The Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen
Sunday, September 20, 2020
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 20

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."
Psalm 145:4

To seek and serve Christ through service to others.
To manage responsibly the financial resources of our parish as loving and caring stewards.
To welcome and involve all persons into our parish family valuing both diversity and unity.
To enable nurture and learning in the Episcopal heritage of Scripture, tradition and reason.
To foster a community of faith for worship, spiritual growth, ministry and mission.

Please remember a reverent silence and respect for those who wish to pray before mass.
Before Mass, we speak to God. During Mass, we listen to God. After Mass, we listen and speak to each other.

The Rev. Rebecca Myers - Rector
Rebecca is available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Her sabbath days will typically be Monday and Friday. You can reach her via email at nativityrector87@gmail.com or by phone 717-433-1556.

Michele Neibert - Parish Administrator

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen
159 South Second Street, Newport, PA 17074

Office: 717-567-6514  E-mail: chnatss@pa.net

www.nativityandststephen.diocpa.org
We will hold Sunday services outdoors at Nativity through September 27, if weather permits. These plans are subject to change. Services online or by phone using the Zoom platform will always be available. As we begin to meet in person, even for outdoor services, precautions must be taken to keep everyone healthy and safe.

We will keep a weekly list of attendees. If you become symptomatic after attending a service and/or test positive for COVID-19, please notify the church office immediately. 717-567-6514 or chnatss@pa.net

If you have any of these symptoms, please stay at home and contact your health care provider.

*Keep your distance from others. Stay at least six feet away from people outside your household as much as possible.

*Wash your hands often. Anytime you come in contact with a surface outside your home, scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds, rinse and then dry your hands with a clean towel.

*Avoid touching your face. The virus primarily spreads when contaminated hands touch our nose or mouth or eyes. Try to keep your hands away from your face unless you have just recently washed them.

*Wear a mask outside your home. A mask protects others from any potential infection from you. The more people who wear masks, the more we all stay safer.

To Connect to services/events via Zoom

Join Sunday morning Zoom Meeting. Service begins at 9:30am and you can join by 9:00am.
Online: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85722557280](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85722557280)  Meeting ID: 857 2255 7280  PW: 5676514
or Call In: +1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 857 2255 7280

Centering Prayer and Taize every Tuesday at 4:30pm.
Online: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83566632917](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83566632917)
Meeting ID: 835 6663 2917
Password: 022609
or Call In +1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 835 6663 2917 PW: 022609

What you can do help stop the spread of Covid-19.

Experts’ understanding of how the Covid-19 works is growing. It seems that there are four factors that most likely play a role: how close you get to an infected person; how long you are near that person; whether that person expels viral droplets on or near you; and how much you touch your face afterwards.

You can help reduce your risk and do your part to protect others by following some basic steps:
**Wednesday Morning Devotions and coffee/tea, 9am**
Join in for short devotions and conversation. Remember to bring your coffee or tea. Online:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85223260016
Meeting ID: 852 2326 0016
Password: 5676514
or Call In: +1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 852 2326 0016+

**Your Body is a Temple, Wednesday, September 23 at 5:30**
Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Cor. 6:19-20

Are you interested in healthy eating and body care? The focus will be support for keeping healthy - eating well, getting exercise - and just connecting with others. We will share tips, recipes, experience, and resources. We know not everyone can make it each week, so join when you can. We expect the group will last up to an hour. Online:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82130156249?pwd=dEZaN252S0N3eFh0aDRTTEV4cHlmZz09
Meeting ID: 821 3015 6249 PW: 782337
or Call In: +1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 821 3015 6249 Password: 782337

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Good Stewards**
Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. We praise you for all your gifts to us, and we thank you for your generosity. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Help us to be grateful and responsible. You have called us to follow your son, Jesus, without counting the cost. Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples. We commit ourselves to being good stewards. Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase. Help us to make stewardship a way of life. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN

**Season of Creation 2020 Meditation**
Liberating, life-giving God, help us to know that we and the world you have created are truly the work of your hands. Give us knowledge and wisdom to care for your handiwork now and for future generations. Amen.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant and People: 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. Amen.

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.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day
Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

People: Amen

The Lessons
Lector: A Reading from Jonah 3:10-4:11
When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Psalm
Psalm 145:1-8
1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *and bless your Name for ever and ever.
2 Every day will I bless you *and praise your Name for ever and ever.
3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *there is no end to his greatness.
4 One generation shall praise your works to another *and shall declare your power.
5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *and all your marvelous works.
6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *and I will tell of your greatness.
7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *slow to anger and of great kindness.

Lector: A Reading from Philippians 1:21-30
To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful
labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well--since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.


People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

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
The Prayers of the People
Lord, have mercy.

Confession of Sin
Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

The Peace (All stand.)
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer C
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.
Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People: Glory to you for ever and ever.
Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People: By your will they were created and have their being.
Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.
Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.
Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Consecration

Celebrant: On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Celebrant and People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Celebrant and People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord’s Prayer (See Spanish Insert)

People and Celebrant:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Lamb of God

People and Celebrant:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

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 presider invites the following prayer to be said by all.

Celebrant and People: My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. 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.

Celebrant: The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. 
Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says: 
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal 
Celebrant will choose one of these: 
*Let us go forth in the name of Christ. 
*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. 
*Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. 
*Let us bless the Lord. 

People: Thanks be to God.

Service Participants 
Lector: Susan Rice 
Prayers of the People: Bill Rohm 
Acolyte & Eucharistic Minister: Tootser Davis 
Organist: Andrea Jezewski

Announcements 
Today we observe Latinx History Month. 

Prayerfully consider what you will pledge to contribute to the ministry of The Church of the Nativity and St. Stephen for 2021. 
All pledges should be turned in by October 4. 

Vestry Meeting, Wednesday, September 23, 1pm. 
Rebecca can bring communion to you. 
Please be in touch with her at 717-567-6514 or 717-433-1556 and she can arrange a time and talk how to do this safely. 

Newport Anti-Racism League, Oct. 1, 6pm 
Movie Night in the yard, Nativity, Oct. 3, 7pm

Parlor People We will meet in person in the yard and via Zoom through November 1 and discuss the topics in the Democracy Values & the 2020 Election: A Reflection Guide for Faith Communities. Today Kay Cramer leads the discussion on Protecting God’s Creation: Climate Justice for our Children and World. Next week - Loving our Immigrant Neighbors, led by Rebecca. 

Please include the following in your daily prayers. Wendy, Megan, David, Margo, Raymond, Alicia, Dana, Tootser, Kate, Sue, Mike, Colton, Ben, Serena, Scott, Marcia, Jennifer, Brenda, Sean, Amanda, David, Meeta, Jim, Danielle, Anthony, Lois, Dan, the Van Orden family, Ginger, Van, James, Michelle, Frank, Rhonda, Donna, Erin, Paul, Thomas, Linda, Jake, the Nissly Family, Rich and Lesley. 

Celebrate Seasons of Creation Sept. 1 – Oct. 4 
Your most recent mailing included a booklet on Season of Creation 2020: Renewing, repairing and restoring our commitments to God, to one another and to all of creation.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Thursday, September 24, 10am. Bring your projects and also learn how to knit or crochet. Please also wear a mask.

Newport Farmer’s Market, Noon – 4pm September 27, October 25 & November 22 
Plans continue for a monthly farmer’s market adjacent to our parking lot. There will be up to ten vendors. The market is sponsored by Friends of Newport. 

Perry County Area Agency on Aging Free Wellness Programs. 
Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, Sept. 14 – Nov. 5, Mon. & Thur., 6 – 7pm, In Person or Zoom, Senior Center, New Bloomfield 
Tai Chi for Arthritis, Sept. 14 – Nov. 18, Mon. & Wed., 6:30 – 7:30pm, In Person Only, Messiah Lutheran Church, Elliottsburg 
Tai Chi for Arthritis, Sept. 29 – Nov. 19, Tues. & Thurs., 9am – 10am, In Person or Zoom, Cornerstone Christian Church, Duncannon 
Everyone MUST pre-register @717-582-5128. No Walk-Ins and masks required.