

March 26, 2020

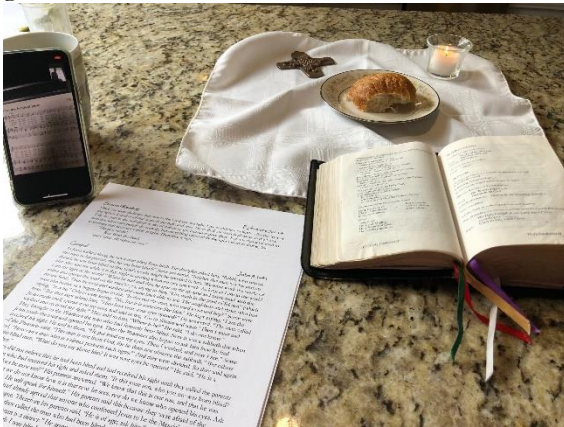
The Good News

Christ Episcopal Church

Keeping our Faith Alive

With On-Line Services

As a way to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 disease we discontinued our in-person worship and started our on-line worship services. We held our first on-line Friday Morning Prayer at 9:00am which had seven in attendance and our Sunday 9:00am Eucharist which had 26 in attendance. The Sunday Eucharist would have had more in attendance but there was a mix up on the meeting invite. The Friday service was hosted by Fr. Jean from Indianapolis and the Sunday Eucharist from our Church where Fr. Jean was the only person in the Church. Lisa sang and played the piano from her home and the lessons and prayers of the people were read by various members from home. For communion Fr. Jean suggests that each household have a small loaf of bread and a glass of wine. He consecrate the bread and wine at Church and in doing so ours is also consecrated. When it came time to distribute communion household members gave communion to each other.



This is a photo of Pam and my setup at home for the service. My i-Phone was on the left held up by a mug of tea to listen and participate in the service. We printed the readings and had a prayer book to follow. We set up an Alter with the bread for Communion. After the service we had a virtual coffee hour with introductions and people gave comments on the service.

I found this on-line service to be extremely gratifying in that it gave a way to connect to our parish community. It was also a way to bring normalcy back to our lives. It was great to see Fr. Moon and I think on-live services or broadcasting of the

service is a good way to make the service accessible in the future.

We are sending out a bulletin via email and our website with the music printed in it for this Sunday's service. ZOOM only allows one person to talk at a time and works best when everyone's mic is muted except the person talking. Please make sure your mics are muted. Mark and Michelle Andersen have agreed to be the hosts of the meeting and they will be muting mics where needed. If you can make Friday's Morning Prayer, it is a good practice for Sunday's Eucharist. Looking forward to seeing and hearing from many of you on Sunday.

John Moore

Christ Episcopal Church

Seeking, Serving, Sharing Christ Since 1846

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The God of the Living



Let us Pray:

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. " Psalm. 130: 1-2

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. *What does this lament mean for us today?* When we injure ourselves physically, we cry in pain; when we hurt ourselves religiously, we cry out in lamentation.

Lament is a prayer that help get us out of the pain. More than a third 50 or more of the psalms are lamentations. Lamentation frequently occurs in the book of Job: "Why did I not perish at birth, out of my mother's womb and expired?" when we mourn; we claim God, we blame God and we revolt.

In our Gospel reading today, we have heard Martha came to Jesus and to reclama for her presence: "Lord, if you had been there, my brother would not have died". Lord, this morning in this Eucharist, in the depth of our journey we come to you. As Martha said: "Lord, if you had been there This morning, we know, we are not alone; you are with us - But Lord, *where are you?*

Here is a word that sounds like a reproach. It is very similar to others found in the Bible, especially in the psalms. Through our lamentation, we blame God for his silence and his absence.

Lamentation is a prayer of revolt, a prayer to blame God for God's silence. Blaming God does not seem right to us. In this case, we forget that our God is the one to whom we can say everything, even words of reproach and misunderstanding.

Today, we are living in a world that suffers from all kinds because of the coronavirus. The result of it is fear, and worriedness. In all our fear and worriedness perhaps this is our question this morning for God, where is God? What are you doing for us? Why are you so silent to our cries? My brothers and sisters, this cry of lament, it is a prayer.

Our God is a God to whom we can cry out our suffering. God is not a distant and absent God from whom we hide certain things. We can always tell God about our fears and questions that bother us. When everything is going badly, we can always go to God; and if we don't know how to pray, we can still "cry out" to the Lord. In today's Gospel, we have seen the sisters of Lazarus reproach Jesus for not having been there to prevent the death of their brother Lazarus. And yet Jesus had been warned for several days of the end of his friend. Arriving at the tomb, Jesus is overwhelmed with deep emotion, Jesus laments. Like us, Jesus painfully feels the death of a friend or relative.

But through the story of Lazarus, it is also the dilemma of all humanity. God sees, that of all those men, women and children who find themselves stuck in misery and do not have the minimum to survive. Today, we turn to you God and ask you to give us a heart like Christ, a heart sensitive to the pain of others.

It is a story of death and life. We know the end of the story. We know that Jesus is going to do something, and everything is going to be right. We know, death does not have the last word; ...but eternally, life will conquer.

This Sunday's gospel does not present the action of Jesus to us as a simple miracle, but it is a sign of a living God who choose life before all. Beyond the raising of Lazarus, Jesus speaks to us about us; the message Jesus sends us is a message of hope, life for all, and everlasting.

In Jesus, it is the God of the living who reveals Godself to the world for the world has life. Today God makes us hear the call: "Lazarus, come outside! Today, it is also to each of us that Jesus is speaking: "Come out!"

God calls us all by our first name to renew this call to us: "Come outside ..." have clean air, to the place where people live. This promise of a new life is not only for after our death but for today.

To accomplish this promise of this new life in God, we have our part to play. The Lord is counting on us to remove the stone. This stone is that of our selfishness and everything that closes us off from God and others. Christ counts on us to participate in this work of liberation.

In our gathering this morning, we count on the God who is the creator of all person, the God who is incarnate in our humanity. We count in Jesus Christ who pull out Lazarus from the tomb.

We want to think about of all those who are oppressed, by a political system, fear of all kind. We pray for the people in this time who are, unemployed, about to lose their job, hungry; in these days, our attention goes to all the most suffering patients.

Today as the community of the believer, we believe that the Lord can open these tombs. But we also know that his works and his action through our commitments. The Lord is still there. Jesus wants to get us up every day. Jesus comes to blow up our fear, despair and discord. With Christ, we will enter the era of the resurrection. With Jesus in our lives, everything is possible. Because Jesus shares life with us, we have hope tomorrow will be better, we have hope that all our fears, worriedness will be gone. Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met with Jesus. Today Jesus heard about us, sees us Jesus comes to meet us in the Eucharist, want us to meet, and join us in all our concerns. *Amen*

Lenten Reflection

The following reflection is from Christina Vostreen, a good friend of ours who is a pastor in the Methodist Church in Western Springs, IL. You can find more of her reflections at PastorChristina.wordpress.com

Pam Moore



Behold! I am doing a new thing!

Lent is always twisty and turny 40 day season for me. But this year is a total chaotic loopde-loop!

My like-a-grandson, Stephen John the 5th who will be four in July completely agrees with his NaNa's state of mind. Due to the frenzied shopping, his parents are able to get food at the store but NOT the specific brands/styles to which SJ is accustomed. OK, I know what you're thinking! Pizza is pizza. Sauce is sauce. Cookies are cookies. Juice is juice. True! And completely not true in SJ's eyes. He's gone on a fast of sorts, determined if he holds out long enough, his food will go back to normal.

It might not be juice or pizza brand that's upsetting you but you are probably feeling just like SJ. If you hold out another week, or to the end of the month, or whatever you have decided is your max of endurance, life will, LIFE MUST go back to normal!!!

Guess what? Regardless of your education, social status, finances, rank at work or who you know, you aren't in charge of the end of strict limitations. And in the end, what we once considered normal is morphing. Into what? Even the crystal ball at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is cloudy on this vision.

Yet here's the really good news! Our perception of a static normal was never truly reality. Last year, last month, change was happening (although not at the current light speed) and each day is a fresh beginning. Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:18-19). God is always making all things new! And until it is on earth as it is in heaven, God is not done creating.

So maybe instead of our angst over what's not the same, we can put our energy into finding something exciting and new today- at work, in a relationship, green shoots in the garden, on a walk around the

neighborhood or hallways or on your supper table. It's there. Just ask SJ.
Be safe. Be healthy. Be blessed. Be church.

Zoom Meetings Links

9:00am Friday Morning Prayer:

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

9:00am Sunday Eucharist:

<https://zoom.us/j/859857352?pwd=d0dyazluWGtmcXUySzJ3eGdBTW1FUT09>

A tutorial on using ZOOM Meeting can be found at this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BEPQsfUg2M>

Pledges and Offerings

While we are not present in the building, ministry continues and bills still need to be paid. Please continue to mail in your gifts as you are able. We are also looking into a way we can do direct deposits.

Community Meal



Just as all restaurants can only provide takeout meals at this time, so too has Community Meal moved to this format. On Sunday, March 22 Jennifer and Doug Winston, Pam Moore, and Don Craig made take out lunches containing shepherds' pie, fruit cocktail, an apple, a banana, two energy bars, a bag of chips, a small box of cold cereal, and a packet of instant oatmeal. Doug stayed at the back door handing out the bag lunches as guests arrived one to three people at a time. We gave out 60 bags with some guests taking extras to friends and family who could not get out in the cold. In addition, 15 meals were delivered to a Kenosha shelter and 12 to local veterans for a total of 87.

Seventy people came for St. Gregory's take out soup and sandwiches on March 15. Pizza from Quonset and salad are on the menu for Sunday the 29th. Thank you Quonset for giving us a

substantial discount! The same crew will prepare the take out bags per the directive to maintain social distancing.

All guests expressed enormous gratitude, as they always do.

Pam Moore

Individuals in Our Prayers:

Kathy Antaremanian, 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;

Calendar

Friday, March 27th Morning Prayer 9am Video Conference

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

Sunday, March 29nd 2pm-3pm Community Meal (Christ Church Team)

Friday, April 3th Morning Prayer 9am Video Conference

Sunday, April 5th 9:00am Holy Eucharist – Video Conference

Sunday, April 5th 2pm-3pm Community Meal (Christ Church Team)