Dear friends in Christ,

Now that we have been worshipping online for several weeks, perhaps you have questions about how to make the most of the experience.

Of course, there is a distinction between a virtual gathering (impaired to some degree) and a physical gathering, but remember that virtual attendance does constitute an assembly of the baptized. We are not watching church, we are being The Church.
So here are some practical suggestions to make the most of online worship.

1. Set aside a specific time and space to engage in the liturgy.
2. Make sure to remove distractions (electronic devices, television etc.)
3. Light a candle or candles as a reminder that for the next hour you are inhabiting a sacred space.
4. Remove food and beverages from the area.
5. Take a quiet moment to prepare yourself. Try to be centered and calm.
6. Read over the lessons for the day so that you have time to think about them as the word is proclaimed in the context of the Eucharist.
7. Look at the musical selections. Often they are familiar and you may find them in the hymnal or the text may be printed in the bulletin. Take a moment to read the words that would accompany the music you will hear.
8. Check out the parts of the liturgy in boldface type. These are your responses. Say them audibly in the context of the service.
9. Above all, remember that your participation is important and that you are mystically united with the priest and every other person who takes part (at home or in the church building) in this liturgical offering.

I hope you find these suggestions useful and I look forward to seeing you online and in person!

In Christ our hope,

Fr. Keene

FROM THE VESTRY

While overall parish pledging is down, we appreciate all those people who have continued to send in their offering. If your financial situation changes during these difficult times please let the office know and remember we are here to help if the need arises.

Please see the Bishop's latest update regarding church openings and current state guidelines.

We will be providing material in the church containing information connecting people to our virtual services.

Since public liturgies have been suspended and online liturgies are the norm, our regular altar guild work has been covered by Camille Foster and we would like to extend a special thanks to her.

Also, you may notice that we continue to have beautiful floral arrangements at the altar even though we are not able to gather in church. We give a hearty thanks to the members of the Flower Guild for keeping up this ministry and we are grateful that for the beauty they provide.

MUSIC AND LITURGY NOTES
LITURGY AND MUSIC NOTES

The Calendar of the Church Year (see page 15 in the Book of Common Prayer) sets forth seven Principal Feasts to be observed. One of them (along with Christmas and Easter) is the Feast of the Ascension, which always takes place on a Thursday, exactly 40 days after Easter Day. It is Immanuel’s custom to celebrate the Ascension with a sung Eucharist, something that regrettably was not possible this year in our current circumstances. But the Feast of the Ascension doesn’t pass without notice, for its themes, prayers, and biblical descriptions continue through this Sunday, also called “The Sunday after Ascension Day.”

Sunday’s first reading from the book of Acts recounts Jesus’s final words to his disciples before he is taken up into heaven, when he tells them, “You shall be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Jesus’s admonition is echoed in the words of Isaiah, “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace;” and the graceful setting of that text from Handel’s Messiah will be sung at the time of the Offertory.

The Gospel reading from John interprets the meaning and significance of the Ascension in theological terms, in Jesus’s prayer shortly before his death: “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.” The spirit of John’s Gospel permeates two unusual and vivid organ voluntaries that frame Sunday’s Eucharist. They are by the 20th century French composer Olivier Messiaen, from his suite L’Ascension (“The Ascension”); and, typical of Messiaen, both have lengthy and evocative titles, paired with citations from Scripture. The opening voluntary, “Prayer of Christ ascending to his Father,” is marked “extremely slow,” and is intended to create a sense of timelessness through the sustained, gradually rising harmonies. The concluding voluntary, “Outburst of joy from a soul before the glory of Christ, which is its own glory,” is a kaleidoscopic toccata in the French tradition of improvisation, with a profusion of brilliant musical gestures in exuberant response to Christ’s ascension. Messiaen was a profoundly influential figure in 20th century music both as composer and teacher. Taking Debussy’s and Ravel’s rich harmonies and exotic concepts as a point of departure, Messiaen evolved a uniquely personal musical language that drew inspiration from many sources—birdsong, Hindu rhythms, and plainsong—all serving to express his deeply mystical Catholic faith.

- Jack Burnam

A few more recordings by our organist Jack Burnam and the Immanuel Choir have been added to our Soundcloud Channel, including Couperin - Plein jeu.

As of this week there is a new ‘Sounds of Immanuel’ tab under the Music menu on the website, where music from Immanuel can be played directly. This page is in the process of being updated, but check back each week for more organ and choir music that you can share with your friends and family. Have any requests? Send us an email!

RECTOR'S VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

There may be a short waiting time before you are able to enter the Virtual Office, but please stay online in the waiting room. If you have any problems, or need to arrange a longer meeting with Fr. Keene, please email immanuelonthegreen@comcast.net.

TUESDAY - 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87871520134?pwd=MStTOVdsSFiNOaGlkMDFOdktZmdpYz09

Meeting ID: 878 7152 0134
Password: 330952
One tap mobile
Immanuel will continue with Virtual Eucharist services **each Sunday at 11:30am**, and we hope you will continue to join us! Services will be online on our website and Facebook page, with links to a downloadable bulletin.

Compline will be held over Zoom on Sunday at 7pm.
Virtual Compline

Sunday Evening Compline continues online using Zoom. Please log on as early as 6:45 to say hello to everyone, then mute yourself at 7 p.m. in order to say the responses and prayers. Trust that you are still praying with others at this time; it's just a problem with audio lag that prevents us from saying them with everyone's audio enabled. Here is the link to join Compline:
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/6063430905?pwd=RnFsUEd3M3pmd3NyNmJmSEVNdTZHQl09
Meeting ID: 606 343 0905
Password: 895101
You can download the accompanying bulletin [here].

Here are a few resources you might find helpful:
- Bishop Brown will celebrate a weekly Mass in the St. Albans Center, which will be live-streamed at 11 am every Sunday on the [Diocesan Facebook page].
- [State of Delaware]
- [Episcopal Relief & Development – Faith-Based Response to Epidemics]
- [CDC Information on Coronavirus]
- [Washington State Department of Health on Coronavirus]
- [Washington Post – How to Prepare for the Coronavirus in the US]
- [CDC Pandemic Guidelines]

PARISH HAPPENINGS
Tommy Kinservik graduated from Newark Charter School on May 16. He will be attending Yale, possibly majoring in History.

Congratulations Tommy from all of us at Immanuel!

The office will be functioning remotely during the week, please email immanuelonthegreen@comcast.net with any needs.
Available Flower Memorial Dates

Memorials can be a Sunday closest to a set date (such as a birthday, anniversary, or passing), or a specific Sunday in the month (such as the 1st Sunday in October), and can be recurring or one-time happenings. Please contact the office on (302)328-2413, or Mark on (302)654-2562 or at mbac56@aol.com, if you would like to talk about an offering.

These Sundays are available for dedicated flower offerings:

2020
- May 31
- June 21
- June 28
- August 13

May Birthdays
- Week 2 - Tommy Kinservik, Amanda O'Conner, Martin Taylor, Sally Hatton, Sarah Garrison
- Week 4 - Steve Boone, Patsy Proud, Joyce Wells, Gavin William Clarke

May Anniversaries
- Week 2 - Barbara and Andrew Vellrath, Glenn Rill and Suzanne Souder
- Week 3 - Ellen and Henry Behringer, Dan and Cynthia Wolcott, Bob and Doe Irwin
- Week 4 - Geri Krolin-Taylor and Martin Taylor, Don and Kerstin Almquist
- Week 5 - Alexa and Donald Maloney

STAY CONNECTED

The FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) struggle is real. If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram, for memes like this one:
Stay up to date on all the latest happenings by visiting our website.

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