



Christ Episcopal Church

There is a place for you at God's Table!

The

Clarion

Volume 25, Issue 1, January 2021

A Monthly Publication

Putting action to prayer

A reflection by (The Rt. Rev.) Kenneth L. Price, Jr
Bishop in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

The recent attack on our nation's capitol has shaken us all. Regardless of our politics, the scenes of violence and assault are deeply disturbing. In a democracy, the right of people to protest decisions they do not agree with is important. What we saw this past week in Washington was not a peaceful protest, but a violent act of lawlessness. There are many things that led up to that event, but the end result was the endangering of our duly elected officials and their staffs as they went about their constitutional business of certifying the election of our next President. It resulted in needless destruction of property, physical injury and even death of people caught up in the melee. The message of protest got lost in the violence that ensued.

Combine this with all too-frequent instances of racial injustice (also often leading to death) that are sweeping our country and the tension and fear brought on by the pandemic of COVID-19, and humanity is being put to a test unlike we have known in our lifetime.

People of faith are being asked to pray for our nation, our leaders and for those directly affected by these events. This is good. I believe in prayer and encourage it. However, I also believe that prayer is not complete unless it is coupled with action. Prayer is always meant to be God-centered. When God is at the center of our life, self cannot dominate. On the other hand, when self is at the center, God is squeezed out.

I believe that is what happened in Washington. As human beings and citizens in a free democracy, we often have opinions and beliefs that are in opposition. Debate over those opinions is healthy. Our Congress was about to embark on just that kind of debate when it was attacked. When debate devolves into a demand that my way is the only way and we discount not only the other's beliefs, but that individual as a person, then self-centeredness replaces God-centeredness and prayer becomes hollow.

Sadly, all too often when asked to pray, we allow the recitation of the prayers to be the end. But remember, I said prayer without action is incomplete. As we all pray this Sunday and in the days to come, may we resolve to make sure our life is a living testimony to those prayers. Instead of only listening to those who agree with us and discounting those who do not, let's make a point of trying to see and understand both sides of an issue. We then can debate the merits of that issue, and not turn our differences of opinion into personal attacks. Let us not only pray for racial justice, but when we witness instances of injustice, speak up and offer support to those who have been victimized. And concerning the virus, let us listen to our medical experts and even if we might not fully understand or believe in mask-wearing and vaccination, not make that a political matter but participate for the greater good of all the community so that we may eradicate this attack on us all.

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Bishop Price's Message, continued

When I was younger, at church camp we all made bracelets that said "What would God have us to do?" I no longer wear that bracelet, but its message is so emblazoned in my heart that I hear it in everything I do.

And so, my sisters and brothers, pray with me this Sunday the following prayers. But then ask God to show you what you may do to give action to the praying. May God bless you in the doing to God's work.

Following the example of our Presiding Bishop, I ask that all of our congregations have special prayers this Sunday for peace in our nation. Drawing from our book of Common Prayer, these are the prayers Presiding Bishop Curry recommends:

*Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
Govern and uphold us now and always.*

*Day by day we bless you;
We praise your name forever.*

*Lord, keep us from sin today;
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.*

*Lord, show us your love and mercy;
For we put our trust in you.*

*In you, Lord, is our hope;
And we shall never hope in vain.*

- Morning Prayer II, Book of Common Prayer,
p. 98

Let us pray:

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered together under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one God and Creator of us all; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever.

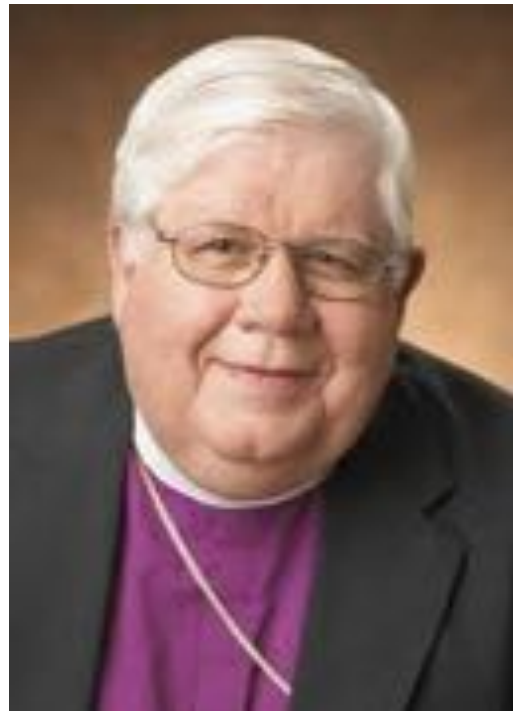
- For Peace, Book of Common Prayer, p. 815

Oh God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your son. Look now with compassion on the entire human family; and particularly this part of the family, in the United States, and those in our nation's capitol; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- For the Human Family, Book of Common Prayer, p. 815

On this day and at this moment, we pray for our nation. We ask God to heal us, to show us the way to healing, to show us the way to be one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

*For ever and ever.
Amen.*



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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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The Rt Rev. Kenneth L. Price, Jr.

Priest-in-Charge:

The Rev. Canon
Dr. Lee Anne Reat

Deacon:

The Rev. Rick Incorvati

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**Parish Administrator/
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FROM THE RECTOR

Rev. Cannon Dr. Lee Anne Reat

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Collect for Epiphany, BCP, pg. 214)

On January 6 we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, the visit of the magi to the Christ child in Bethlehem. Tradition has it that three wise kings followed a star to find the new king of the Jews. When they found Jesus, they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. If I had been Jesus' parent, I would have wondered at those gifts. Gold, I could put to good use, but frankincense and myrrh seem a bit on the odd side.

We celebrated the Feast of Epiphany with Star Gifts. Each person on our mailing list received a star with a word written on it. The word is a gift to be carried and prayed about for the coming year. Some of the words will seem immediately applicable – a musician who receives the word “harmony” will see the significance right away. But what about the shy introvert who receives the word “evangelism” or the politician who receives the word “humility”? They may think those gifts are odd and were surely intended for someone else.

But we, like Mary, are being invited to “ponder these words in [our] hearts”. As part of our daily prayers throughout 2021, we can take the challenge of the word which has been gifted to us. We can play with the implications of the word in our lives. It may present a challenge to the way we have always seen ourselves. It may open up new possibilities to us. All of the words point to gifts that God has given to us, gifts that offer opportunities to shine our light in new and creative ways.



**Office
Closed**

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, January 18** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.





The search for a new bishop for the Diocese of Southern Ohio is underway. The Standing Committee guides the process and has selected a consulting firm to assist them. In January we will all be asked to become part of the process by completing a survey that will assess the overall health of the diocese—our strengths and challenges as we move into the next phase of our life in service to Christ. As soon as the survey is available, we will make certain that everyone at Christ Church has access to it, either online or on paper. For those interested in following the search process closely, visit [Bishop transition – Episcopalians in Connection](#) on the diocesan website.

As we move through this process, please keep the Standing Committee and all of us in the Diocese of Southern Ohio in prayer:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Amanda Hayden and Jimmy Ryan,
January 30th

Annual Meeting Set for March 7th, 2021



The Christ Church Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 7th at 10:00 AM, immediately following our 9:00 AM virtual online worship. We will meet via Zoom to elect new Vestry members, consider our 2021

parish budget, hear reports on investments and funds, and hear where we are in the process leading to a search for a new rector.



UPDATE An enormous **THANK YOU** to all who have stepped forward to be considered for this year's open elected lay leadership positions! The Nominating Committee expects to have a completed slate of candidates this month.

Nominating Committee members are Brian Shelburne, Chris Oldstone-Moore, Cathy Hasecke, Jack Ivy, Ron Dowling, and Rev. Canon Lee Anne Reat. If you would like to be part of the Vestry for the next three years or find out more about the responsibilities of Vestry, contact Brian Shelburne bshelbourne@wittenberg.edu or 937-207-8957.

Worship... Offering meaningful, relevant, and welcoming worship in the Episcopal tradition for people of all ages.

In-person Worship Services As Clark County is listed as "Red," there will be no in-person worship services until further notice.



**Prayer Services Offered
Wednesdays at Noon**

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat and Judy Johnson will take turns offering a Noonday Prayer service on Christ Church’s Facebook page(<https://www.facebook.com/christspringfield.org/>) at noon. The Noonday Prayer service’s text is located on p. 103 in the Book of Common Prayer or online at <https://www.bcponline.org>



Calling in Via Telephone for Sunday Worship Audio

Below are instructions for calling in via telephone to listen to the audio of our virtual Sunday morning service.

1. A few minutes before 9:00 AM, call **312-626-6799**. A recording will answer, saying “Welcome to Zoom!”
2. It will ask you to enter your Meeting ID, followed by #. That’s **841 1414 5583#**
3. When asked for your Participant ID Number press #
4. When asked for your password, enter **712122#**

Now you’ll be able to hear our worship!

NOTE: if you don't hear anything right away, don't panic. Sometimes we run a few minutes late, so just hang on and trust that we'll begin as soon as we can.

Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

January				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
January 6th	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7,10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 10th	Genesis 1:1-5	29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
January 17th	1 Samuel 3:1-10	139: 1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
January 24th	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	62: 6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
January 31st	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

African Bible Study Wednesday at 7 PM

African Bible Study meets each Wednesday via Google Meet. To join, share your interest and send your email address to Keith Doubt at kdoubt@gmail.com. Ten minutes before the meeting, Keith will send an email invitation to the group. Click on the link, and you'll be in!

What is African Bible Study? The approach used is sometimes called African Bible Study, which refers to the method's origins. It is a very structured, very disciplined, and very meditative approach to learning from scripture. It not only discourages but prevents crosstalk and intellectualizing on a reading. It instead encourages listening to others and ourselves as opposed to talking as a group.

THE FORMAT

Opening Prayer: O Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,

which you have given us in our savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Procedure:

1. One person reads passage slowly.
2. Each person identifies the word or phrase that catches their attention. (1 minute)
3. Each shares the word or phrase with the group. (3-5 minutes, NO DISCUSSION)
4. Another person reads the passage slowly (from a different translation, if possible.)
5. Each person identifies where this passage touches their life today. (1 minute)
6. Each shares. (3-5 minutes, NO DISCUSSION)
7. Passage is read a third time (another reader and translation, if possible.)
8. Each person names or writes: "From what I've heard and shared, what do I believe God wants me to do or be? Is God inviting me to change in any way?" (5 minutes)
9. Each shares their answer. (5-10 minutes, NO DISCUSSION)
10. Each prays for the person on their right, naming what was shared in other steps. (5 minutes)

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Epiphany Zine new resource for congregations, individuals; small group study planned

The diocesan formation team, in partnership with some amazing artists, writers, and the Noon Service community at Christ Church Cathedral, is offering an Epiphany Zine (pronounced zeen) as a resource to congregations and individuals.

What is a zine? It's basically a self-published booklet on a topic not mainstream. And this zine is all about celebrating Epiphany, with a nod toward helping individuals, families, small groups, and congregations recognizing the presence of Christ within us and among us. Tactile, aesthetic, pious, and a little bit alternative, this zine will help make Epiphany (and the 41 days after) a truly illuminating season.

For information on how to receive your own copy of the zine (coming soon) and to learn more about how to use this resource in your family, small group, or parish, please visit <https://episcopaliansinconnection.org/epiphanyzine2021/>.



Christ Church on Social Media!

If you're on Facebook go to Christ Episcopal Church's Facebook page and like the page. You'll receive information on upcoming events, learn historical facts, and view beautiful pictures. You will be in the know! If you would like to view the Facebook page and are not on Facebook you can visit Christ Church's web page at christspringfield.org, scroll to the bottom of the home page, click on the small **f** and it will



Missing conversation with your Christ Church friends? Longing to connect with someone outside of a virtual business meeting or schoolroom? Join our virtual coffee hour Sunday mornings after the 9 AM worship service! We'd love to see (or hear) you!

WANTED: Virtual Coffee Hour Hosts (no high-tech knowledge required!) We would love to add more hosts to the Virtual Coffee Hour. Email Kelly Zeller (ZellerK0611@gmail.com) to help!

Church Staff

All staff are currently working from home as much as possible!

Priest In-Charge:

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat

Senior Warden: Dawn Ivy

Jr. Warden: Jim Whipp

Deacon: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

Treasurer: Ken Bladh

Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator:

Kelly Zeller

Music Director: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Nursery Attendant: Jerushia Knox

Facility Manager: Paul McAfee

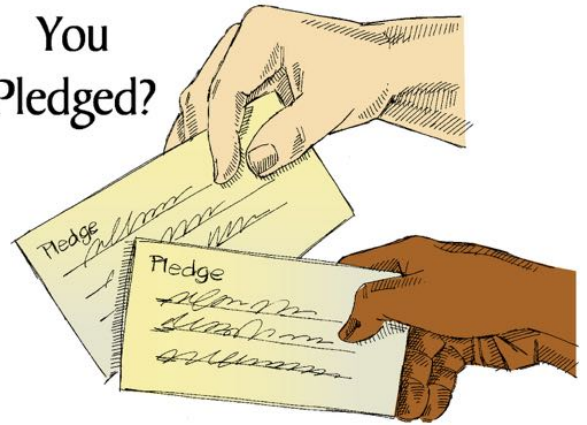
Bookkeeper: Tina Knox

Your Vestry

Vestry at Large: Bonnie Bingman, Chris Oldstone-Moore, Cathy Hasecke, Denise Sharp, Brian Shelburne, Joyce Spangler, and Keith Doubt

Youth Representative: Sarah Schubert

Have You Pledged?



THANK YOU to all who have pledged to support Christ Church in 2021! As of January 10th, we have received 59 pledges of financial support for next year, totaling \$163,074.44. This includes 2 new pledging units, 9 established units who increased their pledge amounts, and 46 established units who pledged the same as 2020.

However, we still have not reached our pledge goal of \$195,000. If you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so to support your church and its ministries. Extra pledge cards are available, please email Kelly Zeller at zellerk061@gmail.com. Pledges can be fulfilled by giving in one of two ways:

- **"Low-tech" giving:** Mail a check made out to Christ Episcopal Church to the church office (409 East High St., Springfield, OH 45505).
- **"High-tech" giving:** Go to the Diocesan homepage EpiscopaliansInConnection.org and click on *Give Online to Your Church*. Be sure to select Christ Church, Springfield from the "I am making a gift to" drop-down.



Outreach... helping to provide the physical, material, social, and spiritual needs in Springfield and beyond

**Reminder from Outreach Team
Member Deb Southward**

Just a REMINDER! Continue to **\$AVE PENNIES** for the Warder Literacy CENTER & **\$AVE PULL-Tabs** for Dayton Ronald McDonald House. The Warder Literacy CENTER is opening on a limited basis & there will be a growing need for their services given that kids have been out of school (some without access to computers) & will need to play catch up. The Dayton Ronald McDonald House is continuing to be a safe haven for healthcare professionals to rest & relax without exposing their families if they so choose. Not sure when they plan to transition back to families. Rolls/baggies of pennies/pull-tabs can be dropped in the Hollenbeck House mail slot, or returned in the church building when we resume in-person worship. THANKS in advance for everyone's continual support!



**Christ Church Food Pantry
Wednesday, January 20**

The Drive thru Food Pantry will be on January 20th starting at 11 AM. Volunteers are needed to help unload food, pack food and help with customer service. Please contact either Ann Chitkara at ann@nova.pcc.com or Anne Randolph at annejrand@aol.com to volunteer.



Margaret Mattox	4-Jan
Graham Waggoner	4-Jan
Audrey Chitkara	5-Jan
Emily Hasecke	6-Jan
Carol Harbaugh	10-Jan
Martha Chaney	12-Jan
Dan McGregor	19-Jan
David Farrar	21-Jan
Paul Coe	21- Jan
Denise Sharp	27-Jan
Steve Sharp	30-Jan

THANKS! to all who donated baby food for Jesus at the December ingathering. We collected 331 jars/pouches of baby food.

The jars and pouches were quarantined for two weeks and will be delivered during the second week of January.

- 208 jars/pouches will go to Help Me Grow, which is operating five days a week.
- 123 jars/pouches will go to Family & Youth Initiatives/Parenting Network, which is operating two days a week.

