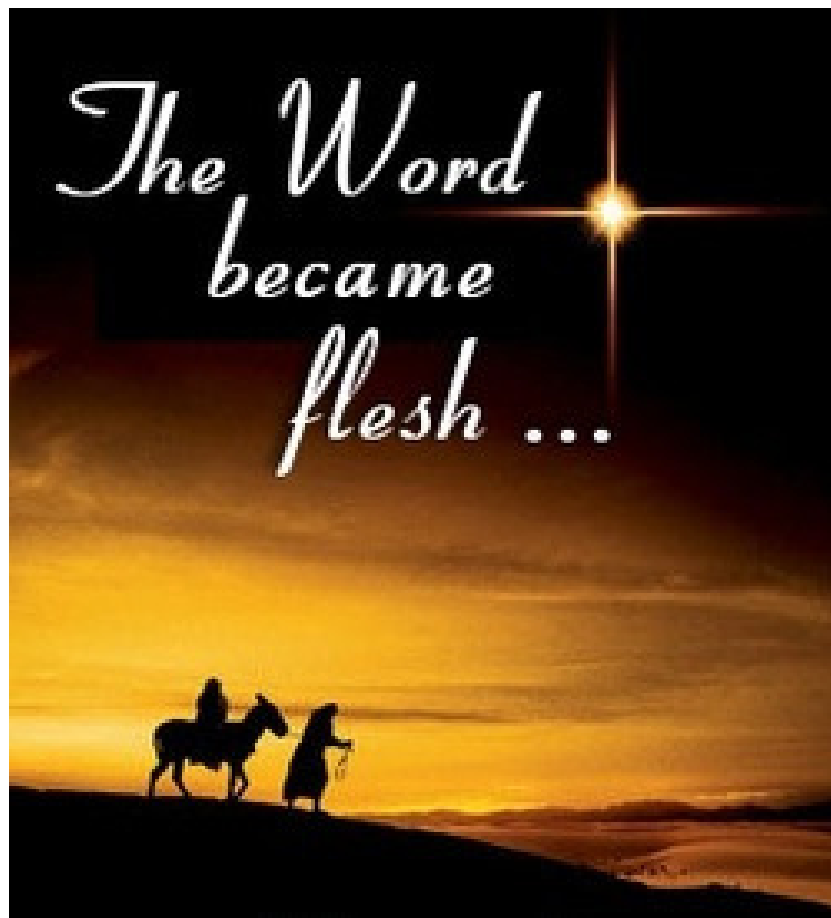


THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY ♦ DECEMBER 27, 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
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. Ryan Paetzold

DEACON: The Rev. Ted Foley

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Polly Moore

ORGAN/PIANO: Andrew Van Buskirk

CHOIR PARTICIPANTS: David Corbitt, John Jowett, Cathy O'Neill, Helene Phillips,
Eileen Schilling

LECTOR: Pam Quatse

INTERCESSOR: Dale Chant

PRELUDE

The Coventry Carol

15th cent., transcribed by Robert Croo

OPENING HYMN

The First Nowell

Hymnal 109, vs. 1-2,4-5

Mitch Miller Choir

1. The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

5. Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence, their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (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.

People Amen

The following is read by the Lector; said 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. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The following is read by the Intercessor; 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 read by the Lector; 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 lesson is read by the Lector.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The following is read by the Deacon; said by all

PSALM 147:13-21

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders;
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

- 16 He sends out his command to the earth,
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation;
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The lesson is read by the Lector.

THE SECOND READING

Galatians 3:23—25; 4:4—7

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

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Deacon In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Please be seated.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Ryan Paetzold

HYMN

Away In A Manger

Hymnal 101

Choir of Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin

*Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where He lay.
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing. The poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus. Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus. I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there.*

All stand, as able, as the Priest says the following

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 Intercessor is the “Leader”; the “people” is read by the Lector

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — *The Season of Christmas* —

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

Leader With all of our hearts and with all of our minds, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Son of God, show us your presence.”

Gracious God, give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love, and help us to show our love to others. Make Christ Church an example of your love and mission. Let us pray,

People *Son of God, show us your presence.*

Leader We pray for justice and peace among all peoples. Give us strength to work for justice in our own communities. Let us pray,

People *Son of God, show us your presence.*

Leader We thank you for the abundance you give to each of us; and for the spiritual discipline of returning a tithe to you in thanksgiving. Bless the financial pledges for 2021 to do your work through this Parish. Let us pray...

People *Son of God, show us your presence.*

Leader We thank you, God, for the blessing of this beautiful earth, for the spiritual gifts you have given us, for those blessings we now name(wait)....., and for all the blessings in our lives. Let us pray,

People *Son of God, show us your presence.*

Leader We ask your mercy and justice for all who are hungry, thirsty, homeless, oppressed, in prison, or in any kind of trouble. Let us pray,

People *Son of God, show us your presence.*

Leader We ask your mercy for those affected by natural and man-made disasters; for those who are sick and suffering; for those who struggle to care for a loved one; for those who are in pain or distress; for those who are serving our country; for those listed on our parish prayer list, especially Jean Bertelsen, for those we name at this time...(wait)..., and for all others who need healing. Let us pray,

People *Son of God, show us your presence.*

Leader We pray for all who have died, especially Rick Tucker, for those who died serving our country, for those we name at this time(wait)...., and for all who have died in the hope of rising again. Let us pray,

People *Son of God, show us your presence.*

Priest Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(BCP 820)

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)

The Priest may add an additional closing collect.

THE CONFESSION *The people kneel, as able.*

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

The following is read by the Intercessor; said by all

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

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

Please listen to the following prayer read by the Deacon

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 read by the Priest; said by all

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

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

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

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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

The 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 Episcopal 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 via phone or email with any questions or concerns.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

THE BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people

CLOSING HYMN

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Hymnal 105, vs. 1,2,4
Journeysongs

*God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember, Christ, our Saviour was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came
And unto certain Shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by Name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and charity each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.*

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 Gloria

French trad. carol, arr. Jason Payne

Jason Payne, *organ*

+ + +

PARISH NEWS

(Titles in Red indicate a New or Updated Item)

THANK YOU FR. RYAN FOR BEING TODAY'S PRIEST! “Rev. Paetzold is a passionate social justice advocate and public theologian who has been a featured speaker at multiple events on issues of healthcare and immigration justice. Rev. Ryan Paetzold lives in Marlton, NJ with his art-educator wife, Katie, and son, Asher; their rather feisty, yet adorable cockatoo, Peach; as well as two very energetic Pomsky puppy sisters - Yuki and Nutmeg. Rev. Paetzold has led two nonprofit organizations, and has been a featured speaker at multiple events on social issues, including events on healthcare and immigration justice. He is pleased to be worshipping virtually with Christ Church this morning.”



DEACON TED'S QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “In that emptiness, God’s unconditional love could be sensed and we could say what the old Simeon said when he took the Christ child in his arms: ‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace as you have promised.’ There was complete trust, complete peace, and complete joy. Death no longer was the enemy. Love was victorious.” (Henri Nouwen, Return of the Prodigal Son)

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY is celebrated every year on January 6th. This year we will celebrate this feast day on Wednesday, January 6th at 10AM during our regular Healing Prayers Tele-Service.

Along with Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, this is one of the oldest Christian holy days. The festival was first celebrated in the Eastern Church (Orthodox) and was adopted in the Western church by the 4th Century. Epiphany commemorates the first “showing forth” or manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles, particularly the Magi or Wise Men. The Epiphany story is meant to explain that Christ was not just for the Jews, but for non-Jews (Gentiles) as well, anywhere in the world. The eve of Epiphany is called the Twelfth Night and relates to the arrival of the Wise Men from the East at the birthplace of the Lord in Bethlehem.

THANK YOU! For your donations to the **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**! As of 12/23, \$1,236.00 has been received. Because of your giving, earlier this month Christ Church was able to help approximately 15 families with Christmas gifts for their children, gas in their car to continue getting to work and stores, and food for their family. The **“GIVING” TREE** gift card collection is annually during the months of holidays, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. But the truth is, the community in need of gas, food, diapers, new shoes, etc. is not only during those three months a year...it is every month and every day.

If at anytime you have the desire to donate to this important ministry, please mail or drop off to Christ Church (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753). Suggested stores are Walmart, Target, ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Wawa, Quick Chek (please no Visa, etc.). If you are currently not shopping at stores for health safety and still would like to contribute, checks payable to Christ Church with "Giving Tree" in the Memo are gladly accepted. Your gift card donations will continue to help Christ Church bless families in need in our parish and community. We "thank you" for your continued generosity.

THE FOOD PANTRY (updated 12/23/20) is going strong and remains open to anyone in need every Tuesday from 9:30am - 12pm. **The Food Pantry will be closed on 12/29.**

We have a few specific items we are in need of when reopening on January 5. The following are items asked for that we are currently out of now: Pancake Mix — Pancake Syrup — Peanut Butter — Grape Jam — Pears — 1lb Ground Coffee — Sardines — Canned Carrots — Cream of Chicken Soup — Lentil Soup.

If you would like to donate, please leave items on the table marked ‘Donations’ outside the lower door during Food Pantry open hours. Any questions, please text or leave a message for Claire at (732) 600-5709. Thank you! Please share and encourage any individual or Family in desperate need of food to visit us.

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS! If you are able to help 1,2 (or more) Tuesday mornings per month, please also contact Claire. She is happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you!

WEEKLY FINANCES: During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending December 18, we received \$1,818.34 in pledges.

2021 PLEDGES & OFFERING ENVELOPES: To date, we have received 77 pledges for 2021, totaling \$163,092.84. Thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge cards. Offering envelopes for those of you who requested them on your pledge cards will be available for pickup at the door next week on Monday—Thursday (December 28-31) between 9AM and 12noon.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2020 must be received by the Church Office on or before Sunday, January 3, 2021 in order to appear on your 2020 Contribution Statement. Thank you for your continued support of Christ Church.

CURRENT SCHEDULE OF CHRIST CHURCH SERVICES:

SUNDAYS, 9:45 AM — LIVE WORSHIP TELE-SERVICE *

Recordings of this Service are posted on the Church Website and Facebook page for listening at your convenience. The bulletin for this service is emailed weekly.

WEDNESDAYS, 10:00 AM — LIVE HEALING PRAYER TELE-SERVICE *

The bulletin for this service is emailed weekly.

FRIDAYS, 7:00 AM – LIVE MORNING PRAYER TELE-SERVICE *

This service can be followed on page 80 of your Book of Common Prayer or at <https://www.bcponline.org/>

FOR THOSE WHO PREFER LISTENING IN SPANISH, The Sunday Gospel Reading, a Reflection and Prayers are available weekly on our Facebook page or WhatsApp. To join the WhatsApp group of Christ Church contact Deacon Jose: jmcantos5@hotmail.com

*** TO LISTEN TO A LIVE TELE-SERVICE:**

(It is suggested that you call-in a few minutes prior to the start time of a service)

Dial: 712-770-5505 and Enter Access Code: 189853#

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

PHONE ANGEL MINISTRY - The pandemic is presenting us many challenges. One particular challenge that people may be struggling with is a sense of isolation. Although Christ assures us that we are never alone, sometimes we need just to hear a familiar voice. Christ Church is forming the ministry of Phone Angels to be that familiar voice. Phone Angels will be calling people in the parish to make those connections and see how you are coping. If you are interested in becoming a Phone Angel please contact Deacon Ted or the Church office. Those who are interested will meet early in January to kick things off.

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!

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW: Dear Parishioners & Friends, As I was reflecting upon the past year, I had an idea about putting together a kind of anthology with pictures, poems, stories even limericks about what we have all been experiencing during these very strange but unique times. I’m thinking about this project as a way to connect with one another by sharing some of our personal experiences. Feel free to offer anything that feels right. Pictures of a zoom bingo or of something you have painted or crocheted or created or of masked events you have participated in...Just think of this as a way to share with each other how we have all been coping through these many months. No pressure either. Our submissions are for us alone. Your story does not need to be a literary jewel. No grades will be handed out. For those of us who continue to be involved in various ministries, a picture or a story about how we continue to “be the church” in and for our community, would be a perfect offering. (garden, food pantry, cafe, trunk or treat, worship offerings, parking lot yard sale, IHN) ... our project will need a name. Please include ideas for naming this “thing” we are going to create. Finally, I’d like to put this altogether to share sometime in January, so if you can submit anything you’d like by December 21, that would be awesome. Please send written stories as a pdf if possible. My email is dalechant@ymail.com
Blessings and peace to all, Dale

CONVERSATION & COMPLINE continues every other Saturday (12/26, 1/9, 1/23, 2/6) at 7pm via Zoom.

In this sharing, interested members of the parish chat about a given topic, such as what books you're reading, TV shows you particularly enjoyed, or any blessings or challenges which unfolded for you in the last week... and then end the evening with compline. We would love to see you (and your favorite beverage!) at this virtual fellowship

The Discipleship Team also offers **BIBLE STUDY, FOLLOWED BY COMPLINE**, is every other Saturday (1/2, 1/16, 1/30, 2/13) at 7:00pm on Zoom. This is the same group that brings you "Conversation and

Compline" (mentioned above) on alternate Saturdays. Now we will get together every Saturday and alternate

between the two activities. **To Join the above mention Saturday Zoom Meetings:**

1. via internet with (option of both audio and visual) click use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87001507163>

AND ENTER PASSCODE: 123963

2. by telephone (audio only) Dial: 1-646-558-8656 AND enter **Meeting ID: 87001507163 and Passcode: 123963.**

Any questions, please contact Gail Miller gailkeatingmiller@gmail.com or 732 814-8357.

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

Join this Zoom Meeting Here! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94333201452> AND ENTER PASSCODE: 169772

OR Dial by Phone (audio participation only): **1 646 558 8656**

And then enter the Meeting ID: **943 3320 1452 AND THEN ENTER PASSCODE: 169772**

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 us know!

COVID-19 DISCRETIONARY FUND: The COVID-19 Fund Committee has been considering the situation of low income families and the possibility of virtual, remote or hybrid learning this year. We want to make sure that all students have the resources to create a healthy and productive learning environment. If you know of a child that has a need for any such items (computer, high speed internet access, books, office supplies, etc.) please contact one of the clergy or leave a message at the church office. *

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 December 23, the COVID-19 Fund stands at:**

Contributions: \$23,180.50; Disbursements: \$16,529.64

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