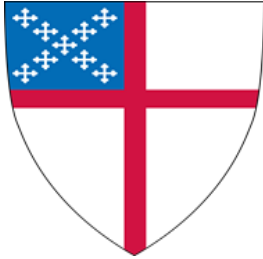


**Holy Trinity  
Episcopal Church  
Prayer List &  
Newsletter**



January 2021



**Watch Fr. Brian Barry on Sunday on our website [www.holytrinityepiscopalvs.org](http://www.holytrinityepiscopalvs.org) and on Facebook for our virtual Sunday service. Also watch him every morning at 7:00am for morning prayer (or watch during the day when you can)**

**We will have our limited Sunday Service at 9:00 am. Masks and social distancing are mandatory.**

**Virtual service days for special Holy Days:**

Monday January 18, 2021 7:00 pm celebrating the Confession of Saint Peter

Monday January 25, 2021 7:00 pm celebrating the Conversion of Saint Paul

Annual Meeting: Fr. Brian Barry is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Meeting ID: 835 2512 7599 Topic: Holy Trinity Annual Meeting

Time: Jan 17, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83525127599>

Meeting ID: 835 2512 7599

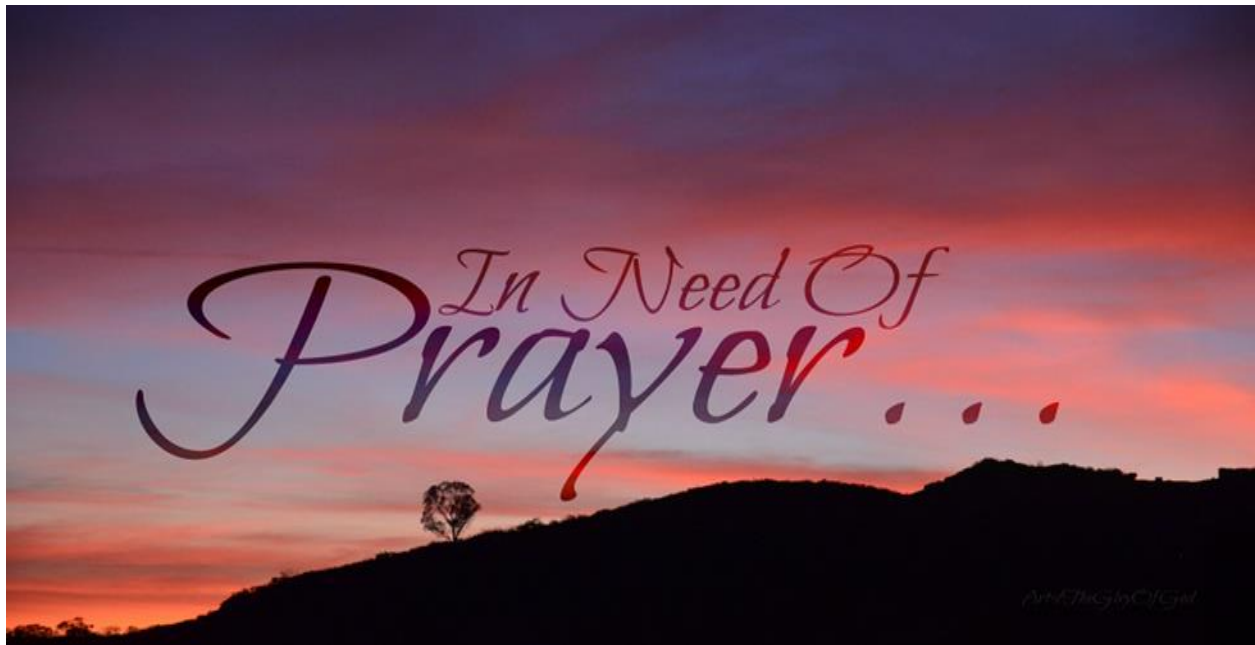
One tap mobile - +19292056099,,83525127599# US (New York)



We are having a Zoom Bible study for every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. We are studying the Book of Luke. Please contact Carl Bucking or Desmond Foster for the Zoom link if interested.



Desmond Foster & Carl Bucking are hosting a virtual Saturday evening prayer service every **2nd Saturday of the month with start time Of 6 p.m. on Zoom.** Please contact them for link if interested. You can email them at [CJBucking@hotmail.com](mailto:CJBucking@hotmail.com) and [desmond.foster@ymailcom](mailto:desmond.foster@ymailcom) if interested.



**Prayers are asked for Susan D. and Diane, friends of my sister and sister-in-law. They are both fighting cancer. Thanks, Flo**

**Please continue to keep Marilyn & George Bacon in your prayers as she continues to recover from her fall.**

**Please keep Theresa Dowd's dad, Gary Miller, in your prayers during his illness as well as her Mom Janet.**

**Prayers are asked for Marion Johnson who attends the morning prayer service and our Advent Book Class.**

## **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  
Betty Sabbatini Beth & Family, Andrea Sabbatini,  
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  
FR. Brian Barry, wife Holly and daughter Kaitlyn**



**A special thank you to DePalma Florist on Rockaway Avenue for generously donating all the poinsettia plants this Christmas.**

**All who donated money for the flowers will be pleased to know that this money will now go towards altar flowers during the coming year to beautify our altar.**

#### CONVERSION OF ST PAUL AND THE PERSISTENCE OF HOPE

***“How hardening to the heart, it must be to do this thing; to change an innocent soring being into a bundle of struggling rage and pain.”***

Iris Murdoch (1919-1999)

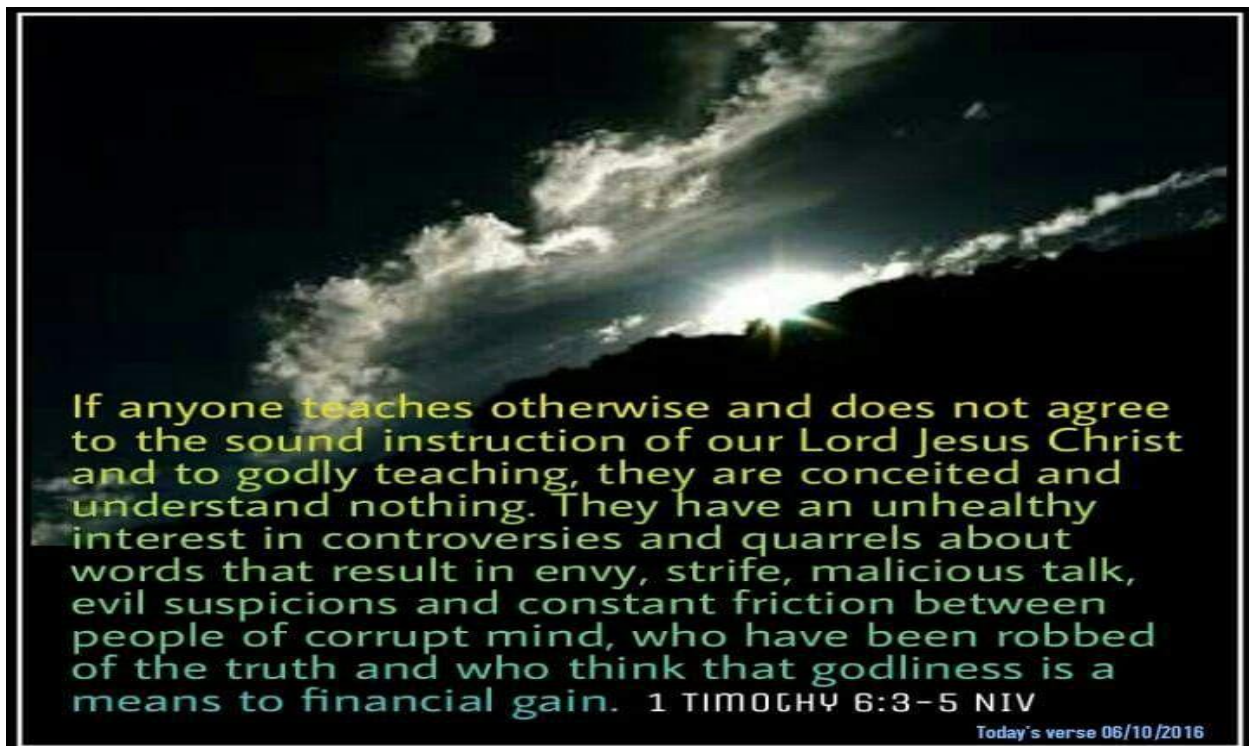
Turmoil is the dominant paradigm of our current time, the principal debased currency of social and psychological interaction in the fading era of Trump. Anxiety is not sustainable as a viable way of life, an idea which is common knowledge among all people of faith. The conversion of St Paul to Christianity after having confronted the risen Christ on the road to Damascus is a familiar story which insists on the redemptive power of love by accepting the unconditional grace of God's Only Begotten Son. It is shockingly easy at this moment to feel resentment towards many different things, ranging from the relentless scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic to the tragic dysfunction of our contemporary national public life.

The malady rotting out the core of our shared culture is rooted in the idea of ideological certainty, the conviction that your thoughts have a monopoly on legitimacy and cannot possibly entertain the notion of dissent. The persecution of early Christian adherents during the 1st century A.D. straight through to the Holocaust of the mid-20th century, and the several genocides that have scarred the past seven decades, are all built on that common foundation. When any thought not rooted in hate and destruction easily devolved into illegitimacy, piles of corpses usually crowd the altar of self-righteous orthodoxy. Witness the warning about intolerance conveyed by 2 Peter 3: 8-11:



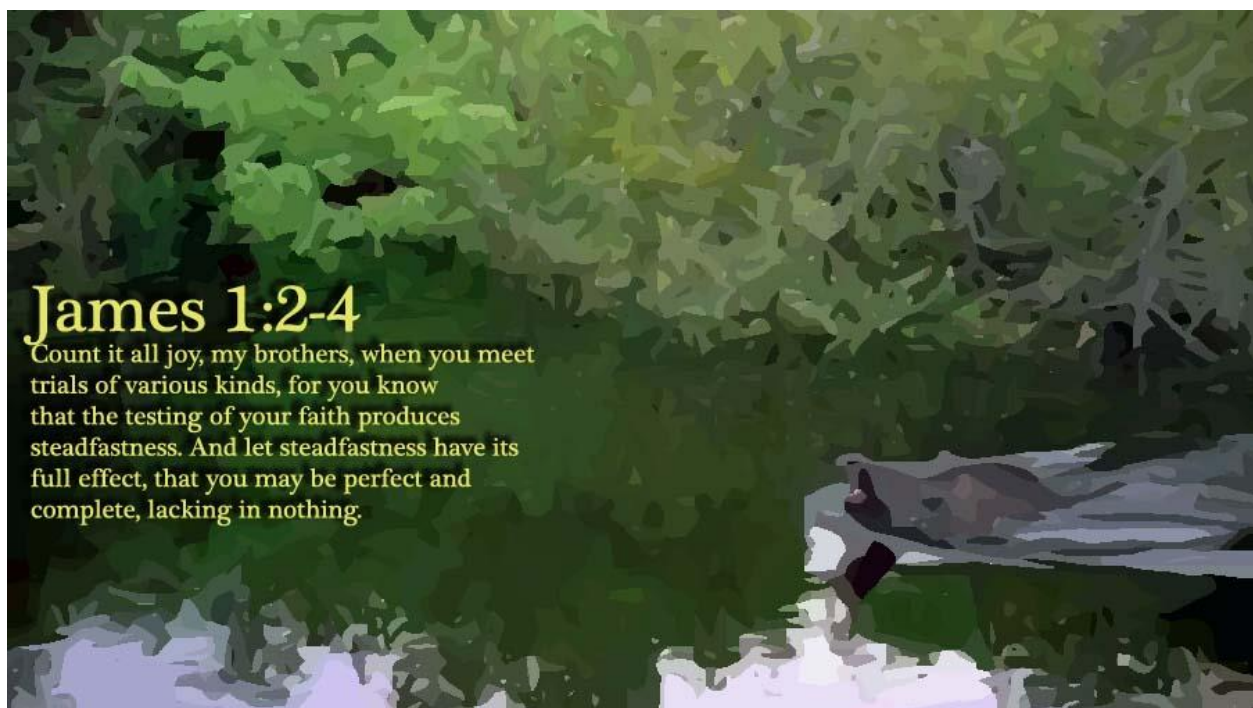
“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil, or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing for whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.”

We are slowly emerging at this time from the toxic aftermath of poisonously misguided and resentment driven governmental leadership which has done incalculable damage to the individual and institutional components of civil society. Now is the right time to seek reconciliation with those whose hearts and minds are amenable to embracing communion with the eternal grace of the Holy Spirit. The idea is well articulated by 1 Timothy.6: 3-5:



“If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the teaching that accords with Godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing, He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, full suspicions and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining see that Godliness is a means of gain.”

Just as the scales fell from the eyes of St Paul and relieved him from the moral and ethical blindness of his life as a Pharisee, so too must we keep our hearts and minds open to the difficult possibility that God’s wisdom, and not our own selfish prerogatives, will lead us towards pursuing the type of life that is worthy of his unbounded love for us. Our conversion to the acceptance of God’s grace may not be as intense as that depicted for St Paul, but is no less profound in permanently altering the ultimate course of our earthly lives. This idea comes to light in James 1: 2-7:



“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness, and let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect, complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind...”

With gracious heart and humbly focused mind, we hope that the dedicated labor we undertake in God's name will awaken the possibility of goodness and decency prevailing in the midst of our daily lives once again.

God's Peace,  
Carl Bucking  
January 2021