

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

SUNDAY ♦ MAY 24, 2020 ♦ 9:45 AM



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

www.christchurchtomsriver.org

HOW TO LISTEN IN TO THE LIVE TELE-SERVICE

DIAL: 712-770-5505

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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

CALL HOST: Joanne Gwin

PRIEST: The Rev. Allen Wakabayashi

DEACON: The Rev. Ted Foley

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Polly Moore

ORGAN/PIANO: Andrew Van Buskirk

CHOIR PARTICIPANTS: Cathy O'Neill, David Corbitt

LECTOR: Jeff Genthe, Matthew Genthe

INTERCESSOR: Helene Phillips

PRELUDE

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

OPENING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Hymnal 450, vs. 1-3, 6

- 1 *All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.*
- 2 *Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, who from His altar call;
Praise him who's way of pain ye trod, and crown Him Lord of all.
Praise him who's way of pain ye trod, and crown Him Lord of all.*
- 3 *Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, Man divine, and crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, Man divine, and crown Him Lord of all.*
- 6 *Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.*

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, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. 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 1:6-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The following is said by all

PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens;
Yahweh is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows,
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places!
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Deacon Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Allen Wakabayashi

HYMN

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus!

Please refer to the lyrics below

*Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us, thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Savior, through the virtue of thy blood;
open is the gate of heaven, reconciled are we with God.*

*Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, all our sins on thee were laid;
by almighty love anointed, thou hast full atonement made.
Every sin may be forgiven, through the virtue of thy blood;
opened is the gate of heaven, reconciled are we with God.*

*Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there forever to abide;
all the heav'nly hosts adore thee, seated at thy Father's side.
There for sinners thou art pleading, there thou dost our place prepare;
thou for saints art interceding, till in glory we appear.*

*Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing, Christ is worthy to receive;
loudest praises, without ceasing, right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
help to sing our Savior's merits, help to chant Emanuel's praise.*

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 especially Tom Meehan, 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, and for those we name at this timeGod of grace,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader On this Memorial Day Weekend, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom. God 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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymnal 494, vs 1, 3-5

*1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.*

*3 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.*

*4 Crown him of lords the Lord, who over all doth reign,
who once on earth, the incarnate Word, for ransomed sinners slain,
now lives in realms of light, where saints with angels sing
their songs before him day and night, their God, Redeemer, King.*

*5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, enthroned in worlds above;
crown him the King, to whom is given, the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before him fall,
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for he is King of all.*

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

POSTLUDE

God Bless America

+ + +

PARISH NEWS

(titles in red indicate a new or updated item)

THANK YOU REV. ALLEN WAKABAYASHI FOR BEING TODAY'S PRIEST! “Fr. Allen serves as the Chaplain for the Episcopal Church at Princeton. Fr. Allen is married to his wife (also a priest in the Diocese), Mtr. Diane Mumma-Wakabayashi. Fr. Allen is in his 2nd year serving as the Episcopal Chaplain at Princeton. Prior to that, he had served for many years as a Campus Minister and a local church pastor outside of the Episcopal Church context. He was born and raised in Chicago.”



THE DAY OF PENTECOST is a major Feast Day of the Church that occurs 50 days after Easter. Jesus promised He would send us the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the arrival of the Spirit. Red signifies the fire of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is Sunday, May 31. The Gospel will be read in as more than one language, just as it was heard on the first Pentecost day. Even though we will not physically see each other, **wear something red** that morning while you listen in to the Pentecost Sunday service!

RESIGNATION — Jane Rendueles has announced her resignation as Financial Assistant of Christ Church as of June 1. Jane has taken care of making sure the church bills were paid, kept financial records, did the banking, prepared checks, and so much more, since April 2007. “Thank you” Jane, for all of your time and energy these past 13 years.

ATTN: ALL GRADUATES! BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY IS JUNE 14! On this Sunday, Christ Church will recognize all of our parishioners who are 2020 graduates during the 9:45 AM tele-service.

We celebrate the accomplishments of these graduates, but we also send them out in God’s name to continue their education at a new level or to begin new ministries.

If you are graduating from College, High School, Intermediate School, Kindergarten, Pre-school or earning an advanced degree or a technical degree, or a certificate of completion for a course of study, there are opportunities to participate in Baccalaureate Sunday:

1. Provide to the Church Office your name, grade, school, what is next for you, and a photo to be included in a virtual presentation
2. Provide up to a 3 minute sermonette that you will read during the LIVE 9:45am service* in reflection of at least one of the readings for that Sunday: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20 OR "what Christ Church (my church) means to me". If not comfortable or available to read during the LIVE service, someone will be assigned to read your submission for you.

3. Be a Lector during this LIVE service* and read one of the mentioned readings in item #2 above.

There is absolutely no pressure to do any of the above but it is an opportunity for the congregation to hear from our graduates, whom we are so proud!

*All LIVE service participants must participate in a practice run at 11:00am on Saturday, June 13 AND call in early at 9:15am on Sunday, June 14.

Please email by June 5 to NicoleStrada@ChristChurchTomsRiver.org how you would like to participate on 6/14! Blessings, Health and CONGRATULATIONS!

DIOCESE RE-OPENING TASK FORCES BEGIN WORK *(copied from NJ Diocesan "Good News in the Garden State")*

The decision to remain closed to in-person communal worship has been made by our bishop in consultation with the best available experts and information. Though painful to us all, the restrictions were made in a spirit of loving sacrifice intended to protect our community and our most vulnerable parishioners.

As we move closer to re-opening, Bishop Stokes has called two special task forces of experts to help guide the diocese into the "new normal."

Bishop Stokes has appointed the Re-entering, Re-opening and Re-imagining (RRR) Task Force to provide guidance to congregations on how and when to re-open. The Task Force includes approximately 20 members who represent the diversity of congregations in our diocese and bring skills and experience in public health, liturgy, and congregational life. The task force met for the first time this week and issued the following statement:

This team is committed to providing preliminary guidance by June 5th so that parishes may begin the planning process. Each parish will create its own plan and submit it for review to the Task Force. We anticipate that the time it takes each parish to create and implement their plan will vary greatly. While some parishes may be able to resume limited use of their buildings shortly after the release of the guidelines, others may plan to open months later based upon the unique needs, composition, staffing and location of each parish. --The RRR Task Force

A second group--the Learnings and Breakthroughs Task Force--has been formed to look at the lessons we've learned during this crisis and how we can keep the good parts happening. We've been amazed at the level of community we've been able to build online, bringing Christ's word to people who haven't been in church in years. We don't want to lose those aspects when we return to "normal."

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 15, we received \$4,672 in pledges. (There were no loose offerings due to there not being any services in church.)

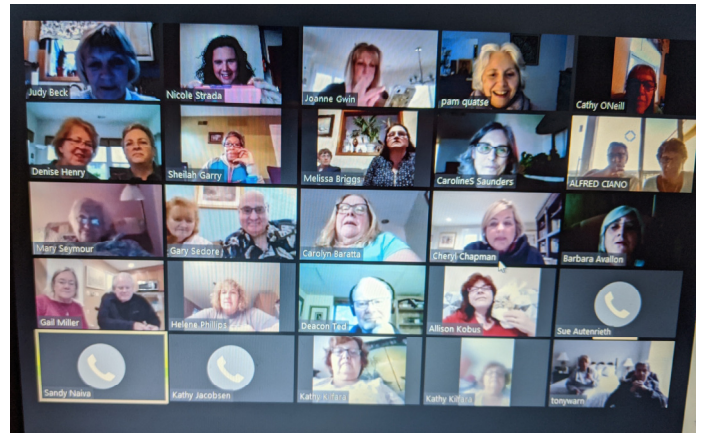
CHRIST CHURCH APPLIED FOR THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP) through Wells Fargo Bank and administered by the Small Business Association (SBA) available due to COVID-19. We are happy to share that we were approved for a loan of \$28,961 and received these funds on May 11. These funds will help us 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.

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!

MONDAY EVENING VIRTUAL "COFFEE HOUR" FROM 7-8PM

Every week on Mon, until Jul 27, 2020

Jun 1, 2020 07:00 PM
Jun 8, 2020 07:00 PM
Jun 15, 2020 07:00 PM
Jun 22, 2020 07:00 PM
Jun 29, 2020 07:00 PM
Jul 6, 2020 07:00 PM
Jul 13, 2020 07:00 PM
Jul 20, 2020 07:00 PM
Jul 27, 2020 07:00 PM



Join this Zoom Meeting Here! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94333201452>

OR

Dial by Phone: **1 646 558 8656**

And then enter the Meeting ID: **943 3320 1452**

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 (but you will not have a visual).

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 me know! *No Coffee Hour on Memorial Day, May 25.

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 for your support of the CHRIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY.

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 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 many of the services recorded and then posted on our website www.christchurchtomsriver.org for access at your convenience. 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 21, the COVID-19 Fund balance stands at: Contributions: \$21,705.50; Disbursements: \$4,486.80

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! **The current total of contributions for the month of MAY is \$289 (4 birthdays)!**