

# Time Together

## While We are Apart

Sunday, April 19, 2020



Good morning, dear church communities,

We had one last set of coffee mugs arrive as I was finishing the last newsletter, so we will share one more cup of coffee with these mugs from JR and Carol Roscher (Trinity). It is especially appropriate for Carol and JR to supply our last mugs, as they are, amazingly, during a pandemic, sorting and packing all of their possessions! The Roschers planned to put their house on the market in March, just as the virus crisis was heating up. In the “verging on miraculous department” their house sold, before going on the market! So they are working hard to get moved out of their house in mid-May, and are renting a house near Kilmarnock, until their new home in South Carolina is built.

The mug on the left is Carol’s and was a gift from a friend, who thinks like Carol about dogs! Hopefully we will see Chloe, their dog, in the upcoming animal pictures for this newsletter. The other mug was given to JR by Carol’s sister, and is from a company started by Vietnam vets, and that is totally run by veterans. Many thanks, JR and Carol, for finding time in the chaos of moving, to share a mug of coffee with us!



One of the first animal pictures I received seemed perfect to share, on this second Sunday of Easter. The photo is from Fred and Judy Ripley (Trinity). Their youngest granddaughter, Christina, raises rabbits in Pennsylvania for 4-H, as do her two older sisters. This bunny is two weeks old and was born April 1<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks, Fred and Judy, for sharing a picture that reminds us of God’s new life, always happening, if we have eyes to see.

Now, onward to a little more, “Time Together.”  
Megan

## **Prayer Notes:**

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

- Chuck McGrath has aspiration pneumonia and remains in the hospital in Kilmarnock. He has responded well to antibiotics, but being in the hospital is stressful and confusing for him. Malena hopes to get him home by Monday with home health nurse and PT coming there. Please keep Chuck in your prayers, and prayers much needed too for Alexa and Malena.
- Lauren McCleery Valdez's (Trinity) mother, Cathy McCleery is in Regional Memorial Hospital in Richmond and in hospice care. Lauren, her husband Pedro, and her sister, Jamie, are with her at the hospital. Please keep them all in your prayers in this fragile and tender time.
- I don't have an update on Nancy Brandon, but please continue your prayers for Nancy.
- Glenn had a lung scan last week and it was clear, alleluia! Glenn's new care plan is to regain strength and endurance post-chemo, and do more scans in July and have a colonoscopy. Please continue your prayers for Glenn.
- Our healthcare workers are on all our hearts. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

## **Prayer Lists:**

**St. Mary's Whitechapel:** Dee Whichard, Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, 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:** Cathy McCleery, Omid, Nancy Clark, 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:** Pray for St. Paul's on the Hill, Winchester; St. Paul's, Alexandria.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Church of Ireland.

## Announcements:

Our Zoom gathering to share worries and blessings will begin today, Sunday, at 3pm with a group of six of us. The group is open so if you'd like to join us, just email, text or call me and I'll send you the Zoom invitation. (My cell number is 804-477-5515.) And if you would like to join us, but are not signed up for Zoom, Ellen Tracey from Trinity and Sharon and Richard Gill from SMWC are willing to help anyone get on Zoom. Ellen can be contacted at: 804-436-2371 and The Gills can be reached at: 804-462-9939.

Washington National Cathedral continues to offer beautiful and moving worship daily. They can be found at [cathedral.org](http://cathedral.org).

Please let me know if you are in need of help with getting groceries or other necessities. Call, text, or email and I'll connect you with a volunteer.

Many thanks for continuing to pay your pledges as you are able in these difficult financial times. And many thanks to those who have been able to donate to the Rector's Discretionary Funds.

*We paid three bills for folks through the LINK this week, all people who have been laid off and/or have children at home now and expenses have gone up. Many thanks for your help for families in need in our community!*

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

## Reflection

I have been surprised to find that I am comforted, in this so peculiar time of pandemic, by stories of folks coping with past pandemics and dark times. Bishop Jennifer shared in one of our weekly clergy Zoom meetings a prayer from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. The 1928 Prayer Book was, of course, published just 10 years past the devastating flu pandemic of 1918 that killed 50 million people worldwide. The prayer below, sounds surprisingly relevant 102 years later:

### *A Prayer in Time of Great Sickness and Mortality*

*O most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee to you for succour. Deliver us, we beseech you, from our peril; give strength and skill to those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

This week I read a surprising and moving story that emerged from another time of great suffering. The story was of Martin Rinkart, a gifted musician living in Germany in the 1600s. Rinkart, after many years as a musician, became a pastor to the people of the town of Eilenburg. Rinkart served the same church for 30 years, sadly the same time period as the Thirty Years' War.

The town was a walled city, so many came into the city to escape the invading Swedish army. As an enclosed town, not surprisingly, disease and hunger were constantly present. In 1637 many other clergy, most of the town council and Rinkart's own wife all died, along with thousands of others. And yet, Rinkart ministered onward, giving away all he could to help and feed others, offering comfort and care to those in needs, and presiding at innumerable funerals with compassion.

This story could end here, and give us much to pray on and learn from, but the story goes on. Amid all this suffering, Rinkart returned to his musical roots and wrote a hymn, still familiar to us, and loved, 383 years later. The hymn begins: "*Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices...*" Perhaps your heart leaped as mine did, to hear those so surprising and uplifting words of thanksgiving. Rinkart could still find God in the middle of so much pain and loss. Rinkart's hymn reminds us that God does not just show up on the sunny beautiful days but even more so, in our valley days, when we walk by faith and not by sight.....

So, on this Second Sunday of Easter, when you might have times of wondering where God is, listen to Martin Rinkart, and join in singing with him, of this bounteous God of all our days. Amen.

(The words to the hymn are below, as well as a YouTube link to King's College Choir singing the hymn accompanied by some visuals, both evoking the meaning of the hymn, and about Martin Rinkart.)

Hymn #396 Episcopal Hymnal

*Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands, and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!  
With ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
Eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GStAhbJoSA>

