

Time Together

While We are Apart

Trinity and St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Churches

Wednesday,
January 20, 2021

Good day dear church communities,

I am happy to report that after I shared my Hard-Boiled Eggs recipe, I received several recipes to share from both churches! Our first recipe comes from Frances Callahan from Trinity. Frances brings us her mother's Ginger Cookies recipe. She shared that her mother was an amazing cook, but that unfortunately, the cooking gene did not pass from mother to daughter! Nonetheless, this recipe has remained a family favorite and is still made by neighbors of Frances' mother, as well as by Frances' children and grandchildren. How perfect for a cold winter's day, ginger cookies and cup of hot coffee or tea! Many thanks, Frances, for sharing your mother's recipe!

GINGER COOKIES

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter

1 egg

1 cup sugar

2 cups flour

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup molasses

2 tsp baking soda

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cloves, cinnamon, ginger, salt



Mix well

Use $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp mixture to make into a ball

Roll in sugar

Place on Pam sprayed cookie sheet (I use parchment paper instead of Pam)

Press each ball with bottom of glass dipped in sugar

Bake at 375 for 8 minutes

And now onward to a little more "Time Together",

Megan

Prayer Notes:

We will include our prayer lists in each Wednesday Newsletter and in our worship services. Please continue to let us know of folks you would like to have on our prayer lists.

Please keep Mary Sue Courtney (SMWC) in your prayers. Mary Sue has pneumonia and is at Rappahannock General Hospital. Glenn was able to visit her briefly and said she is still pretty much unresponsive, although she did open her eyes briefly while he was holding her hand. Please pray for Mary Sue and all her family.

Please continue in prayer for our country and our world, as we reach 400,000 deaths by COVID-19 in the United States, and as we inaugurate Joe Biden and Kamala Harris today as our new President and Vice President. This “Prayer for the Human Family” is from our Book of Common Prayer:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; 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.



Prayer Lists:

St. Mary's Whitechapel: Dave Arnold, Alexa McGrath, Agnes Robbie, Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, Jori Keckman, Alexa Frisbee, R.W. Courtney, Tammy, Dorsey Ficklin, Glenn Courtney, Terry Thompson, Wendy Burnett, Lin Greene, Jake Cobb, Dave Petersen, Dan Ficklin, Marie Beringer, Mimi Chace, Donna Brayton, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Howard Hanchey, Jennifer Cassell Cole, Karen Woodruff, Gina Adams, Brad Quillen, Jessica, Joanne and Michael.

Nursing Home Resident: Lancashire - Mary Sue Courtney

Armed Forces: Jacob Sensenig, Joshua Green, Aimee Budzinski, Kathryn McCormack Akacem, Mehdi Akacem, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

Trinity: Mary Sue Courtney, Lella Lee Edwards, Malcolm Jett, Sherri Carter, Terri, R.W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Steve, Rick Bateman, Earline Tomlin Kelley, Ed Borer, Dean Haine, Mary and Karen Jackson, Berkeley Kellum, Preston Bryant, Michael, Mel and Frances Ercelino, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Karen Woodruff, Joey Coker, Michael Dunaway, Brad Quillen, Ian Larmore, Brandon Dunaway.

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

January and February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Trinity Birthdays: Craig Giese, January 17th; Jean Price, January 24th; Fred Ripley, January 28th Elizabeth Hyde, February 3rd; Anne Kingsbury, February 3rd; Kate Warfel, February 9; Bill Buhmann, February 13th; Emily Carlson, February 13th; Justin Kingsbury, February 18th; Brooke Hayden, February 20th; Eli Hamrick, February 23rd; Hunter Hayden, February 24th; Mickey Blandford, February 25th; Anne Draper, February 26th; Ian Larmore, February 26th

Anniversary- Dennis and Ellen Tracey: January 10, Carol and J. R. Roscher, February 29th

St Mary's White Chapel: Dorsey Ficklin, January 15; Jannine Pennell, January 22; Helen Cobb, January 28; Kendall Stoneham, February 2; Derrick Stoneham, February 2; Ben Weimer, February 4; Dave and Mag Petersen, February 10; Howard Hanchey, February 17; Katelynn Wood, February 19; Sharon Gill, February 24; Tracy Nester, February 26; Kurt Muse, February 27

Anniversary – Linda Stough and Linda Odum, January 9; Frans and Daphne Kasteel, January 9; Anne and Kurt Muse, January 24, Dave and Mag Petersen, February 10

Announcements

At the Annual Meetings, both churches learned that pledges are down for 2021. Please know it is never too late to pledge! If you would like to make a pledge to either church, please contact the office, and Deb and Nancy would be glad to send you a pledge card.

Stmarys.whitechapel@gmail.com 804-462-5908 Many thanks for your support of our churches.

POSTPONED: The Storytelling Gathering scheduled for January 28th has been postponed. A new date will be announced soon!

Donna Ransone (SMWC) wrote recently about working to help her nephew, who is looking for a car or truck to buy. Donna says her nephew can do auto mechanic work and is looking for an older vehicle in the \$800-\$1000 range. You can contact Donna at: hokie74@verizon.net

Recipes Needed! You are invited to join in the recipe stories now being shared in our Newsletters. Do you have a favorite recipe to share? Send the recipe and any story that goes with it to Megan by email or snail mail.

Do you need help getting trash to the dump or picking up prescriptions or an occasional grocery item? Please know that we have folks ready to help in our joint churches community. Contact Megan for connection to a volunteer.

Washington National Cathedral continues to offer beautiful and moving worship daily. They can be found at cathedral.org

You can continue to mail pledges and donations to Rector's Discretionary Fund to each church:

Trinity Church
PO Box 208
Lancaster, VA 22503

SMWC
5940 Whitechapel Rd
Lancaster, VA 22503



Thoughts from the Organ Bench
by Glenn Courtney, Organist
SMWC and Trinity

Christina Rossetti

1. In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

3. Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

4. Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

5. What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.



Christina Georgiana Rossetti (1830-1894) gives us one of the most beloved Christmas hymns. The author of three collections of mostly religious poetry and four devotional books, she came from a family steeped in the arts. Her deep faith is thought to be partially the result of the solace that she found in writing as a result of her poor health from age sixteen.

Christina's father, Gabriele Rossetti, was a professor of Italian at King's College, London, living in exile in England. Her brothers Dante Gabriel and William Michael gave birth to a nineteenth-century art movement,

the Pre-Raphaelites, for which the beautiful Christina often served as a model (see the photo), especially for portraits of the Madonna. Among the family friends was Charles Dodgson, who, under the pseudonym of Lewis Carroll, authored the famous Alice in Wonderland. An ardent Anglican, Christina rejected one suitor because he was Roman Catholic.

Her most famous hymns are the Christmas texts, "Love Came Down at Christmas" composed in 1885 and "In the Bleak Midwinter," the latter first published as the poem "A Christmas Carol" in Scribner's Monthly in January 1872. It first appeared as a hymn in The English Hymnal (1906), where it was paired to a tune by the famous English composer Gustav Holst (1874-1934). Holst's setting, Cranham, is a hymn tune setting suitable for congregational singing, since the poem is irregular in metre and any setting of it requires a skillful and adaptable tune. The hymn is titled after Cranham, Gloucestershire and was written for the English Hymnal of 1906. Now, over 100 years later, we sing this hymn in virtually the same form as it appeared in 1906.

In the first memorable stanza, Rossetti creates a dreary and desolate image of the world into which the infant Jesus appeared by drawing on the experience of a British winter. She is not suggesting that it literally snowed in Bethlehem, but is drawing on a long-established literary idea of associating snow with Christ's birth. Rossetti exploits this metaphor in the opposite way in her opening stanza. The Incarnate One, the Light of the World, brought warmth into the most forlorn and dreary of sinful situations. The second stanza uses the device of antithesis to make the point that the eternal One whom "heaven could not hold" nor "earth sustain" appeared during the "bleak winter" of human existence where "a stable place sufficed." This paradox of the eternal One born in a humble setting is a primary theme of many hymns of this season.

An often-omitted third stanza explores the intimacy of the manger scene.

The fourth stanza once again contrasts the heavenly glory of gathered "Angels and archangels" and "cherubim and seraphim" with the mother who alone "worshiped the beloved with a kiss."

Some have questioned the poem's theology: "Is it right to say that heaven cannot hold God, nor the earth sustain, and what about heaven and earth fleeing away when he comes to reign?" However, I Kings 8:27, in Solomon's prayer of dedication of the Temple, says: "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain You." Regarding "heaven and earth fleeing away", many New Testament apocalyptic passages use such language, principally Revelation 20:11: "And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them" (KJV). Similar language is used in II Peter 3:10-11: "The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire... that day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells" (NIV).

The final stanza of the hymn is perhaps one of the most endearing to singers of Christmas hymns.

What can I give him,

Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd,

I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man,

I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him;

Give my heart.

The writer invites us to offer our own gift to the Christ Child just as the shepherds and wise men did. Rather than the present of a lamb or expensive gifts, however, we offer the most important gift -- our hearts.

[In the Bleak Midwinter - Mormon Tabernacle Choir - YouTube](#)

Sources: www.umcdiscipleship.org

Wikipedia.com

Reflection

Our Reflection today comes from The Reverend Rachel Hackenberg, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, who currently serves on the national staff for the UCC.

“Patience”

Paul stood up and began to speak: “The God of this people Israel made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm God led them out of it. For about forty years God put up with them in the wilderness.” - Acts 13:16-18, excerpts (NRSV)

I often wonder why God puts up with us.

We’re terribly wasteful – with the planet, with one another, with life. We’re dreadfully self-centered – in our pride, in our needs, and even in our shame. We’re easily frightened – by what is new, by what is unknown, by what is evil, and (puzzlingly) by what is good.

What kind of deity has patience for such behavior, generation after generation?

“A loving God,” is the right answer, of course. I still know my Sunday school lessons. But my lingering dissatisfaction with the right answer suggests that I’m asking the wrong question.

What kind of people continue such behavior, generation after generation?

People in pain. People in pain because of evil, and people causing pain out of evil. People carrying the unhealed pain of previous generations. People jealous of the healing others have found. People raging against everything and everyone except the pain itself.

When my kids were in elementary school, I learned to recognize that a sour attitude at home in the evening meant they had poured all their energy into keeping their composure during the school day, only melting down into a tantrum at home where it was safe to do so. For forty years in the wilderness, the ancient Israelites raged and wrestled against God, finally releasing generations of pain that they had kept tightly concealed while living under Pharaoh’s oppression.

And God put up with them.

Not because God is patient with pain. But because God is patient with healing.

Prayer

Put up with me a little longer, God, in this wilderness of healing. Amen.

