck. You may mail to Christ Church, 415 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ 08753...or hold on to them until you return to Church. Thank you for all your continued support!

WEEKLY FINANCES: During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending March 20, we received \$640 in pledges and loose offerings.

CONTRIBUTIONS & PLEDGES DURING COVID 19: Our pews will be empty for the next several weeks, that also means our collection plate is empty. We are asking if you would please continue to send in your pledges even though our weekly worship services have been suspended. Although most of life as we know it has come to a halt, the bills continue to come in and need to be paid. You can help us keep our bills current by keeping your pledge up to date. You can do this by mailing a check to the office (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753), or you can set up online bill pay through your bank (see your bank for details). Please consider doing this, so that once we are back in church, we can continue moving forward without the worry of how we are going to “catch up”. Thank you!

BECKER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP: ATTN: High School Seniors and College Students! Completed applications must be submitted by May 7. Need the application? Reply to this email and we will email it to you. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica DeRiggi at jessderiggi@gmail.com or 732-330-9092.

THE ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE scheduled for May 14 & 15 has been CANCELLED. We will hope for better and healthier circumstances in September for a Fall Sale.

IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU, WOULD WE KNOW ABOUT IT? Do the people who care about you know to notify the church right away in case of your hospitalization, or an accident, or an extended illness, etc.? Please give them the church's contact information with clear instructions to contact us right away. We hope to be praying for you during any incidents rather than after the fact. Thank you!!

BIRTHDAY CLUB: We all have one day of the year that is just for us; it's our birthday. We may celebrate in grand style with family and friends singing that special song, eating cake and GETTING gifts; or we may choose to celebrate in a quiet fashion. However you choose to celebrate, it is YOUR special day. The Endowment and Stewardship Committees have come up with another way to celebrate this day. How about GIVING a gift that will KEEP ON GIVING? Each year on your birthday, we are inviting you to join the Birthday Club by writing a check in the amount of your age to Christ Church, which will be deposited into the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is invested with the diocese. By giving to this fund on your birthday, you will be contributing to the day-to-day life of the parish as well as the future of Christ Church. It is truly a gift that will keep on giving! How can you donate? Simply write out a check for the amount of your age, put Birthday Club in the memo and put it in the offering plate, mail it or drop it off to the office mailbox. So that we can all watch our gifts grow, we will update you on what we have received. We look forward to celebrating each of your birthdays! **Total contributions for the month of March are \$146 (2 birthdays)!**