

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY ♦ MAY 17, 2020 ♦ 9:45 AM



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

www.christchurchtomsriver.org

HOW TO LISTEN IN TO THE LIVE TELE-SERVICE

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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

MUSIC: Polly Moore, Cathy O'Neill, Andrew Van Buskirk, David Corbitt

LECTOR: Pam Quatse

INTERCESSOR: Cathy O'Neill

PRELUDE

Be Not Afraid

OPENING HYMN

(Please refer to below lyrics not hymnal)

All Creatures of Our God and King

*All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*All ye with mercy in your heart, Forgiving others, take your part
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God and on Him cast your care,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Let all things their Creator bless, And worship Him in humbleness,
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

THE WORD OF GOD

The people standing, as able, the Priest says

Priest Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Priest Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

The following is said together by all

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

All Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Priest Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The following is said by all

THE COLLECT OF WELCOMING

All 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

All 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

Acts 7:22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The following is said by all

PSALM 66:7-18

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me.

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15:21

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Deacon Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Please be seated.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg

MUSICAL OFFERING

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

*If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father,
And he shall give you another comforter,
That he may abide with you forever,
Ev'n the spirit of truth.*

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

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

Leader In the sure and certain hope of resurrection, we pray to the Lord, saying, God of grace, Hear our prayer.
Gracious God, we pray for all your people, that they may find, and be found, by you. God of grace,
People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We pray for peace and good will among all nations. God of grace,
People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We give you thanks, Almighty God, for the many blessings in our lives, especially for those blessings we now name and for all blessings. God of grace,
People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We ask your mercy for all who are hungry, thirsty, homeless, oppressed, in prison, or in any kind of trouble. God of grace,
People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We pray for those affected by natural and man-made disasters; for those who are sick and suffering; we pray for a quick end to this pandemic and for those with and exposed to the virus; for medical professionals, first responders, and emergency workers; for those who have lost their jobs or suffered financial loss; for those serving our country; for those listed on our parish prayer list and for those we name at this time God of grace,
People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader For those who have died from the COVID-19 virus, for those who died serving our country, for all who have died in the hope of rising again, especially Roberto Garcia, and for those we name at this timeGod of grace,
People *Hear our prayer.*

The Priest adds a concluding collect.

Please listen to the following prayer

PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with all essential workers. Be with all emergency responders, law enforcement, and medical professionals who seek to help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of all people, particularly those who are poor and most vulnerable. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Adapted from prayer written by Kerry Weber, America Magazine

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.*

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The priest invites the following prayer to be said by all:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The ministries of Christ Church “thank you” for your continued giving during these times of uncertainty. Your generous donations and pledges keep Christ Church moving forward. Please continue to mail to Christ Church (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753) or set up with your individual bank, a bill pay, to be directly submitted to Christ Church. Please contact the Church Office with any questions or concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please also read “Parish News” beginning on page 10 of this bulletin for additional information and news.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Sing, Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness

Hymnal 492

*Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness,
Wake your noblest, sweetest strain,
With the praises of your Savior
Let his house resound again;
Him let all your music honour,
And your songs exalt his reign.*

*Sing how he came forth from heaven,
Bowed himself to Bethlehem's cave,
Stooped to wear the servant's vesture,
Bore the pain, the cross, the grave,
Passed within the gates of darkness,
Thence his banished ones to save.*

*So, he tasted death for all men,
He, of all mankind the head,
Sinless one, among the sinful,
Prince of life, among the dead;
Thus he wrought the full redemption,
And the captor captive led.*

*Now on high, yet ever with us,
From his Father's throne the Son
Rules and guides the world he ransomed,
Till the appointed work be done,
Till he see, renewed and perfect,
All things gathered into one.*

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

PARISH NEWS

(titles in red indicate a new or updated item)

THANK YOU MOTHER MARY FRANCES SCHJONBERG FOR BEING TODAY'S PRIEST!

“...retired on July 1, 2019 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.”



ASCENSION DAY, the occasion on which the risen Christ is taken into heaven after appearing to his followers for forty days (Acts 1:1-11, Mk 16:19). The Ascension marks the conclusion of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. It is the final elevation of his human nature to divine glory and the near presence of God. The Ascension is affirmed by the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds. The Ascension is celebrated on Ascension Day, the Thursday that is the fortieth day of the Easter season. It is a principal feast of the church year in the Episcopal Church. ***There will be a 1:00PM (not 10am) tele-service on Thursday, May 21.***

WEEKLY FINANCES: During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending May 8, we received \$9,020 in pledges. (There were no loose offerings due to there not being any services in church.)

CHRIST CHURCH APPLIED FOR THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP) through Wells Fargo Bank and administered by the Small Business Association (SBA) available due to COVID-19. We are happy to share that we were approved for a loan of \$28,961 and received these funds on May 11. These funds will help us stay on better track financially during this time. IN ADDITION TO monthly parish pledges and plate income (both of which have been reduced or lost since March through an unknown date), we are not able to offer our building space for use by the many daily outside groups and receive in exchange the usual monthly donations of \$2,370. We thank all those who have been able to keep up with their pledges.

The FOOD PANTRY remains open to ANYONE in need on TUESDAYS from 9:30am to 12noon. Please share with your friends, neighbors and anyone you know that may need food. The pantry is overall well stocked and we are still serving many in our community. We are in need of:

Juice (boxes or bottles) — Spaghetti — Vegetable oil — Sugar — Chili with and without beans — Cream of chicken soup — Boxed mashed potatoes

If you are still comfortable shopping, can shop safely and would like to drop off donations, please drop them on the lower table (outside) marked DONATIONS ONLY, between 9:30am and 11am on Tuesday mornings. This allows our volunteers time to log and load the food while we are there. If you need to schedule a different drop off time, please contact the Church Office.

If you have any questions at all, or are not considered 'at risk' and would like to volunteer for the Food Pantry, please free feel to contact (text/call) Claire Koerner at 732-600-5709 or email Clairekoerner1503@gmail.com Thank you, more than ever, for your support of the CHRIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY.

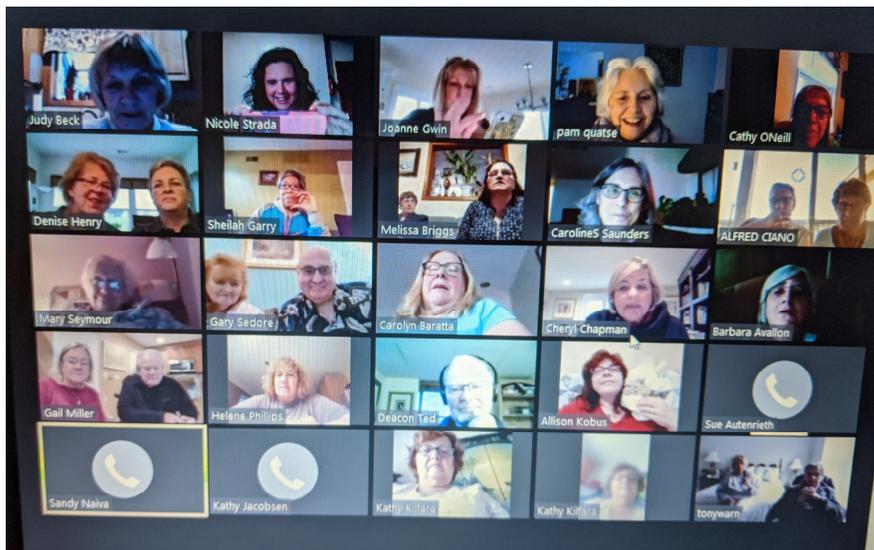
DO YOU MISS FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY? Join us via Zoom for "Coffee Hour" each Monday* evening from 7:00-8:00pm.

For those not familiar with ZOOM, it is a video chat room/meeting space. If you have a phone or computer with video/camera functions, you will be able to join in and SEE the faces of your Church Family as well as show us your face. If you are not interested in being visible, having your video off is an option.

If you do not have or are not comfortable using a computer or internet, you can still participate by calling in on your phone. You will still be able to listen and speak to everyone else participating (register below to receive the phone number to call; please know that video options do not work by calling the phone number).

Multiple emails have been sent advertising this virtual activity. The most recent email was sent on Monday, May 11. You **MUST register** in order to be able to participate. After registering you will receive another email including both the link to Join the Meeting with internet and video or the Phone # to call in and Meeting ID# (video options only works by using the link, using the phone number does not permit video).

We look forward to "seeing" your faces in these virtual Coffee Hours as we take this opportunity to say "Hello!" and "How are you?" If you need any help, please let Nicole know! Above is a photo of the April 27 "Coffee Hour" Blessings! *No Coffee Hour on Memorial Day, May 25.



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!

"SIGNS OF LIFE" VIDEO DISCUSSION SERIES: Deacon Ted invites you to a "video discussion group" (like a "book discussion group") based on the video series, "Signs of Life". We will meet virtually twice a week (Tues & Thurs) for about an hour starting at 4 PM.

Schedule for Discussion Series:
Tuesday, May 19 - "Community"

The virtual discussion group will be on ZOOM. For those not familiar with ZOOM, it is a video chat room/meeting space. If you have a phone or computer with video/camera functions, you will be able to join in and SEE the faces of Deacon Ted and others participating, as well as show us your face. If you are not interested in being visible, having your video off is an option. If you do not have or are not comfortable using a computer or internet, you can still participate by calling in on your phone. You will still be able to listen and speak to everyone else participating. Please do note that video only works by using the internet link to join the meeting; using the phone number does not permit video).

In order to be able to participate in the virtual discussion group on ZOOM, you **MUST REGISTER**. An email with all the needed instructions and web links to register and participate in the Discussion Group and watch the weekly videos was sent out on April 30. Please contact the church office if you did not receive this email. For those who do not have a computer and still would like to participate in this discussion, please leave a voicemail at the Church Office 732-349-5506. Deacon Ted will get in touch with you with special instructions. We hope you will be able to join us as we all grow in faith together.

JOIN US IN DAILY PRAYER AT 8:00PM: Pray, wherever you may be ...at home, at work, in the car...let us pray together for a resolution and end to the COVID-19 pandemic...let us pray for health care workers, first responders, law enforcement and all essential workers... let us pray for our federal and state government officials ... let us pray for those that are sick and those that have died from the virus...let us pray for the families of the victims of the virus and all those who are poor and more vulnerable to the virus...let us pray for New Jersey, the United States of America and the World.

There is no right, wrong or specific way one should pray ... pray the "Our Father", the "Prayer in Time of Pandemic" from our Sunday bulletins, or pray using words expressing how your heart feels. Join us in a moment of prayer daily at 8pm.

JOIN US FOR "SERVICE" FROM THE SAFETY OF YOUR HOME!

During this time of "public service suspension" through at least the month of May, 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 and Enter Access Code: 189853# If you have any difficulty, please email or call the church office (leave a voicemail).

UPDATE FROM THE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE: Greetings! As all of us are aware, we are in the midst of an unprecedented time in our living history. As buildings have been closed, employment furloughed and life as we knew it came to a grinding halt, the diocese also had to make decisions about people and practices that would be impacted. In light of this, Bishop Stokes and Rev. Dr. Brian Jemmott, Transition Coordinator have suspended all discernment activity with prospective clergy until further notice. The committee has been able to do virtual meetings and we are set and ready to continue once the "all clear" is given. Please pray for those who have applied to be our rector that they may remain safe and healthy as they minister to their parishioners.

COVID-19 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. ** As May 7, the COVID-19 Fund balance stands at: Contributions: \$21,305.50; Disbursements: \$3,254.16

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!

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 APRIL were \$444 (6 birthdays)! And the current total of contributions for the month of MAY is \$207 (3 birthdays)!**

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!!

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS RECEIVING VOICEMAILS, EMAILS & MAIL: If you need to reach us for any reason, please 1) 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. Or 2) Email NicoleStrada@ChristChurchTomsRiver.org and she will reply as soon as possible. We are also receiving our USPS mail.

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
415 Washington Street Toms River, New Jersey 08753
www.ChristChurchTomsRiver.org**