



Trinity Tidings

April 2020

Passiontide and C-19

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29, leads us into the last two weeks in Lent, known as Passiontide. My article in last month's newsletter outlined a series of upcoming events for us to look forward to in our parish life together: the Lenten program and suppers; the classes for First Communion and Confirmation; Holy Week and Easter worship; a visit with Bishop Rowe on Maundy Thursday.

Yet, in less than a month's time everything has been put on hold and our lives have been altered due to COVID-19. As we all follow the guidelines of social distancing as set by the CDC, our family life, work life, and common life together are changed. It has been confirmed that this process of social distancing is working in the fight against this virus. And so, we carry on. Provinces of the Anglican Communion around the world have suspended in-person worship until the threat subsides.

I note that this disturbance of everyday life is occurring during Passiontide. This brings to mind key aspects of our faith and our trust in God. Regardless of how this plays out for each one of us, we recognize the vital fact that God is always present, and there will be resurrection.

It is strange for us not to be physically present in the church for worship, especially during Holy Week and on Easter Day. The building stands quiet and empty. We know that one day we will once again be together to offer God our thanks and praise. With prayer and song, that coming day will be our Easter Day.

We are aware of another important fact. The truth that it is us, you and me, who are actually the church. As His followers, we are the Body of Christ.

On the last evening of our Lenten program we were given this message from C. S. Lewis: *everyone, everything, is hopelessly indebted to everyone and everything else.* With this statement in mind, let us continue to check-in with one another and help as we are able in the days ahead. We will get through this together.

During this suspension of worship, we are invited to join together as the church with Bishop Rowe and others each Sunday at 10:00 a.m., by way of Zoom webinar or by telephone. To join by webinar, click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/951752578>. To join by phone, call [646-876-9923](tel:646-876-9923) and use code 951752578#.

If you received this newsletter by email, and thus in PDF format, simply click on the link to join this service. Please remember that this newsletter is available in PDF format by visiting our parish website: www.trinitychurchwny.org Peace.

– Blessings, Fr. Jim

A Prayer for All Those Affected by the Coronavirus

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort knowing that
nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Important dates in April:

All in-person worship and events scheduled to be held at the church are suspended until further notice.

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Episcopal News Service

Episcopal, Cuban churches celebrate reunion after more than half-century apart.

*By, Lynette Wilson, managing editor ENS.
March 9, 2020 – www.episcopalnewsservice.org*

It's official. The Episcopal Church of Cuba has returned to The Episcopal Church as the Diocese of Cuba.

"Today really was finally the outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace of our hearts and our lives coming together as one church," said Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in a March 6 interview with Episcopal News Service following a Eucharist at Havana's Holy Trinity Cathedral recognizing the readmission of the Episcopal Church in Cuba as a diocese.

"This was a reunion, a reconciliation, a re-communion with one another in Jesus Christ," Curry said. "This was a celebration of what God does. As St. Paul said, 'If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old is passed away. Behold the new has come!' And we saw, for one brief shining moment, something of that new that is coming."

Along with Curry, the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, House of Deputies president; Episcopal bishops representing dioceses in partnerships with the Diocese of Cuba; members of Cuba Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio's 2011 College for Bishops' class; and other supporters from the United States and Canada celebrated Cuba's readmission during the Eucharist that preceded the official start of Cuba's Diocesan Convention.

"We love Cuba," Curry said to applause as he took the microphone at the beginning of his sermon. "It's so good to be here. ... On behalf of the entire Episcopal Church, we love Cuba."

In his sermon, Curry referenced John 15, the Last Supper, when Jesus knew he was going to die. "He was willing to give his life, not for himself, but for others," Curry said. "That's what love looks like. ... And Jesus said, 'Abide in me as I abide in you. I am the vine, you are the branches. As the father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now abide in my love.'"

Curry also recognized Delgado's long-held desire for the Cuban church to rejoin The Episcopal Church and become part of a larger family.

"Not only Cuba must become part of a big family, but The Episcopal Church must be part of a big family ... not only part of the Christian family, but the human family," Curry said. "And Jesus has called us to be family so that we followers of Jesus can be a witness to the rest of the world of what God's dream is for the whole human family. God made this world so that we would learn to be family.

"God is the vine and we human beings are the branches, and we will make a better world when we live in God and with each other," Curry said.

Turning to face Delgado, who was seated in a chair behind him, and addressing her directly, Curry said, "When you said we must be part of a big family, the Holy Spirit was speaking through you, my sister. We must be part of a big family."

For more than half of its 110-year history, the Cuban church has been separated from The Episcopal Church. The readmission, or reunification, is something Delgado has worked toward since she became bishop coadjutor in 2010.

"I'm feeling that the Holy Spirit has held my hand all the time," Delgado said in an interview with ENS. "As a human being, I wouldn't have had the capacity without the strength of the Holy Spirit. I believe this moment was chosen by God that we return to The Episcopal Church. Years ago, we made a petition (for readmission), but at the time, we couldn't reach the goal."

This time, readmission was something accomplished "detail by detail," along with the support of The Episcopal Church, she told ENS, adding that there are still details to be worked out and that becoming a full diocese will require a

different way of relating to one another. “It will be quite a new experience for the two churches walking along together, but the experience itself will teach us how to keep going,” she said.

Executive Council formally approved the Cuban church’s readmission at its February 2020 meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Diocese of Cuba joined Province II, which includes dioceses from New York and New Jersey in the United States, the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, Haiti and the Virgin Islands.

During the 79th General Convention held in Austin, Texas, in 2018, the House of Bishops voted unanimously to readmit the Cuban church as a diocese, with the House Deputies concurring.

Though the readmission process accelerated after the 79th General Convention, it first was set in motion five years ago. In March 2015, two months after the United States and Cuba agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations following a 54-year breach, the Episcopal Church of Cuba’s synod voted 39 to 33 in favor of returning to the church’s former affiliation with The Episcopal Church. That summer, the 78th General Convention called for closer relations with the Cuban church and a lifting of the decades-long U.S. economic embargo against Cuba. (The Episcopal Church, through General Convention resolutions, has long supported ending the embargo.)

During the Eucharist on March 6, 2020, Delgado, Bishop Suffragan Ulises Mario Aguero Prendes, priests and deacons signed the oath of conformity, according to Article VIII of church’s Constitution and Canons.

Following the 79th General Convention’s action to readmit the Cuban church, The Episcopal Church in February 2019 launched a campaign to raise \$800,000 to provide retirement benefits for active and retired Cuban clergy.

Donations have exceeded that goal, according to T.J. Houlihan, associate director and senior development officer for The Episcopal Church’s episcopalchurch.org/development, which led the campaign.

“When The Episcopal Church separated from the Episcopal Church of Cuba in 1966, all of the

systems and benefits, including pension contributions, were no longer available to Cuban clergy. Now that the church is reconciled and Cuba has been reunited, this funding will ensure that Cuban clergy are treated comparably to their sister and brother clergy throughout The Episcopal Church,” said Houlihan, who added that the campaign continues.

The Episcopal Church of Cuba traces its origins back to an Anglican presence that began on the island in 1871. In 1901, it became a missionary district of The Episcopal Church. The two churches separated in the 1960s, after Fidel Castro seized power following the 1959 Cuban Revolution and diplomatic relations between the two countries disintegrated. The Episcopal Church of Cuba has functioned as an autonomous diocese of the Anglican Communion under the authority of the Metropolitan Council of Cuba since the separation in 1967. The primates of the Anglican churches of Canada and the West Indies and The Episcopal Church chair the Metropolitan Council.

“Now we go to work. ... The church here in Cuba has been doing the work here, but now in a new and different way, we’re doing it together,” Curry said in a conversation with ENS. “And their witness is going to have an impact on the rest of The Episcopal Church because they’ve had to, they’ve learned to be, Christian and to follow Jesus in a very different cultural context, and so they are going to witness to us how to follow Jesus. ... In many respects, the whole Anglican Communion is going to be profoundly enriched by the witness of the church in Cuba.”

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Parish Notes

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

A Big Thank You to everyone who volunteered and participated at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 25. We served 55 individuals who enjoyed a wonderful pancake meal and fellowship. The servers, cooks, and volunteers had a wonderful time as well!

As a fundraising event for the Fredonia Food Pantry, we collected \$500 in donations for a most worthy cause in our local community. **Thank You!**

Trinity Episcopal Church Women

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Just a quick note: the April 4th meeting is cancelled. And the Spring Rummage Sale date will be set at a later time, hopefully in the next few weeks.

– Doreen Gould

A Message from the Parish Treasurer

Your Trinity treasurer is still at work. Thank you for the pledges we have already received through the mail. Until we can worship together again, I will happily accept pledges sent to the church:
P.O. Box 467, Fredonia, NY 14063.

If you are a weekly giver and would rather write one check at the end of the month, that would work well. I will send out first quarter statements mid-April as planned.

Stay healthy and safe, and keep the faith!

– Ginny Becker

A Poem -- Pandemic

*What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath –
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love –
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.*

By, Lynn Ungar: March 11, 2020

Lectionary Readings for April:

www.lectionarypage.net

Sunday, April 5

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 10

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, April 12

Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 19

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 26

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Birthdays in April

- 7 Holly Gould
- 7 William Weatherlow
- 8 Cindy Ingham McClosky
- 8 Graciela Rey
- 9 Michael Liener

- 11 Judy Reynolds
- 12 Zachary Hall
- 14 Andrew Wheelock
- 15 Sharon Klocek
- 15 Coraline Bentley
- 16 Roger Volk
- 16 James Ivey
- 17 Kirsta Wheelock
- 19 Megan Kyte
- 20 Karin Wheelock
- 22 Becky Kramer
- 23 Robert Weatherlow
- 23 Liam Burmaster
- 24 Charles Burmaster
- 24 Benjamin Kyte
- 24 Charles Cinque
- 24 Alyssa Brown
- 30 James Burmaster

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Trinity Episcopal Church

11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467
 Fredonia, NY 14063
 Office: 716-679-7901
 Email: office@trinitychurchwny.org
 www.trinitychurchwny.org

**Parish Office Hours: Monday: office closed
 Tuesday-Friday: closed**

Deadline for Submission of Articles

5:00 PM on the 20th of each month. Email your articles to rector@trinitychurchwny.org or provide to the Parish Office. All articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Revd. James Clement, *Rector*
 rector@trinitychurchwny.org
 Ji Hyun Woo, *Organist*
 Phillip McMullen, *Choirmaster*
 Sara Jagoda, *Sexton*

The Vestry of the Parish

William Roberts, Sr. Warden
 Sue Torrance, Jr. Warden
 Janeil Rey
 Karin Wheelock
 Lucille Bryant
 Doreen Gould
 Jack Torrance
 Virginia Becker, Treasurer

Sunday School: Janeil Rey and Audrey Parker

Outreach: Diane Sercu

Trinity Episcopal Church Women: Doreen Gould

Sunshine Group: Maureen Blackburn and Cathy Berner

Prayer Chain: Mary Lou Sherman

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Ann Sullivan

Altar Guild: Jeanette Adamczak

Flower Guild: Melisa Eichmann

Wedding Anniversaries in April

- 11 Melisa and Chris Eichmann
- 18 Dave and Mary Lou Sherman
- 18 Fr. Bob and Patty Arnold
- 20 Russell Kyte and Bridget Russell
- 25 Marilyn and Bob Maytum

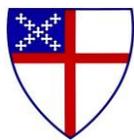
In Memoriam

- 2 Richard Sahle
- 2 June Smith
- 3 Jean Corovano
- 4 Dorothy Reynolds
- 4 Virginia Maytum
- 6 Bruce Manley
- 9 Marjorie Hamann
- 12 Pat Lewis
- 13 Phil Skrzypek
- 15 Connie Van Scoter
- 17 Dudley G. Foster
- 19 Delmac Beckwith
- 30 Beth Parker

No Worship Server or Parish Support schedules for the month of April

Trinity Episcopal Church
11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467
Fredonia, New York 14063

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The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:2*