

# Time Together

## *While We are Apart*

Sunday, April 5, 2020



Good morning, dear church communities,

Our coffee mugs today come from Pete and Donna Ransone. Pete and Donna are one of our rare “bridge folks” between the two churches. Pete has long family ties at SMWC and is a member. The Saturday evening services at Trinity attracted their attention and they are regular attenders at those wonderful, informal services. So, they now attend SMWC and are both members, as Donna was received at the Bishop’s visit last May, but they both maintain friendships at Trinity, and look forward to Saturday evening services. So, their mugs send love to both churches! Many thanks, Pete and Donna!

As so many things change in our lives in this time of pandemic, I find comfort in my morning walks, and in noticing over and over, that in much of God’s world, things are proceeding without interruption. The songbirds are serenading each other before sunrise, and yes, the sun keeps rising and setting right on schedule. The rabbits are suddenly all over our yard, acting like teenagers on a field trip, lots of chasing and leaping/dancing for each other! Our big dog Autumn reserves a special alert bark, part wail/part bark, for the appearance of bunnies on the lawn! And of course, the trees are greening, and the flowers, from the showiest to the tiniest, are bursting forth.....all reminding us, if we have eyes to see, that God is



present, and God is in our world and though this time is most challenging and yes, at times, frightening, God is not far away, but close at hand, even in the tiniest of flowers, the tiniest of birds. “His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches over me.”

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

## 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. Notes for this week:

- Glenn had scans this past week and will get results Wednesday when he sees his oncologist. This Monday's chemo is postponed until after that appointment. Please continue to keep Glenn and Brad in your hearts and prayers.
- For Nancy Brandon the upcoming week includes both chemo and radiation, a tough week; prayers are much appreciated.
- Many of you have asked if I have received the results from my month-long heart monitor. I am grateful to say that the results were encouraging. I do still have incidents of a-fib but they are short. I also do skip beats, but they are not frequent. My cardiologist advised me to continue my current meds and I will see him for a check-in visit in June. Many thanks to all for your care and prayers!
- Please keep the River Road Food Pantry in your prayers this week. Director of the Food Pantry, Jannine Pennell, has been working overtime trying to find a way to hold the pantry while keeping volunteers and clients safe. (A few days after the March Pantry, a client/volunteer, was diagnosed with COVID-19 and has been in the hospital. Thankfully he is improving now.) In conjunction with volunteers from the Healthy Harvest Food Bank in Warsaw, Jannine has worked out a drive-through Food Pantry, with a minimal number of volunteers needed. Please keep all involved in the Pantry this Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in your prayers.
- Our healthcare workers are on all our hearts. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

## Prayer Lists:

**St. Mary's Whitechapel:** 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:** 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, Ingham, Shenandoah; St. George's, Pine Grove, Stanley; Ware, Gloucester; Clarke Parish, Berryville.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

## Announcements:

As we begin Holy Week today, Paula will be posting on the Trinity website (Trinityva.org) and on our Facebook pages **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](http://cathedral.org)

I bring you news, both sad and happy, that **Raymond Gaddy, who has served as sexton at SMWC for over 30 years, has chosen to retire as of April 1st**. The news is sad, as this ends a time of long and good ministry by Raymond at SMWC, and the news is to be celebrated for Raymond, who can move into a much-deserved rest and retirement! The SMWC Vestry presented Raymond with a severance check, and joined me in words of thanksgiving and gratitude for his ministry, as he retires. If you would like to join in offering your thanks for Raymond's ministry and best wishes for his retirement, you can send him a card at:

*Raymond Gaddy  
723 Sullavans Rd.  
Lancaster, VA 22503*

Just before we suspended worship due to the pandemic, I had announced that I was moving my day off to Wednesdays. Now, with the Newsletter coming out on Wednesdays and Sundays, Wednesday is not a good day to take off. So now **I'm trying for Thursday as my day off!**

The **sabbatical** I had planned for the month of May in Maine, has been postponed until a later date.

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 cannot get out to shop. Call, text, or email and I'll connect you with a volunteer.

## Reflection

With Palm Sunday today, we begin a Holy Week like none other, I believe, in any of our lifetimes. How do we worship apart? How do we remember Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem without gathering and hearing the story together? Well, we can still spend this "time together," we can remember together, and though we don't have palms we can follow a practice suggested, to cut a green branch and post it on your door, or to take a colorful scarf and post it, and echo the actions so long ago that folks did to welcome the king, to welcome Jesus, by laying branches and garments in his path, making the dusty road fit for a king.



The crowds lined the paths as Jesus came into Jerusalem, riding a donkey....The crowd shouted out "Hosanna!" meaning "save us now!" indicating that Jesus was powerful, a king, who could save them from all that oppressed them.

We do not need to be together to know that the crowds then, and so often we still, misunderstand Jesus, seeing him as a superhero, a king with a mighty sword, rather than the prince of peace. Then and now we make Jesus, like every other powerful leader we have followed, a strong fighter, not a suffering servant. We still need, even in the midst of a pandemic, especially in the midst of a pandemic, to learn to see Jesus among us, to see Jesus not in the halls of power, but among those who are suffering, the sick, the lonely, the poor, those who are afraid, those who are lost.....we who are lost.....

Palm Sunday calls us to enter into this Holy Week walk with Jesus, through Jerusalem, to the Last Supper, and onto Calvary....to not shy away, but simply to walk with him.....to the cross, and onward to the empty tomb. Though we are apart this Holy Week, we can still walk together with Jesus, our Savior.

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.