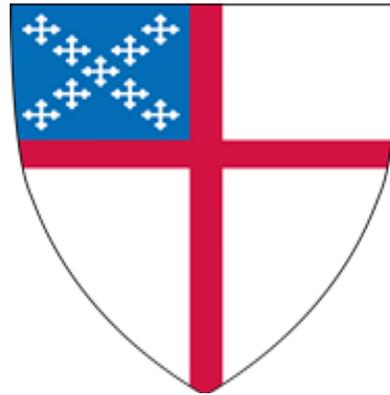


# **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Prayer List & Newsletter**



**May 1, 2020**

## **LESSONS FOR THE 4Th SUNDAY IN EASTER**

1. Acts 2: 42-47
2. Psalm.23
3. 1 Peter 2: 19-25
4. John 10: 1-10

Acts 2:42-47 New International Version (NIV)

### **The Fellowship of the Believers**

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 he refreshes my soul.

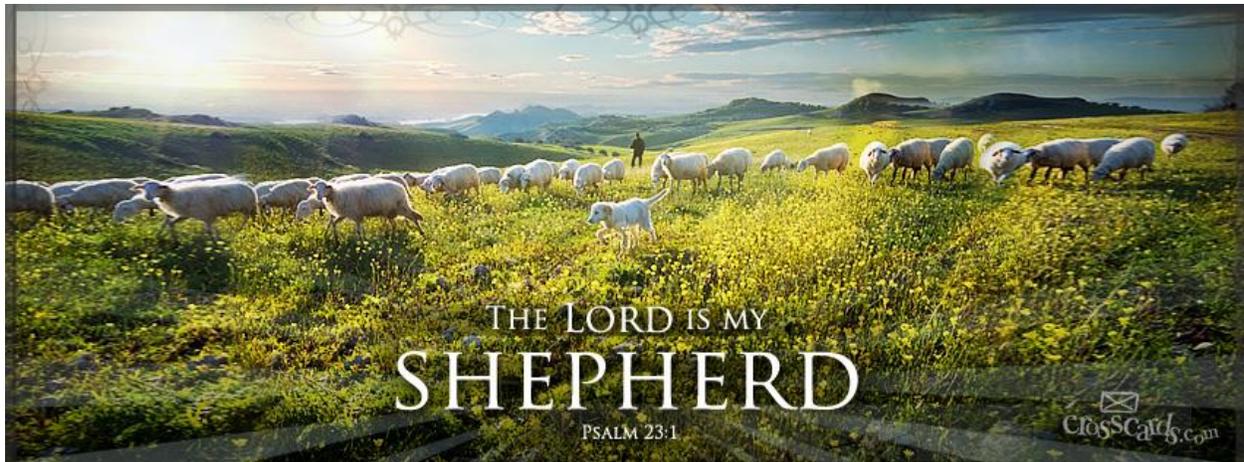
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



1 Peter 2:19-25 New International Version (NIV)

19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." 25 For "you were like sheep going astray,"[b] but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

10 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.



From Flo Hayward

One I like, not on there, is from Abraham Lincoln: " You can complain that rose bushes have thorns, or be glad that thorn bushes have roses."



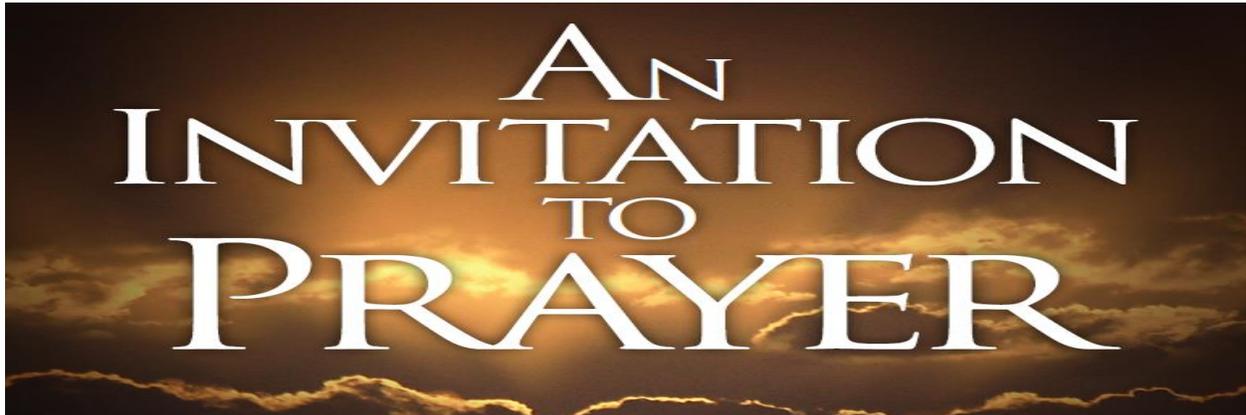
Other messages of hope

“Hope is praying for rain, but faith is bringing an umbrella.” Unknown

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1



## **My Parish Family & Friends Prayer List**



George & Marilyn Bacon Karen & Victor Sarah, Selina

Marsha Baldwin

Carl Bucking Scott Bucking

Mary Cranmore

Theresa Dowd John Dowd

Desmond Foster Anthony

Carmen Grant

Flo Hayward Nicole, Adam & Justin

Edwin Hilbrandt

Ellen James Hillman Jennifer, Catherine & Louie, Oliver

Anne Hogan

James Ifill

Bob Imbriani Robert & Samantha, Dylan, Kate, Reid

Doreen Imbriani Brian & Heather, Violet, Noah

Debra Jacobs

Diane Jacobs

Evelyn Jacobs

Anthony & Ngozi Kanu Chudi, Ike, Uzo

Paul & Susan Kaszubski John, Jaclyn

Lizette Kendrick Timia Moore

Dorothy McGlynn

Carol & Donald Russer David & Family

Karen Russer

Andrea Sabbatini

Betty Sabbatini Beth & Family

Joann Schneiderman Cheryl Lesley, Robert & Gabriella Lesley Robbie

Amy & Lisa, William, Shane, Corey Schmidlin

Lynn Shortell Billy Gun

Annmarie & Randy Thomson Joshua, Logan

Renee Tolliver

Paul Taylor

Arlene Vrede

Lorraine & Everest Campbell Andrew Ryan Shawn

Susan & Michael Breidenbach Michael, Christopher, Matthew

Joyce & Hugh Butler Kim & Craig Paul, Grace, Julie Heather, Thomas & Joanne, Sam

Beth & Chris Lent Zander, Tina

Oddie & Karla McLaughlin Cody, Shyla

Margaret Moorhead

Ifoma & Goodwin Onyeikl Chi Chi, Collins, Chishar

Robert & Emily Ring

Lexia & Shain Reece Shannon, baby

Desiree Giddings

Ola Akinyemi

John Akinyemi

Toyin Akinyemi

Yolanda Ochiobi

Megan & Jimmy Dascoli

Renee Giddings



Grief is the last act of love  
we have to give to those we  
loved. Where there is deep  
grief, there was great love.

FB/Blowing Kisses to Heaven

*Forever  
Love*

#### **A BRIEF ON GRIEF**

**“HE THAT IS MY FRIEND INDEED  
HE WILL HELP THEE IN THY NEED  
IF THOU SORROW; HE WILL WEEP;  
IF THOU WAKE, HE CANNOT SLEEP  
THUS WITH EVERY GRIEF IN HEART  
HE WITH THEE DOES BEAR A PART  
THESE ARE CERTAIN SIGNS TO KNOW  
FAITHFUL FRIEND FROM FLATTERING FOE”  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)**

Grief, whether or not we care to admit it, is an emotion that can sharply focus the mind and soul at the most inopportune time. The loss of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or a dramatic alteration in the direction of one's life can bring us to dark places beyond our imagination. Past and present collide together in hazy uncertainty, and all that we thought was real and true takes on a daunting and illusory visage.

Mourning is built on the foundation of memory, a shifting precipice from which even the most astute mind may slip. Even amongst the best and brightest, reliance on our own understanding of the tragic imperatives of the current world leads neither intellectual insight or emotional resolution. Rather, we are reminded of the unceasing comfort to be found in the God of eternal love and peace as found in Matthew 11: 28-30 :

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

As we bear direct witness to this unprecedented time of historic transformation, there is a profound sense among many of us that the new paradigm of the post-pandemic era will turn all familiar social and cultural norms right upon their head. While that may not prove to be true, the greatest antidote to such existential uncertainty is found in the faithful community of family, friends and neighbors, whose loving concern and unceasing empathy vaccinates us against the alleged inevitability of personal anarchy. Again, the terrible truth of feeling pain in the days to come is unavoidable for many of us. But the reality and possibility of God's love expressed by and through our loved ones, is the catalyst which transforms despair into hope, darkness into light, and evil into good.

That unceasing love is evoked for all times and ages by the Way of the Cross, the perfect sacrifice of redemption and reconciliation which is the eternal proof that we have not been abandoned to a permanent state of darkness. The prophetic passage from Isaiah 53: 4-6 reveals that enduring truth:

“Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

Patience and loving understanding alone is capable of transcending the terrible realities of inexorable grief and loss. In essence, it is a matter of radical urgency in the time in which we are living. The thoughts contained in 1 John 4:16 offers an enlightened path forward from the present turmoil:

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love; whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

The perilous journey of spiritual enlightenment will certainly be undertaken in intimate partnership with pain and sorrow. Such adversity yields over to God's enduring love for all His children, as promised in Psalm 143:8:

“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.”

Our present age, if nothing else, brings the reality of a better world far exceeding the totality of its material parts into stark and brilliant relief.

God's Peace, Carl Bucking May 2020



*Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the  
morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to  
know the way wherein I should walk;  
For I lift up my soul unto thee  
Psalm 143:8*

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