

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY ♦ FEBRUARY 28, 2021 ♦ 9:45 AM



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

www.christchurchtomsriver.org

HOW TO LISTEN IN TO THE LIVE TELE-SERVICE

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WELCOME! AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FROM YOUR HOME FOR TODAY'S SERVICE!

WHILE WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PHYSICALLY COME TOGETHER TODAY FOR WORSHIP, WE APPRECIATE YOUR SPIRITUAL PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THIS SERVICE.

WE THEREFORE INVITE YOU TO REPLICATE MANY OF THE SAME PRACTICES THAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY DO IN A SUNDAY WORSHIP. FOR EXAMPLE, WE INVITE YOU TO SPEND SOME TIME IN QUIET PRAYER TO PLACE YOURSELF BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS.

DURING THE SERVICE, WE INVITE YOU TO PERFORM THE SAME GESTURES THAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY DO IN CHURCH (SIGN OF THE CROSS, BOWING, ETC.).

ALSO, IN THOSE PLACES IN THE SERVICE WHERE THE PEOPLE WOULD NORMALLY SAY A PRAYER (SUCH AS, THE COLLECT OF WELCOMING) OR RESPONSE (SUCH AS, "AND ALSO WITH YOU"), PLEASE SAY IT ALOUD.

YOUR PHONE IS MUTED BUT OUR VOICES WILL RISE TOGETHER IN AFFIRMING OUR FAITH. THANK YOU.

TODAY'S MINISTERS

CALL HOST: Joanne Gwin

PRIEST: The Rev. Allen Wakabayashi

DEACON: The Rev. Ted Foley

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Polly Moore

ORGAN/PIANO: Andrew Van Buskirk

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

LECTOR: Pam Quatse

INTERCESSOR: Cathy O'Neill

PRELUDE

It Is Well with My Soul

Joel Raney

Joel Raney, *piano*

OPENING HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Lift Every Voice & Sing 88

1. *My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine;
now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine.*

2. *May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.*

3. *While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.*

4. *When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll,
blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.*

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Priest Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People His mercy endures for ever.

The people kneeling as able.

THE DECALOGUE

Deacon Hear the commandments of God to God's people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon Honor your father and your mother.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon You shall not commit murder.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon You shall not commit adultery.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon You shall not steal.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon You shall not be a false witness.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Priest Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

The people kneel, as able.

THE CONFESSION

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.

Priest and People say the following

LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

Priest Lord, have mercy.

People *Christ, have mercy.*

Priest Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Priest Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, 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

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The following is read by the Deacon; said by all

PSALM 22:22-30

- 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

The lesson is read by the Lector.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

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

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Deacon Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Please be seated.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Allen Wakabayashi

HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

Wonder, Love & Praise 757

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

*Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

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 Lent* —

Deacon Let us pray for the church and the world.

Leader With all of our hearts and with all of our minds, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

Almighty God, whose glory is always to have mercy, be gracious to all of us who have gone astray. Forgive us and restore us into the way of your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader Gracious God, we pray for all your people everywhere, that they may know and experience your mercy and love. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We pray for peace and goodwill among all nations. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We ask your mercy for all who are hungry, thirsty, homeless, and victims of disaster. Help us to partner with them in meaningful and life-giving ways, that they will be empowered, nourished, and renewed. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We give you thanks, Almighty God, for the many blessings in our lives, for those blessings we now name.....(wait)..... And for all blessings. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We pray 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 Marge Harney, Angelo Fanelli, Will, Braylon, for those we name at this time..... Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We pray for all who have died in the hope of rising again, for those who died serving our country, for Thomas, Tom Kelaher, and those we name at this time..... Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

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.

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 pg. 11 of this bulletin for additional information and current news.

THE BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people

CLOSING HYMN

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me

Hymnal 675

- 1. "Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me."*
- 2. Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.*
- 3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish heart be still;
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calv'ry's hill.*
- 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and calmly ev'ry danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.*

THE DISMISSAL

The Priest dismisses the people

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Organ Postlude in G Minor

E. L. Ashford

E. L. Ashford, *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."



Please support the **YOUTH GROUP'S OUTREACH PROJECT** to help Just Believe (formally Code Blue), a homeless shelter that operates in Toms River. The Youth Group will be collecting snacks (individually wrapped cookies, chips, crackers, bottles of water, twinkies, hohos, yodels, etc.) that will be made into "snack packs" by the Youth Group members. \$5.00 Wawa or Dunkin Donut gift cards would also be greatly appreciated. A collection box will be available outside the Church doors (near wooden bench), Monday through Thursday during the hours of 9am-12 pm to drop off donations starting March 1-18th. Thank you for your support.

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 19, 2021, we received \$3,469 in pledges.

DEACON TED'S QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "The sheer gratuity of God's love invites every human being to participate in Christ's experience of *Abba*, the God who is love." (Thomas Keating, *Manifesting God*)

THE FOOD PANTRY (updated 2/23/20) 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 (***urgent need**): **Peanut Butter * — Grape Jelly * — Mustard * — Cream of Chicken Soup * — Vegetable Oil * — Sugar * — Flour * — Lucky Charms — Canned Beef Ravioli — Protein Drinks — Cream of Mushroom Soup — Crackers — Manwich/Sloppy Joe Sauce.** 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!

***** LENT OPPORTUNITIES *****

- **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 (now through March 30). A bulletin was emailed to all on 2/22 (hard copies can also be found at the Church) Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86268913186> pwd=YmZXQXFDU3g3aVhMWGxJWkVoZDdOdz09

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 through March 24th. Each session will be held on Zoom. Please join your parish family as we come together as a community for this Lenten journey. Dale Chant will lead this week's session titled, "Pathways to the Divine: The Story Behind the Glass".

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

Or Dial: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 834 6664 3255

Passcode: 046516

- **CONFESSION**

"All may. Some should. None must." Please request to speak with a Clergy Member as desired.

Voicemail: 732-349-5506 Email: ChristChurch@ChristChurchTomsRiver.org

- **"COME & PRAY" ON SATURDAYS, 7PM**

The Discipleship Team of Christ Church invites you to participate in Lenten study "Come, Pray" led by the brothers of Society of St. John the Evangelist community in Cambridge, MA. The series invites you to explore and experience diverse prayer practices. The dates are Saturdays, Feb 20 — March 27.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87001507163>

Or Dial: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 87001507163

Passcode: 123963

- **DIOCESAN LENTEN WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Rolling Back the Stone: Living into the Paschal Mystery

Saturday March 13th, 9am-12:30pm on Zoom.

Register at <http://bit.ly/ECWLent2021>

Join us for a time of spiritual refreshment and insight as we expand our understanding of Christ and use that expanded understanding to plumb the depths of the Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Mystery ... the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ ... is one of the central mysteries of Christianity AND God's Sacred Pattern for all creation. We will use a format of spiritual teaching and individual and shared reflection. Guided by The Reverend Victoria Pretti

- **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/ as well as subscribe to receive the meditations daily in your email inbox.

- **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 (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!

A MESSAGE FROM DEACON TED: We have been saying the Prayer in Time of Pandemic for almost a year. Much has changed during that year and, as a country, we seem to be entering a new phase of this difficult time. I think that it may be time to update our communal prayer to reflect these changes - and - I would like to invite everyone to help write this prayer together.

Please let me know if there is a petition you would like to include in this prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude, a prayer for children or parents, or a prayer for friends or family members, etc. In the end, I hope to have one prayer that we can say together as a community. We will likely not be able to mention specific names however, maybe we can leave room for, "those we now name...."

If you would like to contribute to this prayer, please email Deacon Ted (see directory). You can also email or leave a voicemail at the church office and Nicole will make sure it finds its way to me.

And one more thing - Thank you all for your prayers for Kathy and me as we traveled back from Oregon. Peace,
Deacon Ted

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 Youth Group Meeting is March 7 at 5pm.** Use this link (copy/paste) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86238659000?pwd=OUVuN1pWL2M2R0hTcFR3cW9zdGNBZz09> Meeting ID: 862 3865 9000 and Passcode: 622401 to join us!

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

*** 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#

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!

2021 PLEDGES & OFFERING ENVELOPES: To date, we have received 95 pledges for 2021, totaling \$202,000.84. 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. (If you would be able to deliver envelope boxes to those who cannot make it to the church, please let me know.— Kathy Schott)

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.

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!

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 25, the COVID-19 Fund stands at: Contributions: \$26,980.50 ; Disbursements: \$17,743.14**

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 \$157 (2 birthdays)!**

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
415 Washington Street Toms River, New Jersey 08753
www.ChristChurchTomsRiver.org
732-349-5506**