

# THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY ♦ FEBRUARY 14, 2021 ♦ 9:45 AM



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

[www.christchurchtomsriver.org](http://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. Allen Wakabayashi

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Polly Moore

**ORGAN/PIANO:** Andrew Van Buskirk

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

**LECTOR:** Cathy O'Neill

**INTERCESSOR:** Helene Phillips

## PRELUDE

*Minuet from Samson*

G. F. Handel

## OPENING HYMN

*Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

Hymnal 618

1. *Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,  
raise the glad strain, Alleluia!*  
*Cry out, dominions, pryncedoms, powers, virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! Alleluia! alleluia!*
2. *O higher than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim,  
lead their praises, Alleluia!*  
*Thou bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious, magnify the Lord,  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! Alleluia! alleluia!*
3. *Respond, ye souls in endless rest, ye patriarchs and prophets blest,  
Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong, all saints triumphant, raise the song,  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! Alleluia! alleluia!*
4. *O friends, in gladness let us sing, supernal anthems echoing,  
Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! Alleluia! alleluia!*

## 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. O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*The following is 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**

2 Kings 2:1-12

A Reading from the Second book of Kings.

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. The Word of the Lord.

*People* *Thanks be to God.*

*The following is read by the Intercessor; said by all*

**PSALM 50:1-6**

- 1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God reveals himself in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 “Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me  
and sealed it with sacrifice.”
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;  
for God himself is judge.

*The lesson is read by the Lector.*

**THE SECOND READING**

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A Reading from Paul’s Second letter to the Church in Corinth.

If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 9:2-9

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

*Priest* Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## HYMN

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Hymnal 490

sung by St. Benedictine Missionaries

*1. I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus.  
God sent the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.*

*Refrain:*

*In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.*

*Refrain*

*3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.*

*Refrain*

*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 The Epiphany* —

*Priest* 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, 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 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 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* O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(BCP 815)*

*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.*

*Priest* 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 Lector*

### **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 current news.*

## **BLESSING OF COUPLES AND RENEWAL OF VOWS**

*All couples wishing to renew their vows are invited to participate and respond as mentioned. “Couples” is read by the Intercessor.*

*Priest* Let us Pray. O Gracious and everliving God, you have created us in your image. Look mercifully upon these couples who come before you today to thank you for the blessing upon their marriage, union or covenant. Assist them with your grace that they may continue with true fidelity and steadfast love. Bless them as they renew their vows today that they may continue to honor and to keep the promises they made together. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Priest:* Do you here in the presence of God and of this congregation, renew the promises you made when you bound yourselves to each other in holy matrimony or union or covenant?

*Couples:* I do.

*Couples:* We thank you, most Gracious God, for consecrating our (*marriage/union/covenant*) in Christ’s Name and presence. Lead us further in companionship with each other and with you. Give us grace to live together in love and fidelity, with care for one another. Strengthen us all our days, and bring us to that holy table where, with those we love, we will feast forever in our heavenly home, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Priest:* Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, you taught us to love each other as Christ loved us, to bear each other’s burdens, and to share each other’s strengths. Look with favor upon these couples whom you have brought together in love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, pour out your abundant blessing upon them. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them in all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle upon their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking, in their joys and in their sorrows, in their life and in their death. Finally in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your heavenly banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## THE BLESSING

*The Priest blesses the people*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

Hymnal 460, vs. 1,3,4

1. *Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.*
3. *Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, thou on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.*
4. *Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim in the eucharistic feast.*

## THE DISMISSAL

*The Priest dismisses the people*

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

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

## POSTLUDE

*All For Jesus*

John A. Behnke

John A. Behnke, *organ*



## PARISH NEWS

(Titles in Red indicate a New or Updated Item)

**THANK YOU FR. ALLEN 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.”



**ANNUAL BLESSING OF COUPLES & RENEWAL OF VOWS** is included in today's service. This is an opportunity for renewal of Wedding, Holy Union and Covenant Vows. No registration is needed.

What is **SHROVE TUESDAY**? It is actually the day before Lent begins on Feb 17, 2021. The day is named for the “shriving” or confessing that was traditional on this day before beginning Lent. This day is also known as Mardi Gras, or “Fat Tuesday,” because it was a time for eating the things from which one would abstain during Lent. Pancake suppers are traditional as they were a way of using up some of the ingredients not needed during Lent. Unfortunately, for health safety reasons during the current pandemic we are unable to gather for the annual pancake supper and festivities at church. But, we encourage you to do something at home to recognize this last day before Lent begins. Make Pancakes! Or enjoy another delight (maybe chocolate?!) that you may choose to abstain during Lent.

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## **\*\*\* LENT OPPORTUNITIES \*\*\***

**WHAT IS LENT?** Lent is a season of preparation leading up to Easter. It is the forty days plus the six Sundays before Easter. For centuries, it has been observed as a special time of self-examination and penitence. Lent is a time for concentration on fundamental values and priorities, and is not a time for self-punishment. Throughout Lent, the worship services of the Church take on a simpler tone appropriate to this season. The vestment color is called Lenten Array. This is an unbleached linen. The concept of Lenten Array is the general negation of color to reflect the penitential character of Lent. The word “Alleluia” is not used in the words of the liturgy or hymns.

**OBSERVING LENT:** The custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things and by taking on others. Both can serve to mark the season as a holy time of preparation. Some examples of things people give up for Lent include sweets, meat for all or some meals, and alcohol. In most cases, giving up something for Lent can be made more meaningful by using the money or time for another purpose. For example, meal times on fast days could be spent in prayer. Another example is that if you give up meat during Lent, the extra money that would go to meat dishes can be donated to help someone in need of food. Some things added during Lent are daily Bible reading, fasting on Fridays, times of prayer, taking a course of study related in some way to spirituality / prayer. Note that the season of Lent is forty days plus the six Sundays. This is because Sundays are celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection and are always an appropriate day to lessen the restrictions of Lent. So if you have, for example, given up chocolate for Lent, you could indulge in a weekly candy bar on Sunday. Sundays are “in” Lent but not “of” Lent. Lent is also an especially appropriate time for the sacrament of confession. While confession to a priest is not required to receive God’s forgiveness, it can be a meaningful rite of reconciliation to God. Simply contact a Clergy Member or the Church Office to arrange this.

- **ASH WEDNESDAY TELE-SERVICES ON FEBRUARY 17, 10AM & 7PM:** Mother Petrina Pyatt will officiate two tele-services. As in years past, the 10am will be in lieu of the weekly Healing Prayer Service. A service bulletin will be emailed prior to the service date. A recording of the 7pm service will be posted on the Website and Facebook page. 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#
- **LENT MADNESS:** If you’re looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn’t be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ! For the eleventh year running, Lent Madness is gearing up for the competition in which thirty-two saints do battle to win the coveted “Golden Halo”. And here’s how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org) (or you can sign up to receive daily emails) about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of saintly 16; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. A large bracket will keep track of the winners for each weekday during Lent. Be sure to vote for your favorites!

- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS, TUESDAYS AT 7PM**

These are depictions for the 14 incidents in the Gospel accounts of Jesus' death from Pilates' house to being placed in the tomb and rising from the dead. Each "station" will have a brief reading, response and collect. This is offered by Christ Church every Tuesday in Lent, Feb. 23 – March 30. A bulletin will be emailed prior to the start date. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86268913186> pwd=YmZXQXFUDU3g3aVhMWGxJWkVoZDdOdz09

Or Dial: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 862 6891 3186

Passcode: 186184

- **CHRIST CHURCH LENT PROGRAM, WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15PM**

As has been our tradition, we will again be offering a Lent Program this year. However, this year's program will be different since it was conceived, designed, and will be led by very familiar voices at our church. The program is called "Pathways to the Divine". Each week, an individual from the parish will be leading a session exploring a practice that you can use to help develop your relationship with God.

The program will be held on five consecutive Wednesday evenings starting at 6:15PM on February 24th.

Each session will be held on Zoom. Please join your parish family as we come together as a community for this Lenten journey. Deacon Ted will lead the first session titled, "Pathways to the Divine: Guided Meditation". Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83466643255>?pwd=MmxGQ2dlWkNIRy9EcTc3dTJoWnNzZz09

Or Dial: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 834 6664 3255

Passcode: 046516

- **2021 LENTEN MEDITATIONS** (*provided by Episcopal Relief & Development*) "You are invited to meditate on these reflections daily and to engage the "Four Steps of Lament," by resting, reflecting, repenting and ultimately being restored to God and to one another. Many of the authors share deeply personal and painful experiences related to a variety of issues including disease, violence, racial injustice and poverty." The booklet is completely virtual this year. You can view the English and Spanish version of the booklet here [www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/) as well as subscribe to receive the meditations daily in your email inbox.

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**CHURCH SCHOOL** for grades Pre-K thru 6th, meet virtually weekly on Sundays at 10:30am. If you are interested in your child participating, please email Church School Coordinator, Shanon Berry at [smchant@yahoo.com](mailto:smchant@yahoo.com) for a link to join.

**YOUTH GROUP:** Calling all Christ Church Youth!! (7th grade to 12th grade) invite a friend !

Join us for Zoom youth group meetings 2x per month! We will share together, plan some future service projects and end with Compline from the Book Of Common Prayer. **The next meeting is February 21 @ 5 pm.** Use this link (copy/paste) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86238659000>?pwd=OUVuN1pWL2M2R0hTcFR3cW9zdGNBZz09 Meeting ID: 862 3865 9000 and Passcode: 622401 to join us!

**WEEKLY FINANCES:** During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending February 5, 2021, we received \$5,117 in pledges.

**2021 PLEDGES & OFFERING ENVELOPES:** To date, we have received 92 pledges for 2021, totaling \$194,600.84. Thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge cards. Offering envelopes for those of you who requested them on your pledge cards are still available for pickup.

The **2021 CHRIST CHURCH PARISH DIRECTORY** which includes contact information for all active parishioners, is available to Christ Church parishioners either electronically or in hard copy, upon request.

**UPDATE FROM DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE:** If you were not able to attend the virtual Annual Meeting on January 24th, then you did not hear the exciting news! The Vestry, with the approval of the Bishop, have called a New Rector! The Letter of Agreement is in the works. When that is officially completed, we will be able to provide more details of who and when! We thank the Discernment Committee members for their many hours of dedication over the past two years. Let us continue to pray for this exciting new chapter at 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](mailto: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).

**THE FOOD PANTRY** (updated 2/9/20) is going strong and remains open to anyone in need every Tuesday from 9:30am - 12pm (weather permitting). The following are items asked for that we are currently out of now: **Pancake Mix — Sugar — Vegetable Oil — Mustard — Turkey Gravy — Canned Mushrooms — Canned Corn — Cream of Chicken Soup — Chicken Broth — Soups w/ Beef — Egg Noodles — Beef Ravioli.**

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!

The Discipleship Team at Christ Church offers **BIBLE STUDY, FOLLOWED BY COMPLINE**, every other Saturday (2/13) at 7:00pm on Zoom. This is the same group that has brought you “Conversation and Compline” on alternate Saturdays. Also, **DURING LENT**, starting Feb. 20 at 7pm, the Discipleship team invites you to join with other parishioners, as we participate in a Lenten program called “Come, Pray.” led by the brothers of Society of St John the Evangelist community in Cambridge MA. The series is centered on a weekly 20-minute video and invites participants to explore and experience diverse prayer practices. We anticipate opportunity to share our thoughts on the video and end by 8pm with Compline, as we have been doing. All are welcome. **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](mailto:gailkeatingmiller@gmail.com) or 732 814-8357.

**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!

**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 has formed 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.

**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 February 11, the COVID-19 Fund stands at:**

**Contributions: \$28,380.50 ; Disbursements: \$16,743.14**

**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 donations received in the month of February 2021 is \$67 (1 birthday)!