

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY ♦ FEBRUARY 7, 2021 ♦ 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

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: Pam Quatse

INTERCESSOR: Suzanne Schleck

PRELUDE

Musette from Alcina

George F. Handel

OPENING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

Hymnal 401, vs. 1,2,4,5

1. *The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love;
the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed:
we bow and bless the sacred Name for ever blest.*
2. *He by himself hath sworn: we on his oath depend,
we shall, on eaglewings upborne, to heaven ascend:
we shall behold his face, we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace for evermore.*
4. *The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy," cry, "Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be:
eternal Father, great I AM, we worship thee."*
5. *The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" they ever cry;
hail, Abraham's Lord divine! With heaven our songs we raise;
all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.*

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. Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 40:21-31

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The following is read by the Intercessor; said by all

PSALM 147:1-12, 21C

- 1 Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God!
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse;
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 21 Hallelujah!

The lesson is read by the Lector.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

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

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Priest When Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Please be seated.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Ryan Paetzold

HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Hymnal 602

Refrain:

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.*

*1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)*

*2. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are nearby and far away. (Refrain)*

*3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love.
All are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)*

*4. Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves;
this is the way we should live with you. (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 Angelo Fanelli’s 90th birthday, 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 Polly Moore, 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 Richard Start, 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.

THE BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people

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 Priest dismisses the people

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

POSTLUDE

Jubilation

Jason D. Payne

Jason D. 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 Poms 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 worshiping virtually with Christ Church this morning.”



SOUPERBOWL OF CARING: According to Fox Sports, SuperBowl Sunday is the second largest day for food consummation in the United States (Thanksgiving is first). According to ABC, Americans will consume somewhere around 11.2 million pounds of potato chips, 8.2 million pounds of tortilla chips, 3.8 million pounds of popcorn, 3 million pounds of nuts and 1 billion chicken wings on game day. That's a lot of food and a lot of money being spent for it. Recognizing how much Americans spend on snack food for the big game, Christ Church will participate in a project called **SOUPERBOWL OF CARING**. This is a national effort to “tackle hunger”. Please consider a monetary donation to the Christ Church Food Pantry and Café through this project. Your donations will help Christ Church continue to provide food and toiletries to parishioners and neighbors in need. Please donate here: <https://map.tacklehunger.org/donate?site=rec4Jk3MMkItPuFON> (copy/paste) And if that also gives trouble, please use this link <https://map.tacklehunger.org/> and then select "Christ Episcopal Church, Toms River, NJ".

ANNUAL BLESSING OF COUPLES & RENEWAL OF VOWS will be included in the tele-service next Sunday February 14. This is an opportunity for renewal of Wedding, Holy Union and Covenant Vows. No registration is required.

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 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.

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. Music will be included at the 7pm service only. 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 OPPORTUNITIES ... complete list coming soon!

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 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 7 @ 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!

DEACON TED'S QUOTE OF THE WEEK: On page 833 of the Book of Common Prayer, there is a well known prayer attributed to St. Francis. However, here is one that is not as well known but just as powerful: Heavenly Father, help us to be faithful to you. Give us the strength to fulfill the demand of the Gospel to forgive and to understand others. May broken families find healing and unity through respect, consideration and warmth. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen

WEEKLY FINANCES: During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending January 29, 2021, we received \$2,367 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. We have 14 boxes waiting!

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).

THE FOOD PANTRY (updated 1/26/20) is going strong and remains open to anyone in need every Tuesday from 9:30am - 12pm. The following are items asked for that we are currently out of now: **Honey Bunches of Oats — Sardines — Mustard — Turkey Gravy — Canned Mushrooms — Canned Corn — Cream of Chicken Soup — Chicken Broth — 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!

CONVERSATION & COMPLINE continues every other Saturday (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 (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.

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 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!

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.

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.

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 January 21, the COVID-19 Fund stands at:
Contributions: \$26,980.50 ; 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)!**

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!

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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