

Time Together

While We are Apart

Trinity and St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Churches

Wednesday, July 15, 2020



Good day, dear church communities,

Last week, with Miracle the chick, we had our last animal to share in our community. Before we move on to another category, I wanted to not miss a late arrival in the morning cups category. Kaki and Bob Swann recently shared with me the two cups we see today. The mug belongs to Bob, who is a lover of boats, both for sailing and rowing, and for tinkering and repairs. His mug says on one side, seemingly Bob's favorite Biblical quote, Matthew 14:22: "Jesus said take the boat out." The other side of his mug says: "He obviously thought boating to be critical to the spiritual, moral, and mental well-being of every person. Try to remember His words when the engine has conked out, the food is all gone, the rudder is broken, the pump has stopped working, the charts went overboard, and you just hit a rock..."

Kaki's cup is from Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Franklin, Virginia. On the other side of her cup is this quote from St. Teresa of Avila:

"Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, no eyes but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks mercy on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Two cups, two good calls for us to ministry, from two folk loved by SMWC and Trinity Churches! Many thanks, Kaki and Bob, for sharing with us!

The only thing constant is change... I said it last week, and I'm saying it again this week, as I bring another change to your attention.

Starting next week, we will be changing to Newsletters sent every other week, rather than weekly. Thus, after today, the next Newsletter will arrive on Wednesday, July 29th. As some folks can now connect in person at our Pavilion service, and others can connect on Zoom, we will lessen the number of our Newsletters, though not end them, as they continue to offer a good way for everyone to get the news.

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And as the pandemic continues, we may go back to once or twice a week Newsletters, as needed. One doctor said wisely, I think, we are in the first inning of this pandemic, not near the end of it. So as needed, Newsletter, Zoom service, and Pavilion service may change, as conditions change.

Because... the only thing constant is change!

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.

A Prayer for Healthcare workers in this time of COVID-19:

Loving God, we pray today for all doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers. Give them courage of heart, and strength of mind and body. Keep them safe from harm. May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing to heal and help those affected by the corona virus. God of all consolation, may they know your protection and peace. Bless them in these challenging days, and bless their families. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Trinity: Nancy Clark, Susan Goff, Janice Shanks, Sherri Carter, Terri, Fran and Dick Davis, Sally Flanigan, R. W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Barbara Nunnery, Keith Elswick, 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, 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.

St. Mary's Whitechapel: Agnes Robbie, Chuck McGrath, Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, 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, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

July and August Birthdays and Anniversaries

SMWC Birthdays: Barbara Wheeler, July 16; Alison Towles, July 28; Susan Dameron, August 1; Bill Pennell, August 6; Pat Ficklin, August 13; Betsy Woods, August 21; Anne Hanchey, August 22; Walter Mauro, August 26; Lucy Hottle, August 28; Sherry Mann, August 29; Nancy Brandon, August 31; Raymond Gaddy, August 31

Anniversaries: Ben and Cay Weimer, July 17; Megan and Tim Limburg, July 20; Jane and Page Henley, August 6; Richard and Sharon Gill, August 8; Gloria and Randy Romaine, August 12; Ernie and Lin Greene, August 22; Betsy and Bob Woods, August 24; Fred and Mary Ann Fred Olsen, August 28; Dorsey and Pat Ficklin, August 30

Trinity Birthdays: Stan James, July 2nd; Mariah Mears, July 2nd; Josie Spencer, July 2nd; Kenneth Jett, July 5th; Sydney Price, July 5th; Janet Worsham, July 8th; Janet Christopher, July 11th; Mark Dunaway, July 11th; Shelva Jean Gaskins, July 13th; Ryan Cammarata, July 19th; Carol Roscher, July 23rd; Justin Cammarata, July 25th; Frances Callaghan, July 26th; Brandon Dunaway, July 30th; Cara Christopher, August 6th; Sally Cornwell, August 7th; Judy Ripley, August 7th; Julie H. Barrack, August 9th; Barbara Nunnery, August 13th; Janet Davenport, August 16th; Elizabeth Calder, August 17th; Keegan Kellum, August 21st; Henry Christopher, August 29th; Michelle Giese, August 31st



Anniversaries: Jenny and Michael Dunaway, July 20; Megan and Tim Limburg, July 20

Announcements:

The Zoom worship service meets on Saturdays at 5pm. Please feel free to join us if you have Sunday plans and still want to attend church, or if you are more comfortable with a virtual service. The invitation and bulletin are emailed to everyone by Paula, our parish administrator. All are welcome!

The in-person service meets on Sundays at the Trinity Pavilion at 10am. You must have a reservation to attend, as our space is limited; please call text or email Megan so we can save you a seat! (rectorstmtrin@gmail.com 804-477-5515) We continue to all wear masks and practice social distance. Pool noodles help us keep healthy distance!



Announcements continued:

Zoom Coffee Hour If you would like an opportunity to visit by Zoom with other folks from church, please contact Megan. We will pick a day and time that works for everyone. We do not have to meet on the weekend. Visiting is good any day!

Now that we are meeting for in-person worship, the restrictions on pastoral care visits are a bit loosened too. If you would like to meet in-person for a visit/pastoral care time with me, we can wear masks and meet outdoors, either at the Pavilion at Trinity, or the Labyrinth at SMWC, or at your home. Feel free to reach out and I'll look forward to connecting! I will, of course, also be continuing phone and Zoom pastoral visits.

Do you need help getting trash to the dump, 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*

Frances Jane van Alstyne (née Crosby; March 24, 1820 – February 12, 1915), more commonly known as Fanny Crosby, was an American mission worker, poet, lyricist, and composer. She was one of the most prolific hymnists in history, writing more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs, with more than 100 million copies printed, despite being blind from shortly after birth. She is also known for her teaching and her rescue mission work. By the end of the 19th century, she was a household name.

Fanny Crosby was born on March 24, 1820 in the village of Brewster, about 50 miles north of New York City. She was the only child of John Crosby and his second wife Mercy Crosby.

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At six weeks old, Crosby caught a cold and developed inflammation of the eyes. Mustard poultices were applied to treat the discharges. According to Crosby, this procedure damaged her optic nerves and blinded her, but modern physicians think that her blindness was more likely congenital and, given her age, may simply not have been noticed by her parents.

Her father died in November 1820 when Fanny was only six months old, so she was raised by her mother and her maternal grandmother, Eunice Paddock Crosby. These women grounded her in Christian principles, helping her memorize long passages from the Bible, and she became an active member of the John Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Manhattan.

Crosby enrolled at the New York Institution for the Blind (NYIB) in 1835, just before her 15th birthday. She remained there for eight years as a student, and another two years as a graduate pupil, during which time she learned to play the piano, organ, harp, and guitar, and became a good soprano singer. She subsequently joined the school's faculty, teaching grammar, rhetoric, and history.

Crosby was known as the "Queen of Gospel Song Writers" and as the "Mother of modern congregational singing in America," with most American hymnals containing her work. Her gospel songs were "paradigmatic of all revival music," and Ira Sankey attributed the success of the Moody and Sankey evangelical campaigns largely to Crosby's hymns. Some of Crosby's best-known songs include *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior*, *Blessed Assurance*, *Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home*, *Praise Him, Praise Him*, *Rescue the Perishing*, and *To God Be the Glory*. Some publishers were hesitant to have so many hymns by one person in their hymnals, so Crosby used nearly 200 different pseudonyms during her career.

Crosby also wrote more than 1,000 secular poems and had four books of poetry published, as well as two best-selling autobiographies. Additionally, she co-wrote popular secular songs, as well as political and patriotic songs and at least five cantatas on biblical and patriotic themes, including *The Flower Queen*, the first secular cantata by an American composer. She was committed to Christian rescue missions and was known for her public speaking.

In 1877, Crosby met William J. Kirkpatrick, one of the most prolific composers of gospel song tunes and "the most prominent publisher in the Wesleyan/Holiness Movement." She wrote many hymns with him. Some of her hymns reflected her Wesleyan beliefs, including her call to consecrated Christian living in *I Am Thine, O Lord*.

*Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine.
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.*

In the summer of 1843, Crosby met Alexander van Alstyne Jr. He also was blind and enrolled at the NYIB, where he was a casual acquaintance of Crosby and sometimes a student in her classes. He was a teacher at NYIB for two years from 1855. During this time, the couple was engaged to be married, necessitating her resignation from NYIB three days prior to their wedding at Maspeth, New York on March 5, 1858.

After their wedding, the van Alstynes lived in a small home in the rural village of Maspeth, New York with a population of about 200 people—present-day Maspeth, Queens, New York, and no longer rural. At her husband's insistence, Crosby continued to use her maiden name as her literary name.

In 1859, the van Alstynes had a daughter named Frances who died in her sleep soon after birth. Some believe that the cause was typhoid fever, although some speculated that it may have been SIDS, and that Crosby's hymn *"Safe in the Arms of Jesus"* was inspired by the child's death.

It is estimated that books containing her lyrics sold 100 million copies. However, due to the low regard for lyricists in the popular song industry during her lifetime, and what some saw as the exploitation of Crosby and other female hymn writers, copyright rights were not to the lyricist but to the composer of the music. Crosby was paid a flat fee of one or two dollars a hymn. In her 1906 autobiography, Crosby insisted she wrote her hymns "in a sanctified manner," and never for financial or commercial considerations, and that she had donated her royalties to "worthy causes."

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Crosby set a goal of winning a million people to Christ through her hymns, and whenever she wrote a hymn she prayed it would bring women and men to Christ, and kept careful records of those reported to have been saved through her hymns.

From 1871 to 1908, Crosby worked with Ira Sankey, who helped make her "a household name to Protestants around the world." While Sankey was "the premier promoter" of gospel songs, "Crosby ranked first as their provider." The evangelist team of Sankey and Dwight L. Moody brought many of Crosby's hymns to the attention of Christians throughout the United States and Britain.

Crosby will probably always be best known for her hymns, yet she wanted to be seen primarily as a rescue mission worker. At the end of her life, Fanny's concept of her vocation was not that of a celebrated gospel songwriter, but that of a city mission worker. In an interview that was published in the March 24, 1908 issue of the New Haven Register, Fanny said that her chief occupation was working in missions.

Many of Fanny's hymns emerged from her involvement in the city missions, including *More Like Jesus* (1867), *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior* (1868), and *Rescue the Perishing* (1869), which became the "theme song of the home missions movement" and was "perhaps the most popular city mission song," with its "wedding of personal piety and compassion for humanity." She celebrated the rescue mission movement in her 1895 hymn *The Rescue Band*.

Crosby had lived for decades in such areas of Manhattan as Hell's Kitchen, the Bowery, and the Tenderloin. She was aware of the great needs of immigrants and the urban poor, and was passionate to help those around her through urban rescue missions and other compassionate ministry organizations. "From the time I received my first check for my poems, I made up my mind to open my hand wide to those who needed assistance." Throughout her life, she was described as having "a horror of wealth," never set prices for her speaking engagements, often refused honoraria, and "what little she did accept she gave away almost as soon as she got it."

She was inspired to write *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior* after speaking at a service at the Manhattan prison in spring 1868, from comments by some prisoners for the Lord not to pass them by. Doane set it to music and published it in *Songs of Devotion* in 1870. *Pass Me Not* became her first hymn to have global appeal, after it was used by Sankey in his crusades with Moody in Britain in 1874. Sankey said, "No hymn was more popular at the meetings in London in 1875 than this one."

In 1880, aged 60, Crosby "made a new commitment to Christ to serve the poor" and to devote the rest of her life to home missionary work. She continued to live in a dismal flat at 9 Frankfort Street, near one of the worst slums in Manhattan, until about 1884. From this time, she increased her involvement in various missions and homes. During the next three decades, she dedicated her time as "Auntie Fanny" to work at various city rescue missions.



Crosby's hymn writing declined in later years, but she was active in speaking engagements and missionary work among America's urban poor almost until she died. She was well known, and she often met with presidents, generals, and other dignitaries.

In March 1925, about 3,000 churches throughout the United States observed Fanny Crosby Day to commemorate the 105th anniversary of her birth.

Crosby was posthumously inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1975.

Here is a performance of ***Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior***:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqjogTA4GA8>

...and one of ***Safe in the Arms of Jesus***:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akCa9fqzqQg>

Source: wikipedia.com

Reflection

I subscribe to a daily devotional offered by the United Church of Christ (UCC) called *Still Speaking*, referring to God still speaking in our lives today. The authors are a wide variety of clergy and laity in the UCC.

Our reflection today comes from The Reverend Kenneth Samuel, the pastor of Victory for the World Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia. His reflection is entitled *Disrupted* and focuses on a verse from Deuteronomy 32:11-12 in the King James Bible.

“As an eagle stirreth up her nest ... so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.”

Social grievance and angry protests across the country. School systems thrown into quandary over online learning. Stagnant business operations and economic growth. Racial tensions at boiling levels. Political polarization and personal stress. Over-zealous policing and under-funded mental health resources. Mounting pressures imposed by an unabated pandemic. Social malaise spiraling upwards.

The daily disruptions we encounter are more than just disquieting. They run deep and shake the institutional foundations that once constituted our social order. The Coronavirus and the virulent strife over longstanding racial injustice have upended the world as we once knew it.

We look to God and Scripture for avenues of relief from the mounting tensions. If we look closely, what we find are not reliefs from our turmoil but reasons to engage it. The God who leads us beside still waters is also the God of our most disturbing provocations.

“As the eagle stirreth up her nest, so the Lord alone led Israel.”

For eagles, the first step in learning how to fly is to get out of the nest. The very structure upon which the nest is built must be left behind if the eaglets are to realize their wings and find their potential in the air.

The transition from comfortable nest to airborne ascension cannot be completely stable and secure. Real progress is often accompanied by drastic disturbance.

Prayer

Great Disrupter, thank you for wings that will not conform to the constraints of our nests. Amen.