

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY ♦ MARCH 7, 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. Ryan Paetzold

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: Jeff Genthe

INTERCESSOR: Suzanne Schleck

PRELUDE

My Song is Love Unknown

John Ireland

OPENING HYMN

Praise to the living God

Hymnal 372, vs. 1,3,4

*Praise to the living God! All praised be His name,
Who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same!
The one eternal God ere aught that now appears:
The First, the Last, beyond all thought His timeless years!*

*His Spirit floweth free, high surging where it will:
In prophet's word He spoke of old, He speaketh still.
Established is His law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, on land.*

*Eternal life hath He implanted in the soul;
His love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praised be His name,
Who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.*

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Priest Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins
People His mercy endures for ever.

The "people" is read by the Intercessor

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
People Have mercy upon us.

Deacon O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
People Have mercy upon us.

Deacon O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,
People Have mercy upon us.

Deacon O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,
People Have mercy upon us.

Deacon Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever.
People Spare us, good Lord.

Deacon From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,
People Good Lord, deliver us.

Deacon From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,
People Good Lord, deliver us.

Deacon From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
People *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Deacon From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,
People *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Deacon From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,
People *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Deacon From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,
People *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Deacon By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,
People *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Deacon By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,
People *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Deacon In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,
People *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Deacon We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; especially for Bill & Ann Shea, Sandy, Will, Braylon, and all those we now name and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon For all those who have died, especially those we now name..... that it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,
People *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Deacon Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.
People *Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.*

Deacon O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People *Have mercy upon us.*

Deacon O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People *Have mercy upon us.*

Deacon O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People *Grant us thy peace.*

Deacon O Christ, hear us.
People *O Christ, hear us.*

Deacon Lord, have mercy upon us.
People *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Deacon Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*

Priest Let us pray. Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Exodus 20:1-17

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

God spoke all these words to Moses on Mount Sinai: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The following is read by the Deacon; said by all

PSALM 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends?
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

The lesson is read by the Lector.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Deacon The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Please be seated.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Ryan Paetzold

HYMN

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Hymnal 685

- 1. Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood from thy wounded side that flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.*
- 2. Should my tears for ever flow, should my zeal no languor know,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone;
in my hand no price I bring, simply to thy cross I cling.*
- 3. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I rise to worlds unknown and behold thee on thy throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.*

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

Please listen to the following prayer read by the Deacon

PANDEMIC PRAYER FOR HOPE AND HEALING

O God, let our cry come to you, our refuge from generation to generation. Throughout this pandemic, help us to remember your mighty deeds and great love for us.

We confess at the times we are tired, angry, frustrated, and depressed. But your soothing ways are always near. We may even question our faith, but your faithfulness never ceases. As your peace and love surround us, heighten our awareness of your presence, O Lord, in this time of isolation.

O God, we implore you, be with all who are sick from the virus; be with their friends, families and caregivers. Comfort us in this time of loneliness and fear that those both near and far may know your protection and peace.

O God, shield all essential workers whose job or vocation exposes them to the virus. We ask a special measure of strength, stamina, perseverance and protection on these intrepid warriors who struggle daily to tend those in their care.

O God, protect the poor and most vulnerable, especially those with underlying health conditions who lack reliable medical care and who suffer from food insecurity.

O God, be with all who have died during this pandemic, may they may rest in your eternal peace. Be with their families in their grief and isolation. Father, we miss the familiar liturgies of the church; generously shed your peace on us in the absence of this comfort.

We thank you Lord, for the quiet time of the pandemic, which has afforded us the opportunity to grow closer to you and to appreciate the value of family and friends. Help us to be mindful of these blessings. We thank you for the hope science has provided in the form of vaccines. We ask your guidance in their production and distribution to protect us here and around the world.

Unite us as your people, O Lord, as we show love and concern for one another. And we pray that soon we can safely gather again in person to praise and worship you. All this we ask in your most holy name, Jesus. Amen.

The above prayer was written by Patti Russo and Deacon Ted who thank the parishioners of Christ Church for their contributions.

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. 12 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

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Glory Be to Jesus

Friedrich Filitz



PARISH NEWS

(Titles in Red indicate a New or Updated Item)

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



SINCE WE WILL SAY THE GREAT LITANY THIS SUNDAY we will not be doing the Prayers of the People, the Confession, or the Agnus Dei since they are all included in The Great Litany.

PALM SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL EGG HUNT & CRAFT! On March 28th at 11am children are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Sunday Craft event, all outdoors on the grounds and under the Pavilion at church! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Shanon at smchant@yahoo.com or the Church Office 732-349-5506 (for headcount purposes).

If any parishioner is able and willing to donate a bag (or 2!) of individually wrapped candy to help stuff the eggs, it is greatly appreciated. You may leave at the Church Office or outside the doors (please label bag "Egg Hunt". Any questions please contact Shanon. Thank you!

EASTER GIVING TREE: As many of you know, each year during the month leading up to Easter, Christ Church hopes to collect local store (Shop Rite, Stop n Shop, Walmart, Target, Wawa, Quick Chek) gift cards so we may help families in need of food and gas during the season that approach the church.

If you are able to provide any dollar amount gift card, please mail or drop off to Christ Church. If you are currently not shopping at stores for health safety and still would like to contribute, checks payable to Christ Church with "Giving Tree" in the Memo are gladly appreciated. We "thank you" for your generosity.

THE FOOD PANTRY (updated 3/2/20) 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 **Protein Drinks — Juice — Juice Boxes — Sm. Ground Coffee — Cookies — Pancake Mix — Crackers — Manwich — Rice — Canned Peas — Dried Pinto Beans**. If you would like to donate, please leave items on the table marked 'Donations' outside the lower door during Food Pantry open hours. Any questions, please text or leave a message for Claire at (732) 600-5709. Thank you! Please share and encourage any individual or Family in desperate need of food to visit us. **WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!** If you are able to help 1,2 (or more) Tuesday mornings per month, please also contact Claire. She is happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you!

WEEKLY FINANCES: During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending February 26, 2021, we received \$2,952 in pledges.

DEACON TED'S QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8,9)

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!

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 through March 18th. Thank you for your support!

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

- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS, WEEKLY ON 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, WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15PM**

This year's program, "Pathways to the Divine", is conceived, designed, and led by very familiar voices at our church. 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.

Claire Koerner will lead this week's session on March 10th titled, "Pathways to the Divine: Praying in Nature". Each session will be held on Zoom. Please join your parish family as we come together as a community for this Lenten journey.

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!
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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).

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 March 4, the COVID-19 Fund stands at: Contributions: \$28,530.50 ; 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)!

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.

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)

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