

# THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

SUNDAY ♦ JUNE 14, 2020 ♦ 9:45 AM



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

## **HOW TO LISTEN IN TO THE LIVE TELE-SERVICE**

**DIAL: 712-770-5505**  
**ACCESS CODE: 189853 #**

**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. Petrina M. Pyatt

**DEACON:** The Rev. Ted Foley

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Polly Moore

**ORGAN/PIANO:** Andrew Van Buskirk

**CHOIR PARTICIPANTS:** Cathy O'Neill, David Corbitt

**LECTORS:** John Greenwood, Emily Boland, Matthew Genthe, Brianna Lizer

**INTERCESSOR:** Helene Phillips

## PRELUDE

*Amazing Grace*

arr. Robert Hebble

## OPENING HYMN

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Hymnal 405

*Refrain:*

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*1 Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings. (Refrain)*

*2 The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. (Refrain)*

*3 The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one. (Refrain)*

*4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. (Refrain)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

*The people standing, as able, the Priest says*

*Priest* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*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. Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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**

*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**

*Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7*

*(read by John Greenwood, 8th grade graduate)*

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.' And she said, 'Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.'

The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

*The following is read*

*(read by Emily Boland, High School graduate)*

**PSALM 116:1, 10-17**

<sup>1</sup> I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

<sup>10</sup> I kept my faith, even when I said,  
‘I am greatly afflicted’;

<sup>11</sup> I said in my consternation,  
‘Everyone is a liar.’

<sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?

<sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord,

<sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.

<sup>16</sup> O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.  
You have loosed my bonds.

<sup>17</sup> I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.

**THE SECOND READING**

*Romans 5:1-8*

*(read by Matthew Genthe, 5th Grade Graduate)*

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Church in Rome.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. The Word of the Lord.

*People                      Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 9:35—10:8-23*

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

*People* *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

*Deacon* Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMONETTES BY 2020 GRADUATES**

Gregory Sycle, *12th Grade High School graduate*  
Christopher Genthe, *5th Grade Elementary School graduate*  
Emily Boland, *12th Grade High School Graduate*

## **REFLECTION**

The Rev. Petrina M. Pyatt

## HYMN

*Here I Am Lord*

(as sung by the Sunday 7 PM Choir at St. Francis De Sales Church)

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.*

*I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.*

*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* As our God continues to reveal his power in our lives, let us pray to God saying, God of love, God of power, may your Spirit give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. God of love,

*People* *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* God of peace, we pray for peace and goodwill among all nations, an ending to all strife and discord. We pray for all the leaders of the world. God of love,

*People* *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* God of mercy, we ask your mercy for all who are hungry, thirsty, homeless, oppressed, in prison, or in any kind of trouble. God of love,

*People* *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* God of Creation, we thank you for the abundance and beauty of our planet earth. Grant us the wisdom, ability, and will to care for its resources and creatures wisely. God of love,

*People* *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* God of grace, we give you thanks for the many blessings in our lives, for those blessings we now name...(wait) ... And for all blessings. God of love,

*People* *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* God of Healing, 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 Barbara Powell, Kim & Michael, Maria Younger, and for those we name at this time ..... God of love,

*People* *Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* God of life, we pray 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 Bernice Kephart, Jonathan Elliott, and for those we name at this time ..... God of love,

*People* *Hear our prayer.*

*Priest* Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP 826)



*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*

*(read by Brianna Lizer, 8th Grade graduate)*

### **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.*

## **2020 SARAH BECKER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

*(Presented by Jess DeRiggi)*

*Mission of Scholarship: "To honor Sarah C. Becker's commitment to youth by encouraging Christian young people in furthering their post high school education. To provide financial assistance through a scholarship award; such award to be consistent with the Mission Statement of Christ Episcopal Church."*

*This year, two High School seniors, who are also active parishioners at Christ Church, have applied for the scholarship. Both have proven their participation and contribution toward their church, diocese, school, and community. Not only do I firmly believe each are deserving of the \$500 scholarship, I also feel with the current happenings in our world, High School seniors (and all graduates) need to be recognized and honored for their hard work and dedication. An honor that many seniors feel has been taken away from them due to social distancing, cancellations of prom, and most of all...possibly not having a graduation ceremony as they always imagined and expected.*

*It is our honor to award the 2020 Becker Youth Scholarship to Emily Boland and Gregory Sycle. Congratulations!*

## **CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES!**

*Caitlyn Berry — Preschool Graduate*

*Juliet Hjembo — Preschool Graduate*

*Matthew Genthe — 5th Grade Graduate of Washington Street Elementary School headed to Toms River Intermediate South*

*Christopher Genthe — 5th Grade Graduate of Washington Street Elementary School headed to Toms River Intermediate South*

*Samantha Greenwood — 5th Grade Graduate of Washington Street Elementary School headed to Toms River Intermediate South*

*Morgan Dunn — 8th Grade Graduate headed to Toms River High School North*

*John Greenwood — 8th Grade Graduate of Toms River Intermediate South headed to Toms River High School South*

*Alecia Johnson — 8th Grade Graduate of Toms River Intermediate East headed to Toms River High School East*

*Brianna Lizer — 8th Grade Graduate of Toms River Intermediate East headed to Toms River High School East with hopefully admission to the Culinary Academy at OCVTS*

*Declan Sennick — Graduate of Toms River Intermediate South headed to Toms River High School South*

*Sara Tapia — 8th Grade Graduate of Lakewood headed to High School*

*Oscar Topez — 8th Grade Graduate of Lakewood headed to Lakewood High School*

*Emily Boland — 12th Grade Graduate of Toms River North High School headed to TCNJ; recipient of a 2020 Becker Youth Scholarship from Christ Episcopal Church; recipient of the 2020 Van Duzer Student Award through the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey; recipient of the 2020 New Jersey Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Student Service Award*

*Aidan Hjembo — 12th Grade Graduate of Paloma Valley, CA High School*

*Gregory Sycle — 12th Grade High School graduate of Toms River South headed to Manhattan College to study Business Analysis & Computer Information Systems; recipient of a 2020 Becker Youth Scholarship from Christ Episcopal Church*

*Josef Vernachio — 12th Grade High School graduate of Toms River South as a Certified Diesel Mechanic headed to Firefighter School*

*Kim Bongard — graduate of Ramapo College with a B.A. in Communications (Journalism) and Minor in Music*

## “THANK YOU” 2019-20 CHURCH SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION CLASS TEACHERS!

|                            |                |               |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Claire Koerner             | Jess DeRiggi   | Nicole McCabe |
| Diane Zaraza (co-director) | Ursula Fanelli | Sandy Naiva   |
| Nancy Mayer                | Tom Chant      | John Boland   |
| Dale Chant                 | Phyllis Long   | Selena Garcia |
| Shanon Berry (director)    |                |               |

*This has been a growing year for our church school program. We had over 30 young people participating in our Church School Program this year! Our program offered Confirmation class and church school for both the English and Spanish congregations each Sunday. In addition to weekly classes, our youth learned about important outreach programs, including the Food Pantry, Your Grandmother's Cupboard, and the Christ Church Cafe, participated in multiple fellowship events, and were able to experience a new "Family Church" service. A sincere thank you to our teachers for helping our young people grow in God's love. Thank you to Christ Church for your love and support during this year! See you in September!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please also read "Parish News" beginning on page 12 of this bulletin for additional information and news.*

## THE BLESSING

### 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

*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

*Postlude on Ellacombe*

arr. Jason D Payne

+ + +

# PARISH NEWS

(Titles in Red indicate a New or Updated Item)

## JUNE 14 IS BACCALAUREATE AND CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH!

On this Sunday, Christ Church recognizes 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.

We thank our many teachers for their time and dedication to the spiritual growth of our children and youth during the 2019-20 church school year.

## THANK YOU REV. PETRINA PYATT TODAY'S PRIEST!

Here is a brief bio on the Rev. Petrina Pyatt, Long-Term Supply Priest at Christ Church: "I was born in NYC and have been a cradle Episcopalian ever since. I am the eldest of two sisters and a brother, am widowed with two daughters and two granddaughters. I worked on Wall Street with a Securities Exchange Department. I then attended and graduated General Theological Seminary with a M. Div. degree. Following this I was ordained and became a hospice chaplain for several years in New Jersey. At this same time, I served as Assistant Rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, NYC. Next, I was Rector of Our Merciful Savior Church in Penns Grove, NJ, from which I retired in January 2017.

I have had a love affair with God and the Episcopal Church since I can remember, and have been involved in many church ministries: Altar Guild, Vestry member and warden, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Chalice Bearer, Lector, Sunday School teacher, home-bound visitor, and an outreach coordinator. And now, I am happily serving as Assisting Rector here at Christ Church and as a Supply priest where needed. I am still in love with God and the Church and pray this affair remains alive, well with me until God says otherwise. Hopefully, this affair will continue for a very long time."



STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP: Have you been feeling stress these past few months? Stressed over the national news or maybe stressed over events in your personal life? If so, you are invited to attend a three week stress management virtual workshop on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 PM. These sessions will be facilitated by Deacon Ted and his wife Kathy. Kathy has over 30 years experience as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). In these sessions you will learn techniques that will help you identify the source of your stress and ways to help manage it. The sessions will be held June 16, June 23, and June 30. An email was sent on Friday, June 12 with the invitation to participate in this workshop. If you did not receive, please contact Nicole at 732-349-5506 or email [nicolestrada@christchurchtomsriver.org](mailto:nicolestrada@christchurchtomsriver.org)

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Thank you for all of your donations Christ Church! The FOOD PANTRY is very well stocked. **This week (6/16) we would like to ask that you please hold off on bringing any donations** while we reorganize and deplete some of the food we have on the shelves. Please watch for announcements on our updated needs for next week. THANK YOU!!!

BISHOP STOKES WILL BE JOINING US NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 21! The Rt. Rev. William "Chip" Stokes, Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, has made himself available to participate in our Sunday tele-service. We hope you will be available to join us as well!

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!

**RE-OPENING CHRIST CHURCH:** Please know that your Wardens, Vestry, Clergy and Staff are prayerfully working together to discuss and address the requirements provided to us by the RRR Task Force in order to safely Re-Open our Church doors. Please know that at this time there is no “Re-Opening” date in mind. There are many important steps to accomplish first, one being a Questionnaire for the Parish. Your completion of this Questionnaire will be added guidance as we discuss when it is most safe and appropriate to Re-Open. Please be on the “look out” for this emailed (snail mailed to those who have not provided an email address) Questionnaire in the next 1-2 weeks. We appreciate your submission of it.

**THE COVID-19 REENTERING, REOPENING, REIMAGINING (RRR) TASK FORCE** presented its preliminary report on June 4 to Clergy and Staff of the Diocese of New Jersey.

The Rev. Canon Valerie Balling, St. Peter's Medford, is chair of the Task Force. She told the meetings that the Task Force developed a report and recommendations for congregations to reenter their church buildings and reopen them for public worship and gatherings.

Congregations are urged to use this document to develop THEIR PLAN for reentering and reopening for their context, which may require some reimagining in order to offer their ministry as desired.

A questionnaire must be submitted to the Diocese and approved by the RRR Task Force and the Bishop's Office before a congregation can reopen to the public.

Reopening will be done in stages, with continued physical distancing requirements and cleaning and sanitation requirements to ensure safety. The Bishop will say what “Stage” the Diocese is in. No congregation may be in a later Stage; some congregations may be in an earlier Stage depending on local context. *(from NJ Diocesan Good News in the Garden State dated 6/5)*

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.”

**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 of June 11, the COVID-19 Fund balance stands at: Contributions: \$22,555.50; Disbursements: \$5,486.80

**WEEKLY FINANCES:** During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending June 5, we received \$9,698 in pledges. (There were no loose offerings due to there not being any services in church.)

**WELCOME KATHY SCHOTT, OUR NEW FINANCIAL ASSISTANT!** Kathy is no stranger to Christ Church! She was first hired in May 2017 to temporarily cover Nicole's position while she was out on Family Leave. She returned in October 2018 to again cover Nicole's position while she was on maternity leave for 5 months. She returned again in April 2019 when asked to assist in the Financial Office and very shortly became “Acting” Financial Assistant during Jane's absence beginning in June 2019. With Jane's recent announcement of her resignation as Financial Assistant after 13 years, Kathy accepted the open position. Kathy is a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Lakewood and also their Parish Administrator. She comes to us with excellent experience and has been a wonderful addition to our Office Staff. Thank you Kathy!

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

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!

**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 for the month of JUNE is \$150 (2 birthdays & 1 Anniversary)!**

**JEWELRY REQUESTED:** While many of us are spending more hours at home these days, now is a good time to look through that jewelry for any you would like to donate to the Women of Christ Church (WCC). The WCC are interested in all kinds of jewelry, including costume, tarnished and broken. Please set these items aside until the church doors reopen and it is again safe for you to visit the building. There will be a collection bin labeled "jewelry" on top of the mailboxes. Thank you!

**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](http://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).

**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!

**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](http://www.ChristChurchTomsRiver.org)**