

Time Together

While We are Apart

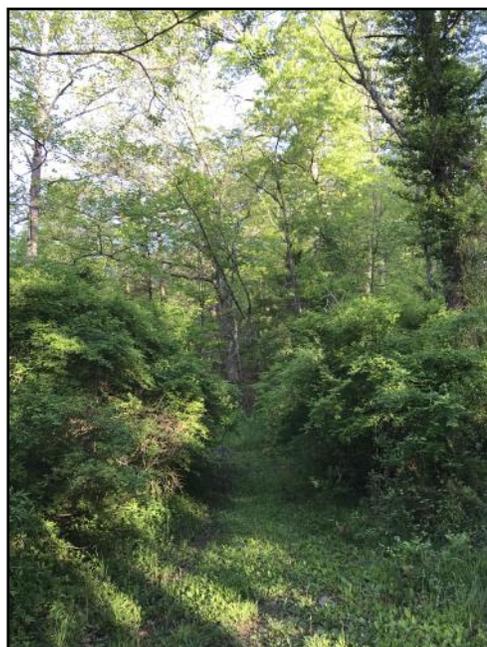
Sunday, March 29, 2020



Good morning, dear church communities,

Our coffee mugs today come from Ed and Sue Ramsey from SMWC. Ed and Sue are both artists, and Ed specifically is a potter. Ed said it was very hard for them to pick favorites from all the mugs he has from fellow potters. Ed chose the darker mug, made by Judith Duff, and Sue the lighter one, made by Sunshine Cobb. Ed said that each morning when he comes to the mug cabinet in their kitchen, he enjoys deciding which potter he will have his coffee with that morning. Many thanks for sharing, Ed and Sue!

I have found in these strange weeks of pandemic and social distancing, that I have a very hard time keeping track of what day it is, and even what month it is! Last time we were together for church it was early March, and the Second Sunday in Lent. Now, seemingly all of a sudden, it is just a little more than a week until Palm



Sunday! (April 5th) I am planning to make a video of a Maundy Thursday prayer and reflection, and an Easter Day prayer and reflection, that will both be available to watch on Maundy Thursday (April 9) and Easter Sunday (April 12), on the Trinity website. Though we cannot be together in person for these treasured holy days, we can be together in new ways, and still walk the way of our brother and Savior Jesus in Holy Week, and on to Easter!

Now, onward to a little more, "Time Together."
Megan

Announcements:

In the weekly Zoom meeting for clergy, with the Bishops and the Diocesan staff, Bishop Susan announced that the **Diocese of Virginia will continue to suspend public worship through May 8.** The Diocese will continue to monitor the pandemic developments and keep us updated.

As I said in the opening article, Paula will be posting on the Trinity website (Trinityva.org) **prayer/reflection videos from me for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.** Transcripts of these videos will also be available to folks without computers.

For other worship options, **Washington National Cathedral continues to offer beautiful and moving worship daily,** including during Holy Week and on Easter Day. They can be found at cathedral.org

One more Holy Week note: SMWC ordered palms for Palm Sunday, and the order could not be cancelled. **So, if you would like a few palms for your Palm Sunday, you are invited to go to SMWC or Trinity, on Saturday, April 4th after 3pm, and the palms will be on a table in front of each church for pickup.** Of course, please observe good social distancing if others are there. Enjoy the feel of those beautiful green palms in your hand, shout "Hosanna!" and enjoy sharing a smile and wave!

I will continue to videotape **short greetings and prayers,** and Paula will post them to the Trinity website at trinityva.org. She will also post them on both churches' Facebook pages. Another way for us to be together while we are apart.

Please let me know **if you are in need of help with getting groceries or other necessities.** Several folks from both churches have volunteered to help do errands for anyone in the churches who can not get out to shop. Call, text, or email and I'll connect you with a volunteer.

Prayer Notes:

We will include our prayer lists each Sunday. Please continue to let us know of folks you would like to have on our prayer lists. A note for this week:

Bishop Susan had her surgery for breast cancer on Friday; as of the compiling of this newsletter I do not have an update, but I'll let you know as I hear. Please continue to pray for her.

Prayer Lists:

St. Mary's Whitechapel: Sherry Mann, Susan Goff, Jori Keckman, Nancy Brandon, Ron Okrasinski, Sally Flanigan, Alexa Frisbee, R. W. Courtney, Tammy, Dorsey Ficklin, Glenn Courtney, Terry Thompson, Wendy Burnett, Nora Pennell, Lin Greene, Jake Cobb, Dave Petersen, Dan Ficklin, Marie Beringer, Donna Alexander, Rose, Cecil Courtney, Mimi Chace, Donna Brayton, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Howard Hanchey, Jennifer Cassell Cole, Karen Woodruff, Roger Fortin, Wier Harman, Gina Adams, Brad Quillen, Jessica, Joanne and Michael.

Nursing Home Resident: Lancashire - Mary Sue Courtney

Armed Forces: Joshua Green, Aimee Budzinski, Mark Medina, Kathryn McCormack Akacem, Mehdi Akacem, Anderson Sale, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

Trinity: Vicki Simmons Watson, Jerry Gregor, Susan Goff, Janice Shanks, Sherri Carter, Terri, Nick Slaughter, Fran and Dick Davis, Sally Flanigan, R. W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Barbara Nunnery, Keith Elswick, Fred Eddowes, Steve, Rick Bateman, Jenny Dunaway, Earline Tomlin Kelley, Ed Borer, Dean Haine, Donna Alexander, Mary and Karen Jackson, Cecil Courtney, Berkeley Kellum, Wendy Boswell, Preston Bryant, Craig Smith, Michael, Mel and Frances Ercelino, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Karen Woodruff, Joey Coker, Michael Dunaway, J.W. Boone, Brad Quillen, Ian Larmore, Brandon Dunaway.

Armed Forces: Giovanni Elhordoy, Ward Gavin, Paul Price and Michael Stout.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Philip's, Richmond; St. Peter's, Richmond; St. Patrick's, Falls Church

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Church of England

Reflection

On my travels around the county delivering this newsletter to folks, I find I start out pretty tense, going over the latest news on the pandemic, worrying about, well, everyone, allowing “what ifs” to take over my mind.....And then, as the miles go on, I find my spirit calms a bit and I begin to notice the beauty of spring, the birds in the sky, the fields greening, and a wonderful surprise in some fields! I noticed recently that the



golden flowers are growing again in our farm fields, just like two years ago. Jock Chilton had answered my question then about what was growing in those glorious, almost glowing fields: canola. Who knew canola oil came from such beautiful and hopeful flowers!

Now I know that likely the canola is back this spring as the farmers rotate crops, and after a year off, it is time to plant it again. (Jock and Craig, my favorite farmers, please correct me if I’m wrong!) Though there is a logical reason for the canola to reappear this year, 2020, I have also found a much-needed spiritual gift for 2020 in the return of the canola.

I have found myself feeling uplifted by the sight of those fields, eager to drive each Wednesday and Sunday and see how the flowers are growing bigger and the golden color is gleaming brighter. Amazingly, the canola helps me to stop worrying and start praying, to allow God’s grace closer, to feel God’s love and presence in these difficult and anxious days.

God is with us always, not just when we are in church on Sundays..... And I’m looking now for how God is appearing anew in my days during this time of pandemic. I’m trying to pay more attention, to watch for God not just in the usual spots, but in the unexpected fields. And to know, late in the day as the light fades and the darkness draws near, that, like the canola still shining in the fields, God is with us in the darkness, that “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

Know that you all are in my prayers and in my heart.

“And now, My friends, remember, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us, so be quick to love and make haste to be kind; and rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned with the promise of our future than the mistakes of our past, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.”

Amen.

St. Mary's Whitechapel

Office Hours: W & TH, 8am-1pm, F 8am-4pm

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Please visit our website:

www.stmaryswhitechapel.org

Rector: The Rev. Megan Limburg

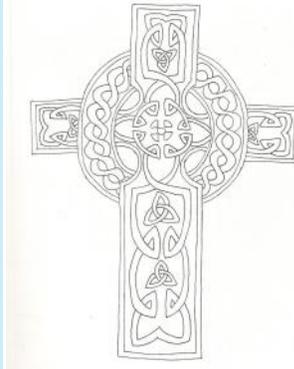
(804) 462-5908 Office

(804) 477-5515 Cell

Email: rectorstmtrin@gmail.com

Vestry 2020

Senior Warden	Bill Pennell
Junior Warden	Ernie Greene
Members	Pat Ficklin
	Richard Gill
	Connie Horne
	Gloria Romaine
Register	Alison Towles



Trinity Episcopal Church

Office Hours: W & TH, 8am-1pm, F 8am-4pm

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Please visit our website:

www.trinityva.org

Rector: The Rev. Megan Limburg

(804) 462-5908 Office

(804) 477-5515 Cell

Email: rectorstmtrin@gmail.com

Vestry 2020

Senior Warden	Frances Callaghan
Junior Wardens	Jock Chilton
	Fred Ripley
Members	Chris Cammarata
	Jane Dunaway
	Craig Giese
	Stan James
Register	Carol Roscher

St. Mary's Whitechapel
Trinity Episcopal Church
5940 White Chapel Road
Lancaster, VA 22503



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE