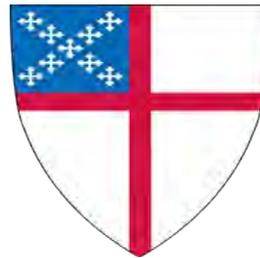




Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Prayer List & Newsletter



July 5, 2020

5th Sunday After Pentecost

1. Psalm 45: 11-18
2. Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67
3. Romans 7: 15-25
4. Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30



Psalm 45:11-18

11 Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. 12 The city of Tyre will come with a gift, people of wealth will seek your favor. 13 All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold. 14 In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her— those brought to be with her. 15 Led in with joy and gladness, they enter the palace of the king. 16 Your sons will take the place of your fathers; you will make them princes throughout the land. 17 I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.



Genesis 24:34-38

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. 36 My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. 37 And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, 38 but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.'

Romans 7:15-25

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. 21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Matthew 11:16-19

16 "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: 17 " 'We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

"What can I say about the people that live today?"

- Matthew 11:16-19 -



Letters From The Diocese

Stewardship Recommendations
The Taskforce for Reopening Church Buildings

June 5, 2020

Prepared by Suzanne M. Culhane, Canon for Stewardship
Stewardship & Offering Recommendations

The Church's mission must be strengthened now more than ever. Giving is one way to propel Gospel ministry forward at this critical time. As an act of worship, giving is vital to our expressions of praise and thanksgiving, particularly the Holy Eucharist. Our duty and vocation to give have not changed – the call is even stronger. Actively seize this moment – don't shy away from asking. Remember this is also a pastoral moment – giving is one way for folks to assist in crisis. When inviting giving, focus on abundance over scarcity; emphasize ministry impact rather than expense.

- Offering should be included no matter what service. (e.g. Morning Prayer, AnteCommunion, The Holy Eucharist, Virtual Worship)
- Begin offertory with sentence and clear invitation to give. An extended pause should be made to allow for lengthened process, with explicit detailed directions, especially to engage on-line worshippers and app givers etc.
- There must be an individual (personal) prompt and invitation to give even if offering plates cannot be "passed." Know that stationary basins alone will not gather much response. Consider having ushers direct each family or pew to make their offering when arriving for worship or at the time of offertory. Clergy and Vestry should visibly give first to lead by example and promote the process.
- Thank without ceasing. Consider a way to include and now present those faithful offerings made while the Church buildings were closed.
- Also consider a way to re-engage lapsed givers e.g. by providing "catch-up" or special SASE envelopes.
- Remember that the majority of church giving is still done via paper check. Focus energy on facilitating preferred methods of giving rather than something new and untested. Please contact The Rev. Canon Suzanne M. Culhane, Canon for Stewardship, for more individual and detailed counsel at any time; sculhane@dioceseli.org or 917-453-8591.

***Dates subject to change – Cannon Woodly suggests waiting until September to re-open**

The following is a shortened version of the Guidelines that were sent from the Diocese:

These guidelines frame what you may do, not what you should or must do. The bishop has made clear that no parish should or must open for public worship and gatherings at this time, but rather that they may open after July 1 if they can meet all the necessary safety standards and advise the faithful of the risks involved in coming to church.

Guidelines reflected in this document take into account the guidance available as of June 3, 2020. They will be amended as the number of people who may safely gather changes over time.

Guidelines for Worship /Preparing Our Churches

Required

- If your buildings have been empty for seven consecutive days, there should be no need to have the premises sanitized. Normal cleaning should suffice.
- Hand sanitizers should be placed near the entrances to the church, other appropriate parish buildings, or outdoor gathering spaces.
- Masks or other cloth face coverings should be made available to all parishioners who need them. Many regular parishioners will wear their own face coverings, but it is an important act of compassion and hospitality to provide masks at the door.
- Holy water and baptismal fonts should be emptied.
- Commonly touched surfaces and items in the church should be regularly cleaned and disinfected. Pews/pew tops, door handles, lecterns, microphones, cruets, vessels, books, etc. should be cleaned and sanitized after every liturgy.
- Points of ingress may be limited so that the numbers of those entering the church can be monitored and controlled. All points of egress must remain completely accessible. Entrance doors may be propped open to limit contact with door handles.
- For the overall health and wellness of our community, a system to collect the name and contact information for all attendees as public worship or other church gatherings must be created and maintained. This will enable parish leadership, of necessary, to provide essential COVID-19 contact tracing documentation.

Recommended

- Each parish should form a task force to set and facilitate a policy to implement these guidelines.
- Parishes may wish to tape or mark pews, indicating safe seating placement for attendees. One side of the church may be used for families, while the other may be used for individuals. Consider limiting the flow of movement to one direction.
- In areas where the faithful will stand in line, tape should be placed on the floor to indicate proper spacing between persons.
- A plan for restroom use should be developed. Only one person should be allowed to use the restroom at a time and tape should be placed on the floor outside to indicate where people should stand in line to wait, maintaining a 6-foot distance from each other. Restrooms should be sanitized after each liturgy and regularly. It is also possible to restrict the use of public restrooms at this time to emergencies only.

Church Attendance

- No church is required to resume public worship on July 1. This document conveys permission for, but does not require, in-person public worship.
- Parishes may want to consider the continuation of online worship on Sundays. However, when you are ready to do so after July 1, you may consider introducing public gatherings for small, mid-week worship or at other services (limited to ten people).
- Those who are at a higher risk for COVID-19 (i.e., those who are older than 65 or who have underlying health conditions) are urged not to come to church at this time. Those who cannot attend church in person are encouraged to spend time daily reading the Scriptures, praying with their families and connecting with worship online.

- Those who feel in any way sick (i.e., oral temperature higher than 99.5oF, cough, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell) or who are worried about attendance should not enter the church.
- In accord with current state policy, the faithful (over 2 years old) must wear cloth face coverings when in public, including when they come to church.
- Attendees should sanitize their hands at the entrance of the church via sanitizer stations.
- All present in church should sit 6 feet or more away from others. Families may sit together.
- These requirements should be clearly posted via signage at the entrance of the church. They should also be posted on the parish website and emailed/mailed to parishioners.

Worship Guidelines

Phase B (begins July 1): Churches open for Non-Eucharistic public worship with maximum attendance determined by the clergy-in-charge and should not exceed state and local regulations on attendance in Houses of Worship.

Congregational and choral singing is still considered to be risky during this phase. Soloists should maintain a minimum distance of 25 feet from other attendees.

Prayer Books and Hymnals should be removed from the worship space. One-time-use paper bulletins are recommended.

No use of closed HVAC systems (including fans). Open windows for fresh air where possible.

Social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained at all times.

Gathering duration of 30 minutes or less for all in-person gatherings in our buildings.

Face masks required at all times.

Contact tracing is essential.

The offertory is still an important element of our worship. A stationary offertory plate should be set out to receive offerings. It is recommended that parishes also offer a method of on-line giving.

No social gatherings that include food and beverage. No in-person coffee hour until Phase D.

No nursery care or in-person Sunday School until Phase D.

Phase C (Date To Be Determined): Celebration of the Eucharist following the recommended protocols set forth from the Bishop.

Guidelines for Outside Groups That Use Church Buildings

All outside groups that use our buildings must adhere to the guidelines for each phase as stated above.

Canon Woodley strongly suggested that we await in-person services until September.

Carol Russer

Starting with Pentecost Sunday during the pandemic a video sermon by bishops in our diocese will be available once each month for use within parish livestream services. July 12 - Bishop Bill Franklin Aug. 2 - Bishop Daniel Allotey Aug. 23 - Bishop Geraldine Wolf Sep. 6 - Bishop Larry Provenzano. These don't have to be used during a livestream service, but can be viewed on the diocesan website, <https://www.dioceseli.org/>, I think later in that day or the next day.

Flo Hayward

Prayer for the Sick

Father of goodness and love,

*Hear our prayers for the sick members of our community
and for all who are in need.*

*Amid mental and physical suffering may they find
consolation in your healing presence.*

*Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make
broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits.*

*May these special people find lasting health and
deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts.*

*We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who
believed.*

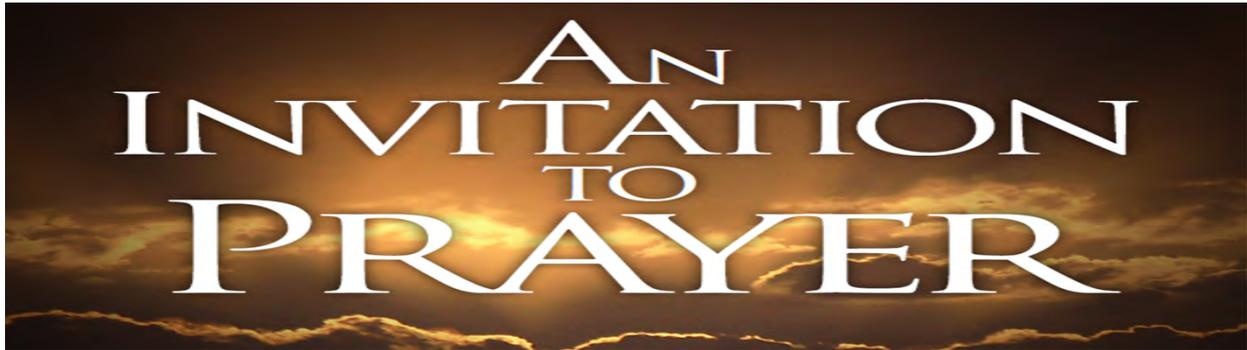
Amen.

JesusPlus.org

CL

Special Prayers Requested for:
Silvio and Valerie Qualich

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

Ifeoma & Godwin Onyeiki Chi Chi, Collins, Christian, Envi, Esther & Nwamaka

Robert & Emily Ring

Lexia & Shain Reece Shannon, Samara

Desiree Giddings

Ola Akinyemi

John Akinyemi

Toyin Akinyemi

Yolanda Ochiobi

Megan & Jimmy Dascoli

Renee Giddings

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE

Study

We are *proposing online Bible study for Wed July 15 at 7 p.m., or at any alternate start time which interested participants may prefer. Please contact Carl Bucking if interested.*



Desmond Foster & Carl Bucking are proposing virtual Saturday evening prayer service for July 11, with start time ranging from 5- 7 p.m. Need parish feedback about format of service. Please contact them if interested.

You can email them at CJBucking@hotmail.com and desmond.foster@ymailcom if interested. I know I'll be online for this, thanks for taking on these events- Debbie

OUTREACH IN DIFFICULT TIMES

"There is no education like adversity." Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)

There is little doubt that the present turbulent time is an active breeding ground for sorrows of all kinds. Our more vulnerable friends among us have seen their lives cruelly upended since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic this past March. It is all too easy, with the never-ending stress we are forced to face daily, to throw up our hands and retreat into varied sanctuaries of our own design. If we are honest, all of us have probably experienced the feeling of being overwhelmed and consumed by worry at the prospect of a highly uncertain future. But it is at this very moment where the blessings of our parish family, though separated in space through necessary mandates of safety, have never been more apparent.

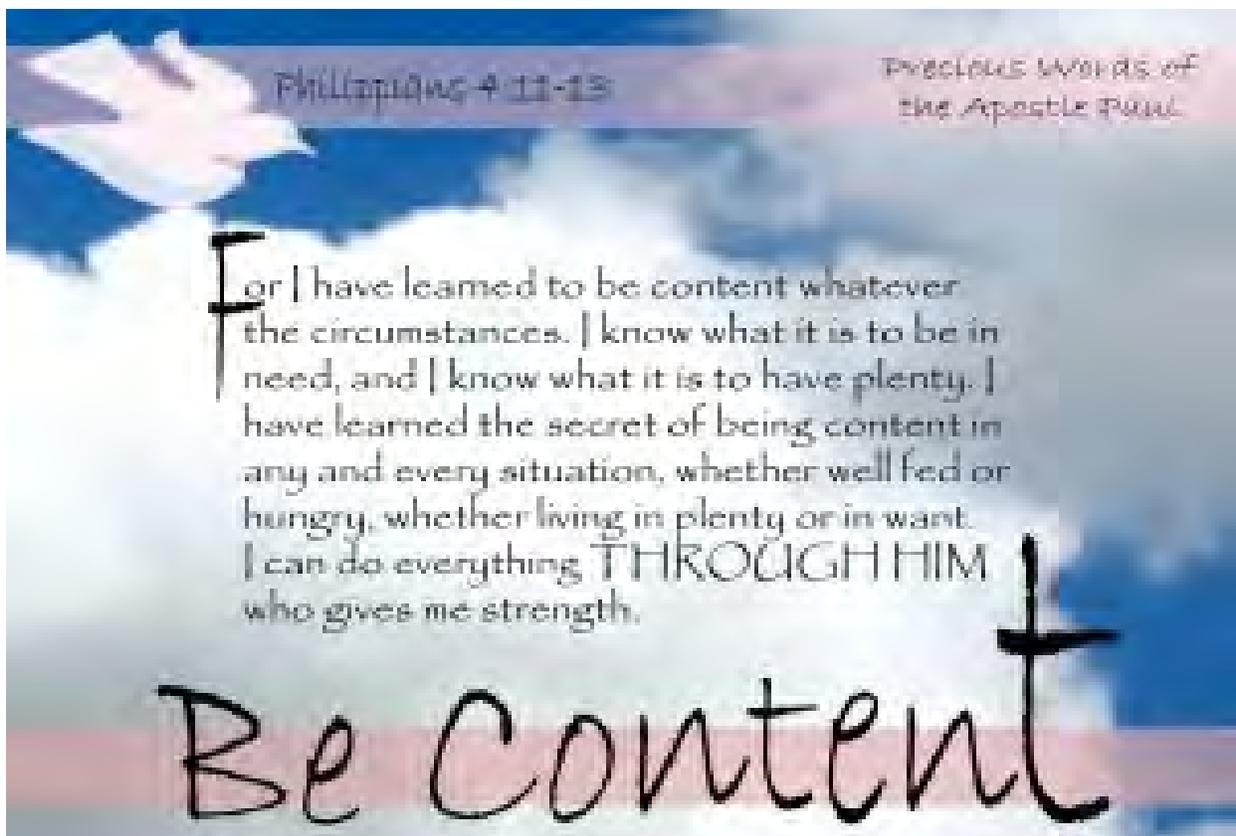


We are reminded powerfully of this enduring truth in the words of Joshua 1:9.: "Be strong and courageous, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

The core foundation of our parish family is found in the bonds of friendship and love which have sustained and nourished us through many difficult passages up until the present time. Not only are we reminded that we are strengthened when we rely on God's enduring grace and understanding, but that we have each other to rely upon to help pull us through the darker and more challenging moments of our lives.

So, while we all cherish our sense of privacy and autonomy, it might indeed be a good thing to occasionally yield to the temptation to cross those unspoken boundaries to inquire how we are doing and to see if any help is needed or wanted. The simplest gestures often carry the greatest weight, and remind us graphically that despite all the troubles that surround us, we are truly not alone. The reminder of this possibility is well expressed in Philippians 4: 11-13:

"I know what it is to be in need, and know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."

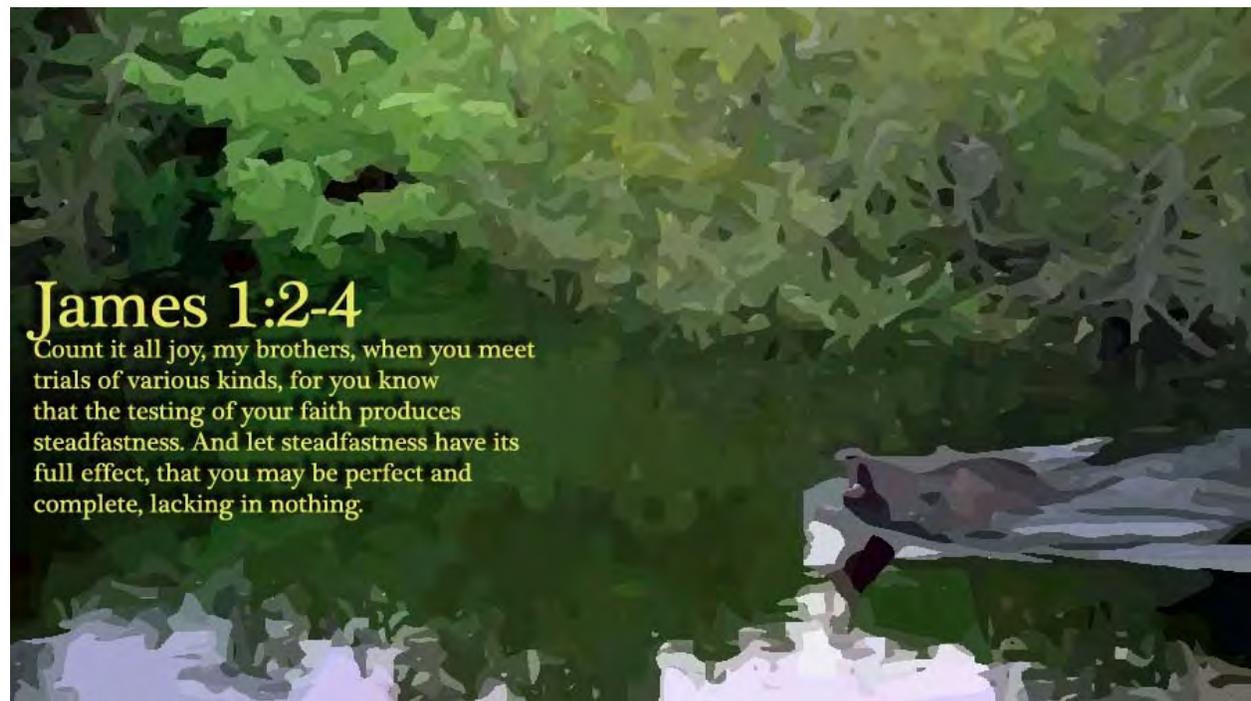


One of the worst kept secrets of our collective parish life is that we do best together when we are dedicated to serving others in the community around us. Simply put, our mission is mission.

Where material support is lacking or funding is scarce, words of encouragement and support can often have a powerful positive impact on helping to alleviate an outstanding problem. The cruel realities of the material world often reduce many concerns to matters of money, but we must never be allowed to succumb to the awful dictates of its unrelenting and rapacious grasp.

Fighting for justice and standing up for the right thing, no matter how difficult, is not incompatible with maintaining a demeanor of compassion and tolerance. We all will falter and stumble in pursuing the higher aims of our work, but these challenges only bolster our resolve to realize the hope of witnessing the reality of God's peace on earth. The thoughts contained in James 1: 2-4 speak to this point:

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”



As we emerge from the celebrations of Independence Day into the promised heat of the forthcoming summer, we are reminded that freedom, in all its forms, is often purchased at a very high cost. But the freedom of the Holy Cross only makes the singular demand that we continue to love one another as God has loved us, and that this example serves as the guiding light and truth of our daily actions. We rely on His strength alone, yet we desperately need human reinforcement to bring that goodness to life. This beautiful paradox will be our source of strength and sustenance as we continue to travel the uncharted roads which still lie ahead.

God's Peace

Carl Bucking July 4, 2020

