

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY ~ MARCH 22, 2020 ~ 9:45 AM

Conference Call

Dial: 712-770-5505

Access Code: 189853#

MUTE YOUR PHONE



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

www.christchurchtomsriver.org

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

PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONES!

We want all to be able to participate in this Service. If there is any type of noise or speaking besides the Priest and Deacon, this Service will not be successful. **Once you are connected to the Conference phone number, please hit the "mute" option on your phone.** If muting is not possible, please know that the service will be recorded and you will be able to listen in at a separate time. We respectfully ask that you listen to the recording if you are not able to mute your phone. Thank you.

TODAY'S MINISTERS

PRIEST: The Rev. Petrina M. Pyatt

DEACON: The Rev. Ted Foley

LECTOR: Melissa Briggs

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A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Priest Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People *His mercy endures for ever.*

Please make sure your phone is on MUTE.

AN EXHORTATION

Deacon Beloved in the Lord: Our Savior Christ, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood as a sign and pledge of his love, for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, and for a spiritual sharing in his risen life. For in these holy Mysteries we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made one body in him, and members one of another. Having in mind, therefore, his great love for us, and in obedience to his command, his Church renders to Almighty God our heavenly Father never-ending thanks for the creation of the world, for his continual providence over us, for his love for all mankind, and for the redemption of the world by our Savior Christ, who took upon himself our flesh, and humbled himself even to death on the cross, that he might make us the children of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, and exalt us to everlasting life. But if we are to share rightly in the celebration of those holy Mysteries, and be nourished by that spiritual Food, we must remember the dignity of that

holy Sacrament. I therefore call upon you to consider how Saint Paul exhorts all persons to prepare themselves carefully before eating of that Bread and drinking of that Cup. For, as the benefit is great, if with penitent hearts and living faith we receive the holy Sacrament, so is the danger great, if we receive it improperly, not recognizing the Lord's Body. Judge yourselves, therefore, lest you be judged by the Lord. Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven. And then, being reconciled with one another, come to the banquet of that most heavenly Food. And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith. To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory in the Church evermore. Through him let us offer continually the sacrifice of praise, which is our bounden duty and service, and, with faith in him, come boldly before the throne of grace and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

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. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; 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

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from the First book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for

myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please make sure your phone is kept on MUTE.

The following is spoken by all

PSALM 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;

- your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
 who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil,
 and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
 days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Deacon As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I

went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and

the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

TODAY’S REFLECTION

The Rev. Ted Foley, *Deacon*

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

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."

*Please read together from home - **Please keep your phone on MUTE***

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 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

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

PARISH NEWS!

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# — And then

MUTE YOUR PHONE (very important that we hear no noise or voices other than the clergy)

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

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!

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS RECEIVING VOICEMAILS & EMAILS —

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.

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!

THE EASTER GIVING TREE IS UP! Even though physically taking a tag off the giving tree is not possible at this time, please consider still 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 13, we received \$5,531 in pledges and loose offerings.

BECKER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP: ATTN: High School Seniors and College Students! Completed applications must be submitted by May7. 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.

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!!