



The
Clarion

Volume 24, Issue 4, April 2020

A Monthly Publication



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear beloved people of Christ Church,

The past few weeks have been a time of confusion, anxiety, and separation, as we all struggle to adjust our behaviors and lifestyles in order to protect the most vulnerable among us from the threat of the novel coronavirus. It is a strange thing indeed to stay far apart from one another precisely because of our love for each other -- but that is where we find ourselves.

Paradoxically, even though I have not seen most of you face-to-face in weeks (and the few I've seen have been at least 6 feet away at all times) I find myself feeling a spiritual intimacy, a closeness and solidarity that inspires and sustains me. We are united, just as we pray in the familiar words of Eucharistic Prayer C: "... **make us one body, one spirit in Christ**, that we may worthily serve the world in his name" (BCP 372). It is our unity, our prayers, our love and our hope that will keep us in the days to come.

We will not be able to gather together physically during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday this year. More details about that, and current plans for online and at-home worship, are inside this *Clarion*. Right now, all I want you to know is that I love you, and I am here for you, and we will journey to Easter together as that **one body, one spirit in Christ**. No power on earth, no force of nature, no weapon, no army, no virus, **NOTHING** can ever change that truth!

This poem, written by a pastor friend of mine just days ago, is helping me find peace today. I share it with you all (with her blessing):

Easter

by the Rev. Allison Unroe

First they observed Sabbath.
They did no work.
They planned nothing.
They were not diverted.
They knew no distraction.
They went nowhere.
They stayed home.
Because their God rested
on the seventh day,
they rested
on the seventh day,
even as they grieved.

Then they packed up
their burial spices and,
before the sun rose,
when the streets were still,
sleepy and vacant,
they moved quietly
towards the tomb.
They expected to bury their dead.
They were overwhelmed with relief
to not have to.

And they never forgot
it was while they rested
that their Savior rose
from death to life.
It is in the Sabbath,
the staying home,
the keeping faith,
the trusting God,
that the Messiah
is risen.

Indeed.

Blessings,
Rev. Maggie L-S
(RevMaggieLS@gmail.com)

The Clarion

Volume 24, Issue 4

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www.ChristSpringfield.org

Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal

Priest:

The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

Deacon:

The Rev. Rick Incorvati

Senior Warden:

Dawn Ivy

Junior Warden:

Jim Whipp

Organist:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Parish Administrator/ Program Coordinator:

Kelly Zeller

Youth Teacher:

Abby Glass

Facility Manager:

Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper:

Tina Knox

Clarion Editor:

Joyce Spangler

Most every Sunday, during the announcements time, I welcome newcomers by referring to our motto: "There is a place for YOU at God's table!" Right now, when we are not able to gather at God's table and partake of our Lord's Supper together, we must hold that place for one another in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers, resting securely in the knowledge that we are beloved of God, made for goodness and love and eternal life.

~ Rev. Maggie

Church Staff Hours are not in effect due to COVID-19. Please call the office (leave a message) or email with issues or concerns.

Rector: The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard
(revmaggiels@gmail.com)

Deacon: The Rev. Rick Incorvati (rincorvati@wittenberg.edu)

Sr. Warden: Dawn Ivy (dvivy0960@yahoo.com)

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Your Vestry

Treasurer: Ken Bladh

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

Youth Representative: Sarah Schubert



COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES: CURRENT STATUS

Based on the pastoral guidance of our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Breidenthal, all in-person worship services, meetings, and other gatherings are suspended until further notice. The Bishop has not yet identified a date when parishes will be able to again gather for in-person worship, but he has noted (in a March 22nd letter to the clergy) that it will definitely be **after** Easter (April 12th).

We will continue to offer online worship opportunities, including Virtual Wednesday Chapel and Live-Streamed Sunday Morning Prayer, viewable on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/christspringfield.org/). Anyone with internet access can view the page, regardless of whether or not they have a Facebook account. You may get a pop-up window asking if you want to open an account, but simply click on "Not Now" to continue viewing the material on our page.

Detailed plans for Holy Week worship can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Your Church Staff have been instructed to minimize their time in the office, and work from home as much as possible, to avoid spreading the virus. Your Leadership Team is monitoring the latest news reports and instructions from Gov. DeWine and Dr. Acton, and will adjust all plans and procedures accordingly. Our top priority is ensuring that Christ Church does not contribute to preventable spread of COVID-19, while remaining connected as a community of siblings in Christ.

We are sending out daily NewsNote emails to keep members and friends of the parish 'in the loop' and share thoughts of inspiration and strength. If you do not already receive these emails, and would like to, just email Kelly Zeller (zellerk0611@gmail.com). If you do not have access to the internet at home, and would like us to 'snail mail' you each Sunday's order of worship during the previous week, please call the church office at 937-323-8651 and leave a message with your mailing address.

A NOTE ABOUT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH

We are in the midst of an anxious and uncertain time in our community and in our world. As I write these words, the many ministries of Christ Episcopal Church continue on in a variety of ways (online worship, daily meditations, pastoral care via phone, and Christian formation via text message, among others). Our Church staff have been faithful, flexible, and dedicated to serving this parish as best they can.

As a faithful community that seeks to embody passionate discipleship and a heart for Christian justice, we are also committed to continuing to pay all staff members at their usual levels, including those whose normal work duties have been restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic. And although we are currently unable to gather on site, the normal operating expenses and costs of upkeep for our historic building remain the same.

Christ Church may look and feel different right now, but we continue to be and share the good news of Jesus Christ by loving and serving our neighbors from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). We invite you to support the work of the Church financially 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: Use the Diocese of Southern Ohio's online giving form

diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/wzviwg17ia0ah/
OR

from the Diocesan homepage at diosohio.org, click on "*Doing church*" during COVID-19, then *Technology Resources*, then *Diocesan online giving form*.

Be sure you select **Christ Church, Springfield** from the drop-down bar.

Thank you in advance for your support!

~ Rev. Maggie



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

ONLINE WORSHIP RESOURCES TO USE WHILE STAYING HOME

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP RESOURCE:

At 11:00 am (Eastern time) the **Washington National Cathedral** will broadcast a virtual worship experience online at <http://www.cathedral.org/>

DAILY WORSHIP RESOURCES:

The Mission of St. Clare posts an easily-followed order for Morning and Evening Prayer every day at <http://www.missionstclare.com/english/index.html>

It includes Collects, Scripture readings, Psalms and canticles, audio recordings of hymns, and brief reflections on the commemorations of the day.

The Trinity Mission posts audio files of simple Morning, Noonday, and Evening Prayer services each day at thetrinitymission.org

Text is included for those who like to read along as they listen.

Another option is a 10-12 minute audio daily worship experience from the **Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in Britain**, posted at <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/>

Lovely music, peaceful prayer and Scripture readings, with questions that prompt contemplation.

ESPECIALLY FOR FAMILIES:

Lectionary-based readings for each Sunday along with prompts for family discussion, sorted according to ages of kids & youth, from the Episcopal Church's Forward Movement and Forma, found at <http://www.dofaithathome.org/>

For families with preschool & elementary-age kids, check out the Sunday lectionary-based "Sparks" posts at www.storymakersnyc.com/sparks

StoryMakersNYC is a new, progressive Christian formation resource with beautiful visuals and accessible language, perfect for the youngest followers of Jesus.

GENERAL SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

From the Benedictine nuns of the Holy Trinity Monastery (UK)

"Guide to Self-Isolating for Dummies"

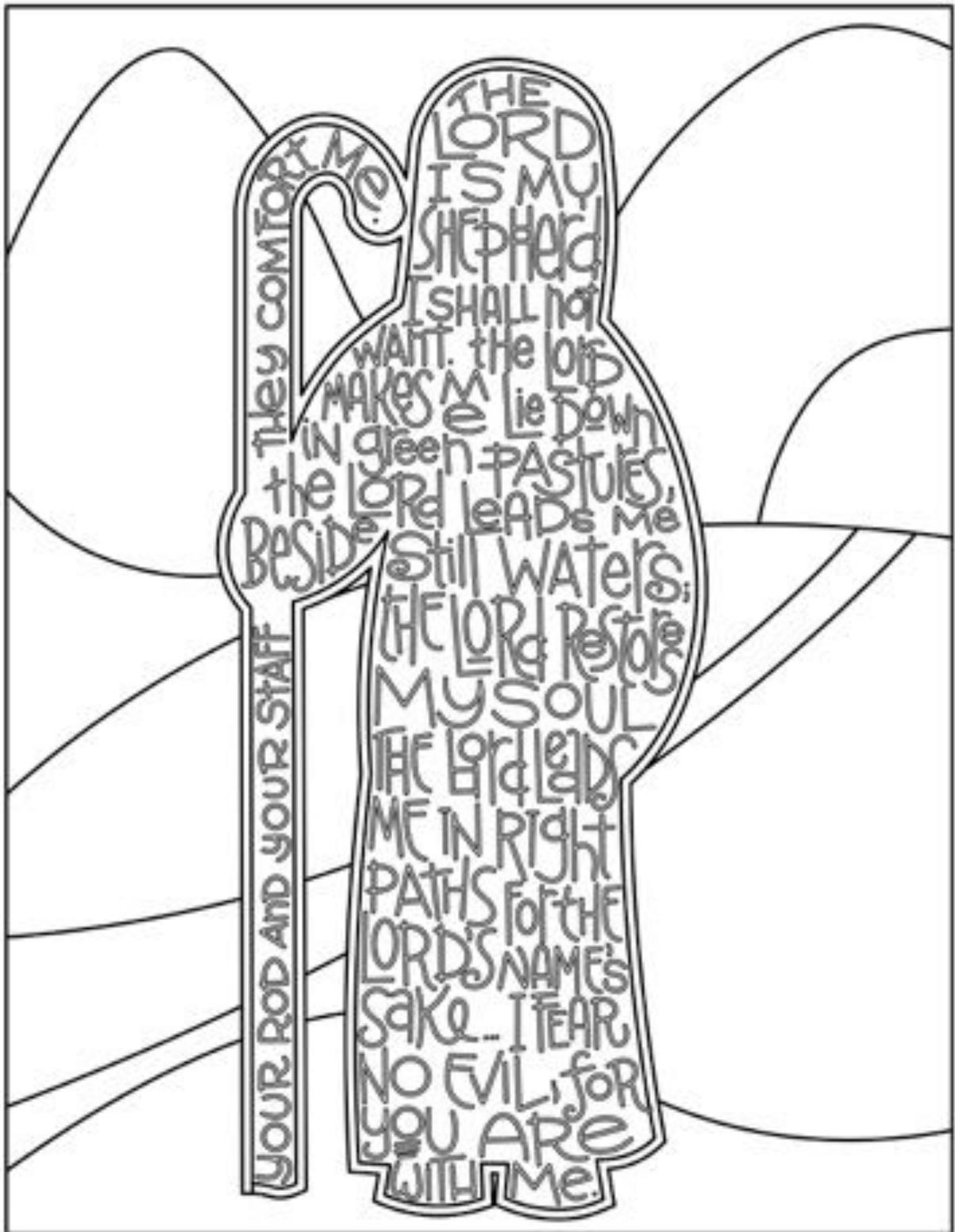
www.ibenedictines.org/2020/03/12/digitalnuns-guide-to-self-isolating-for-dummies

From the Anglican-Episcopal magazine **The Living Church**, an illuminating interview with an infectious disease expert that touches on our worship practices and social distancing:

www.livingchurch.org/2020/03/04/covid-19-facing-facts-working-to-prepare-trusting-in-god/

And finally, a prayer from the Armed Services Prayer Book: **When You Cannot Attend Worship**

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.



HOLY WEEK UNDER QUARANTINE

It is natural to feel a sense of grief over the loss of our traditional in-person worship experiences in our familiar sanctuary during the holiest time of the year; and I'm not going to tell you that you shouldn't be sad about it. Be sad. Shed some tears if you need to. This is not something any of us expected or imagined.

But after you let yourself grieve, know this: **none of us will ever forget Holy Week 2020.** It will be unlike any Holy Week we've experienced before. Our journey along the Holy Week path -- into Jerusalem, to the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane, to the trials and the cross on Golgotha, to the grave and to the empty tomb and beyond -- will not be passive. Each one of us will walk with our Lord and

Savior, separately and together, and along the way we will recover the deep faith and courage of our spiritual ancestors who worshipped in homes, behind closed doors, in the days before "Christianity" existed and Christians were simply "followers of the Way." They could not gather in large numbers, they could not worship publicly, and yet: their dedication to Jesus never wavered, and their remembrance and celebration of his life, death, and resurrection is our shared spiritual heritage!

Let us take heart in the knowledge that this year, we will walk through Holy Week with that Great Cloud of Witnesses alongside us every step of the way.



These are our plans for *Holy Week Under Quarantine*:

SATURDAY BEFORE HOLY WEEK (4/4)

Guidance on establishing sacred space at home (aka "domestic church")

PALM SUNDAY (4/5)

Liturgy of the Palms at 8:30 am; Live-stream Morning Prayer at 9 am

MONDAY & TUESDAY (4/6 & 7)

Daily readings and meditations

WEDNESDAY (4/8)

Virtual Wednesday Chapel at 10 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY (4/9)

Virtual Agapé Meal liturgy with foot (and hand) washing at 6 pm, ending with the Stripping of the Altar(s)

GOOD FRIDAY (4/10)

Liturgy with Solemn Collects and Veneration of the Cross at 7 pm

HOLY SATURDAY/EASTER VIGIL

Evening reflection with children's story at 7 pm, followed by Virtual Vigil and lighting of the "New Fire" at 9:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY: FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION

Diocesan-wide live-streamed service from Christ Church Cathedral, Bishop Breidenthal preaching, with an Easter message from each parish, at 10 am (cincinnati.cathedral.com)

We will "snail mail" worship resources for those who do not have easy access to email/internet. Questions? Talk to Rev. Maggie (RevMaggieLS@gmail.com or 937-605-1536).



APRIL Birthdays

Vivian Sullivan	Apr-01
Cathy Hasecke	Apr-08
Jessica Peterson	Apr-10
Kent Brooks	Apr 10
Ann Summers.....	Apr 11
David Warren	Apr-11
Gretchen Hicks.....	Apr-13
Richard Martin	Apr-13
Alice Kelly	Apr 14
Carter Randolph	Apr-14
Gabe Trillana	Apr-14
Kay Koeninger.....	Apr-16
Ian Waggoner.....	Apr-16
Terry Barnes.....	Apr-18
Kathleen Schubert.....	Apr-19
Wendy DeLong.....	Apr-20
George Anderson	Apr-23
Keith Doubt.....	Apr-23
Betsi Lewis Roland.....	Apr-23
Bonnie Shelburne	Apr-24
Rand Smith.....	Apr-26
Mark Brooks Hedstrom.....	Apr-27
Shannon Wells Tuggle	Apr-27
Jonah Trillana.....	Apr-30

“Day of Change” Results

As the clocks were springing forward one hour, we brought our change to church. Thanks to your generosity, \$83.92 has been given to the Christ Church Food Pantry to support their work in feeding hungry people of Springfield.



APRIL Anniversaries

Vijay & Ann Chitkara	April 22nd
Danny & Shannon Tuggle	April 25 th



Altar Flowers

If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers for 2020 in memory of or thanksgiving for someone, please

sign up on the sheets on the **kiosk**. Please be very specific in what or who you are dedicating the altar flowers, and if you have a particular choice of flower, also, please note when you signed up. The suggested donation is \$45. For more information, contact Kelly Zeller, zellerk0611@gmail.com.

The **Lenten Quiet Day** originally planned for April 4 will be rescheduled, for the health and safety of our parishioners and especially for the Sisters of the Convent of the Transfiguration, many of whom are elderly and frail.

Revised Common LECTIONARY

April 2020				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
April 5th	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27
April 12	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18
April 19	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 26	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-3, 10-17	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35



YOU DO NOT NEED TO WORRY

A message inspired by Matthew 6

You do not need to worry.
Do not be afraid.

Worry will not add
a single second to your day.



The lilies do not worry.
They look up to the sky.

The sparrows do not worry.
They spread their wings and fly.

Sometimes there is sunshine.
Sometimes there is rain.

Be at peace, my little friend.
The sun will rise again.

Like lilies, you will grow.
Like sparrows, you will soar.

God loves the earth and animals,
And loves you even more.



*Saint Kateri traveled across rivers and mountains to find a place where she could live her faith.
The trip was scary, but Jesus loves us more than anything in the world!
We can breathe and be at peace because, no matter what, He's with us every step of the way.*





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

PANTRY UPDATE

**April's Food Pantry:
Wednesday, April 15th
11 AM – 2 PM**

Thank you to those who helped with March's Food Pantry. We served at least a 106 clients by drive through only! We distributed bags of taco meat, whole chickens, cereal, milk, fresh cabbage, oranges, peanut butter and TOLIET PAPER! The cupboards were bare by 12:30.



Volunteers are needed on April 15 to pick up, unload, and pack food, and help with customer service at the drive-thru line. Contact either Ann Chitkara (ann@nova.pcc.com) or Anne Randolph (annejrand@aol.com) to volunteer.

Pantry volunteers come from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church and other faith communities. **May's pantry day is the 13th.**

Kroger Community Rewards Re-Enrollment

For participating Kroger Plus Card holders, April is Annual Re-Enrollment Month! Just follow the instructions listed below, and Christ Church receives a rebate based on your purchases for another year!

Re-enrollment must be completed by April 30th.

1. Access www.krogercommunityrewards.com.
2. Sign in with your email address and password.
3. Click on "My Account".
4. Scroll down to Community Rewards.
5. Click "Edit".
6. Enter our organization number (GC814) and click "Search".
7. The church's information will appear.
8. Click on "Enroll".
9. That's it!.



Interfaith Hospitality Network – Temporarily Closed

IHN is temporarily closed as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Christ Church is slated to provide dinner to the guests on Sunday, April 12^h and Saturday, April 18th. We will keep you informed as to the status of this volunteer opportunity. Contact Lori Swafford (lori.swafford67@gmail.com) with questions.





Our COVID-19 social media schedule... follow us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/christspringfield.org/