



# THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

June 19, 2016

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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Visit us at: <http://www.saintcs.org>

[Calendar](#)

## Sunday, June 19

- Eucharist, 8 am and 10:15 am
- Bible Study, 9:15

## Monday, June 20

- Yoga, 9 am

## Tuesday, June 21

- Women's Bible Study, 9:30
- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.
- Yoga with Miriam, 6:30 p.m.

## Thursday, June 23

- Eucharist and Bible Study, 7 pm

## Saturday, June 25

- Saturday Service, 4 p.m.

## Sunday, June 26

- Eucharist, 8 am and 10:15
- Bible Study, 9:15
- Stewardship, 11:30.

## Summer hours

Our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, July 3 and goes through Sunday, September 4. This means one service at 9 a.m. We resume our two services of 8 and 10:15 on September 11, which is also Sunday school registration day. Saturday service will continue until July 9 when I go on vacation. They will resume when I return from vacation on August 20. *Miriam*

## Live Without Fear

June 16, 2016 / Rob Hirschfeld

Live without fear, your creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you with a power and a presence that is stronger than death.

These words, adapted from a prayer of the twelfth century abbess St. Clare of Assisi, seem to resonant with many in the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire as they form a kind of preamble to the final blessing of the bishop at the conclusion of the Holy Eucharist. This coming Sunday morning, a week after the horrible news from Orlando was just

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being reported, I will say them again from an altar where we celebrate the Resurrection. I address this prayer as much to myself as I do to the congregations. Even when we know that God's intervention may not protect us from all suffering cause by disease or violence in this life, we all stand in need to be reminded of the indomitable power of God's love, exhibited most supremely in the course of his own brutal and unjust death. Even there on the Cross, the Gospel and the witness of theologians and artists through the ages assure us, even there on the Cross, God is at hand creating a good that is beyond our imagining or vision.



As our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reminded us at his visit just last week, we are members of the Jesus Movement. After the murder in Orlando of 49 LGBTQ persons, brothers and sisters all because they are children of God, we who remain have work to do. After the vigils, the Supplications, and the moments of silence that are taking place this week--all holy and important responses to our national crisis--it's time for us to take action to reclaim the Gospel of Peace.

Recently, our Church published a series of essays by that title: [Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace: Challenging the Epidemic of Gun Violence](#). I am supplying each of our parochial clergy with a copy

as I urge them to use it in the coming year to begin deliberate conversations with our communities about this life and death issue facing our nation. Our own Father Bill Exner, recently retired Rector of St. Matthew's Church in Goffstown, contributed a chapter in this book in which he describes how he engaged in conversation with local gun shops. Such conversations represent real and courageous leadership in these times. They are actions that can come out of the many moments of silence we have all been invited to after such events as Orlando, San Bernardino, Charleston, Sandy Hook...

Bill readily agreed to help us organize and lead holy conversations in our congregations about guns, the Cross, and our Church's response through the Resolutions of General Convention and more locally. I look forward to working with him, a man who knows how to lead healthful, respectful discussions about difficult topics. Without doubt, more actions, guided by the Holy Spirit, will come of these conversations.

Within each of our communities are persons like me. I do not own a gun, having been raised by a veteran who instilled in me a robust fear of weapons. There are members of our Church who own guns, not merely for sport, but to put food on the table. There are also those who are adamant that any new restrictive gun legislation, even involving military assault weapons, will be an unwelcome infringement on their Constitutional rights. I suspect that we have not spoken about these differences, not so much out of courtesy, but out of fear of hearing things that frighten us.

America's relationship with the gun is an issue that engages some of our deepest fears--fears about our society, about personal safety, fears about the security of community in an age of terrorism. I am convinced it is also a deeply theological issue that asks each of us: to whom do we put our ultimate trust as a follower of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who told his disciples to put down their own weapons?

Clearly, there is a range of acceptable responses to this question. As the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement, the Church would be negligent if we did not consult with Scripture, Reason, and Tradition to help inform our conscience about these critical matters that plague us now: terrorism, homophobia,

the epidemic of violence of so many kinds, racism, xenophobia of all kinds, and the ongoing threats to our planet's fragile health. These are all matters of deep and ongoing concern. But at this moment, guns have our attention. May our churches be places of civil and respectful conversation.



My deepest and continual prayer is that we do not give our lives over to fear, but may live in that radical freedom that comes when we live fully in the Risen Christ. Yours in the Peace and Love of Christ, +Rob, The Right Reverend A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop, Episcopal Church of New Hampshire

### Prayers of the People

Please pray for **Quinton Collins** Robin Flynn's father who passed away, pray for **Dawn Hodges** a friend of Terri McDermott; Deb Pothier's granddaughter **Ellie Laura McCabe** as she continues to recover from heart surgery; for Cheryl Poussard for her loss; for Terry and Joan Stevens' daughter-in-law **Theresa**, who has Stage 4 breast cancer; for **Zach; Bill Steinhoff** going through cancer treatment; **Liz Naters-Gamarra and Carmen**, Miriam's daughter and mother; **Ann Donovan; Kate; Joan and Ron Ruggiero, and Josephine Herbert; Brayden; Matty; Ian;** for Christine's friend **Christine**; for **Cheryl**; for **Ryan**; for **Jacqueline**; for Natalie's brother **Lorin** and for **George Gallo, Jr.**; for Mark and Ingrid's son **Eric** who with God's grace is in safe hands. **Serving in the Military:** Please pray for Del's cousins, **Daniel, Matthew and Sandra**, for **Paul**.

**Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Sarah, Eric, Haley, Emma, Gabriel, and Graham Lanseigne; Patricia Laurie-Hermes; Brooke, Albert, Morgan, and Bradley LaMonica; Diane and Christian Kolbe.

### Attendance

Tuesday, 6/7, WBS, 5; Thursday, 6/9, 7  
Saturday, 6/11, 4:00pm, 13  
Sunday, 6/12, 8:00am, 21; 10:15am, 54

# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



JUNE 19, 2016- FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (C)

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY

In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly established June 20 as World Refugee Day to recognize and applaud the contribution of refugees throughout the world and to raise awareness about the growing refugee crisis.

- There are currently more than 60 million refugees, internally displaced people and asylum seekers worldwide - the largest number since World War II.
- In just the past five years, nearly 5 million Syrians have fled the violence in their country, finding shelter in neighboring countries including Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, and Egypt.

The Episcopal Church, through Episcopal Migration Ministries and its network of 30 local affiliate offices, works every day to help refugees find safety, security, and hope in the United States.

- A total of 69,933 refugees and 7,226 Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients were resettled in the US in 2015.
- 4,874 refugees from 32 countries were resettled through Episcopal Migration Ministries.

This World Refugee Day, you are invited to join Episcopalians across the country in prayer and celebration of the strength, resilience, and contributions of refugees in our communities.

- Join Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Episcopal Public Policy Network in a World Refugee Day webinar on Monday, June 20 at 7 pm Eastern. Register using this link: <http://bit.ly/WRDJune2016>.
- Witness refugee stories of survival and hope through the Episcopal Migration Ministries video series available here: [episcopalchurch.org/emm](http://episcopalchurch.org/emm).
- Advocate for refugee and immigration issues with your local elected leaders. Information available through the Episcopal Public Policy Network: <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/immigrationandrefugee>.
- Live out your Christian call to care for your neighbors by engaging in the public square. Download the Episcopal election engagement toolkit and take the pledge to vote this November: <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/EpiscopaliansVote>.
- Get to know your new American neighbors by hosting a #RefugeesWelcome event. Learn more: [www.RefugeesAreWelcome.org](http://www.RefugeesAreWelcome.org).
- Volunteer with this life-saving ministry through an Episcopal Migration Ministries local partner. The network map is available here: <http://bit.ly/EMMpartners>.

For more information, visit [episcopalchurch.org/emm](http://episcopalchurch.org/emm) or contact Allison Duvall, Manager for Church Relations and Engagement, [aduvall@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:aduvall@episcopalchurch.org) or 212-716-6027.

### Prayer for World Refugee Day

Written by #ShareTheJourney pilgrim Alyssa Stebbing, Outreach Ministry Director and Contemporary Music Director at Trinity Episcopal Church, The Woodlands, Texas

Gracious God, we pray for our newest neighbors, that those families who have sought refuge from the ravages of war and violence may find not only shelter and sustenance, but also a loving and supportive community in which to create a new beginning with dignity. Amen.

**ref-u-gee:** a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. Faced with life-threatening circumstances, refugees have no choice but to flee, leaving behind their home and community, family, and friends.

