

March 20, 2020

The Good News

Christ Episcopal Church

Keeping our Faith Alive

As a way to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 disease our Bishop Jeffery Lee has requested that all in-person worship be postponed and encourage congregations to host worship online. Our service will be held online this Sunday. It is anticipated that Rev. Jean C. Beniste will officiate and Lisa Graves will provide organ or piano music. There will be no choir or parishioners at the Church. The lessons and prayers of the people will be done remotely by the lay readers.

We are using ZOOM meeting to host these services. The software will need to be downloaded and installed on your phone or computer beforehand. The download and instruction can be found at the following link <https://zoom.us/support/download> (Ctrl+Click to follow the link).

We are having Morning Prayer on Friday at 9am the meeting invite is at

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/589017933?pwd=dlo2azRjL3l3VTdvTENVbi9KaFM0UT09>

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link) and the 9am Service on Sunday meeting invite is at

<https://zoom.us/j/455722957?pwd=UGZJMHE1QXdZVGU4TmdzWG0rQVU1UT09>

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link). A separate reminder email invite will go out for each service which you may click on to enter the meeting.

Fr. Jean will open the meeting up 10 minutes before the scheduled start time so people can get logged in before the service starts. At the beginning of the service we will ask everyone to introduce themselves so we will know who is there. After the introduction everyone that is not talking should push their mute button on the bottom of the ZOOM screen. We will then go through the service.

For communion Fr. Jean suggests that each household have a small loaf of bread and a glass of wine. He will consecrate the bread and wine at Church and in doing so yours is also consecrated.

When it comes time to distribute communion household members give communion to each other.

At the end of the service we each can have our own coffee hour and ask questions or make comments on this new way of worshiping using Zoom meetings.

The ZOOM meeting software was selected because of the flexibility to bring the video and voice from all participants into the meeting. We will also post the video of the service on our web page and Facebook page.

Christ Episcopal Church

Seeking, Serving, Sharing Christ Since 1846

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And by abthainment

From the Rector:

Keeping your Faith Alive



Christ Has the Last Word. Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, when I discerned about coming to Christ Church it was not my Idea to use social media to celebrate Eucharist, especially in this Lenten Season. As I said on my would like to take time to know you in person, call you by your name, and celebrate with you all. Due to Coronavirus pandemic we are facing, it is not what is happening. God's people never loses their battle, God will put tools in our hands to reveal himself to us. Our physical Church is closed because it is a time of social distancing. We cannot gather a large group in it, but the church is open because we are the church. This Sunday we will have our Eucharist via ZOOM. We will have only one service at 9:00 AM. Until the situation comes back to normal, we will walk this journey via social media.

It is a long journey, a journey we did not expect to walk in our Lenten Journey. We did not plan to suspend in-person worship services, but it happens. It is what it is. We do not have control of it, but God has control of it. In this time, our faith should be grounded in God. God is with us in this journey. It comes with a lot of sad news in the time of social distancing. It is with deep sadness that I announce that I have learned through the diocese the death of Mother Cynthia Hallas. She was a very kind priest who loves her ministry and the people whom she served, and she was the priest who led our parish during the transition time. Let us give thanks to God for her life and ministry among us and keep her family in our prayers. May light perpetual shine upon her.

Today when we turn on the TV, the radio, we read the newspapers. and all our daily news, it is all about coronavirus, and there is growing concern about it all over the community. During this journey of concern and uncertainty, I want to tell you with God is ahead, we are marching it together. I am available for pastoral care and any other spiritual need that you have. If you have any pastoral or spiritual concerns, I will be available by phone or we can arrange to have a ZOOM meeting with you. Even the journey seems difficult; Lent it is a matching journey through hope, which is the resurrection of Christ. God calls us to live Lent as an expression of our hope. This hope is the light of our faith. This hope is resurrection. It helps to see people and events with the eyes of God. As the blind man is healed, we too will be witnesses of Christ. We can proudly proclaim our faith: I believe in God who is light, I believe in God, he is the Father, I believe in God who has the last word, and I believe in God who is a God of life. Let us keep our faith alive; please join me via Zoom every Friday morning at 9: 00 AM for morning prayers. A link will share with you later for services. Christ has the last word.

Many Blessings,

Fr. Jean+

In Memoriam: The Rev. Cynthia J. Hallas

The Rev. Cynthia Johnston Hallas died suddenly of a brain aneurism on March 17 at the age of 66.

Mother Cynthia served as associate rector at St. Lawrence, Libertyville, as rector at St. Giles in Northbrook, as interim rector at Christ Church, Waukegan, and had just begun serving as interim rector at St. Barnabas in Glen Ellyn. In addition to parish ministry, she served as the diocese's liaison for interfaith and ecumenical partnerships on behalf of Bishop Jeff Lee.

She is survived by husband, Jon; daughter Louisa McKellaston (kClare), a member of Bishop Lee's staff; son Ian (Nomin Zolzaya); and granddaughter, Maeve. Services will be announced at a future date.

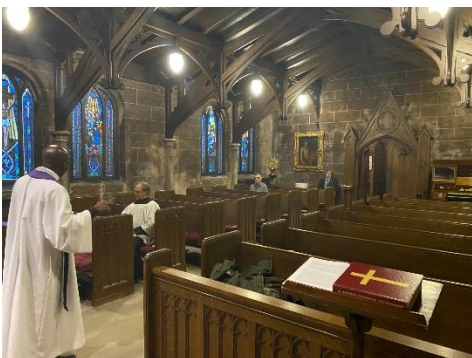


Please keep her family in your prayers

May light perpetual shine upon her.

Sunday March 15th Services, Vestry Meeting and Community Meal

In response to Bishop Lee's email we followed the guidelines for the March 15th services and have suspended all future in-person services to sometime after Easter. For the 7am services we had 5 in attendance and for the 9am service there were 23 people in attendance. Everyone kept over a 6 foot spacing and stayed in their places for the peace. Communion and coffee hour were also eliminated.



At the Vestry meeting following the 9am service the Vestry appointed Don Craig as our next Treasure and we had a discussion on following the Bishop's directive and doing online services. There were questions on community meal. The Bishop set an exception up for ministries that service the poor. To reduce contact we are giving out box lunches to go. This Sunday we are giving out soup and sandwiches and Jennifer said the food pantry where we buy food at a reduced rate did not have sandwich meat and is asking for donations of sandwich meat. For the following Sunday she is giving out pizza which she gets at a reduced cost from Little Caesars. She is asking for donations of \$200 to buy pizza for 70 people.



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Year A



The Collect

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23 - *Dominus regit me*

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for
his Name's sake.

- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the
presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of
the LORD for ever.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Gospel

John 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Welcome Breakfast for Fr. Jean C. Beniste



On March 8, 2020, we celebrated the beginning of a new chapter in Christ Church history with a Welcome Breakfast for Fr. Jean Beniste, our new priest. Jen Winston coordinated a wonderful breakfast complete with servers and china. Servers came from the JROTC and high school and middle school national honor society students from Waukegan as well as students from Waukegan to College. It was wonderful to have so much of the community welcome Fr. Jean. A big thank you to Jen Winston and family for making the event possible.

Lisa Graves

MUSIC

Music is such an important and wonderful part of our worship service. As we begin our journey with Fr. Jean, we will be seeing some parts of the service that will have chanted responses. For example at the Peace, Fr. Jean will sing, "The peace of the Lord be with you". The congregation will respond in chant "And with thy spirit." There will be other areas throughout the service where we will learn chanted responses.

In addition to adding sung responses within the service, we will be adding some new musicians to the service, who will be seated opposite of the current choir. Anyone who enjoys music can join the CCM (Christ Church Music) group. We are focusing on youth age 7 and up, but adults are welcome. This group is open to anyone who has an instrument (including voices). We will be singing and playing at Palm Sunday and Easter Services. We are so excited to get this group together to help enrich our worship.

We are planning to have our first rehearsal on Saturday April 4 at 2:30 pm unless delayed by the current issues with the Corona virus. The rehearsal time will be approximately an hour and a half. See you there.

Lisa Graves, Music Director

Individuals in Our Prayers:

Kathy Antareman, Bill & Nancy Ashley, Bernard & Shirley Barker, The Biddy Family, Cindy Brown, Kathy Brown, Jimmy Carter, Aimee Chamernik, Fran Colboth, Dana, John, Kim and LaVera Davis, Daniel Detwiler, Bob Dixon, Jane Dowden, Shirley Figeas, Yvonne Fogarty, Chris Gibbs, Jerry Gibbs, Marty Goldman, Hendris & Michael Grenier, Ben & Linda Hale, Ethan Haufe, Helen Herman, Rosetta Holmes, Mike Hussey, Cicely James, Jeffery Kibonge, Debbie King, John Lewis, Todd Linna, Sean McBride, Sue McBride, Greg McMinn,, Al & Karen, Dave May, Mic & Tina Mathews, Don Moon, Jan Nelson, Kelley Nichols, Carol Niemi, Susan Paulson, John, Donna Schelfaut, Walter Smith, Patrick Steuer, Elizabeth Sloffer, Nancy Thume, Kevin Timmons, Gretchen Wagner, Phyllis Weaver, Bill Weber, Ann Wills.

Departed: The Rev. Cynthia J. Hallas

Calendar

Friday, March 20th Morning Prayer 9am Video Conference

Sunday, March 22nd 9:00am Holy Eucharist – Video Conference

Sunday, March 22nd 2pm-3pm Community Meal

Friday, March 27th Morning Prayer 9am Video Conference

Sunday, March 29th 9:00am Holy Eucharist – Video Conference

Sunday, March 29th Community Meal the Winston's and a variety of people

Prayers for the Region and World:

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for the week of Mar. 22, 2020:

For the spouses, partners and children of our bishops, priests and deacons that their relationships would be strengthened and their own ministries to their families and the church be blessed by your Holy Spirit. Intercessions are offered by each congregation for its own corporate life, clergy and lay leadership, and its organizations; and for the city or town in which located and its civic leadership.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer for Sunday, Mar. 22, 2020:

Pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui The Most Revd Paul Kwong - Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island.

Christ Episcopal Church

Seeking, Serving, Sharing Christ Since 1846

- **Christ Episcopal Church Founded 1846 – 174 years; Church Built 1888**
- **Community Meal 31 years**
- **Elder Care 21 years**
- **Lake County Art League 12 years**
- **Waukegan to College 11 years**
- **Faith in Place 20 years with 2 years at Christ Church**
- **Unidos En Cristo – Dios de Pacto 6 months**

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