

Trinity Tidings



A Publication of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

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Pentecost 2020

Life and Love in a Time of Crisis... Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Dear Friends,

Well, here we are, two-and-a-half months into shelter in place orders, social distancing, and economic shutdown. Our society has become infected with the Coronavirus. The pandemic has changed everything. This infection deals in illness and death. In the US, tens of thousands have died, and well over a million-and-a-half have been sickened. Fear and grief abound. Our society has been here before with past pandemics and we always emerged from them safer, stronger, and healthier. While businesses have begun to re-open, we are advised to stay the course – to have patience and forbearance. But how?

One way is to trust in our faith in God and to deepen that faith. These hours at home give us moments to read our Bibles and Prayer Book, to tune into the Sunday services, to participate in online Bible study, to join in the virtual coffee hours, to pray Morning and Evening Prayer from the Prayer Book, as well as the other devotions found there. In this way, our souls will be inspired and comforted by the presence of Jesus in our lives. The deathly infection of the Coronavirus will pass, and we will be reunited once again.

We don't have to just depend on ourselves...May 31st is Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate God the

Holy Spirit. We are surrounded by the Holy Spirit like the air we breathe. It's always there. What we need is for the Holy Spirit to infect us. This is an infection of love and life that inspires us to go forth into the world as Jesus' disciples. It was on that first Pentecost that the disciples were gathered in the upper room, not sure what to do as Jesus had just left them and ascended into heaven. In this place of isolation and fear, the Holy Spirit came, described as fire and wind – the very breath of God. This experience empowered the disciples to exit the upper room and to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into the world. They were a changed people, who now fully embraced their faith.

The Holy Spirit does that for us as well. We are a changed people, inspired to live our faith through the Holy Spirit. It is this faith that will see us through all crises. Pentecost brings forth the best from us, sending us out as the Church – empowered by the life-giving Holy Spirit against the death dealing virus of the world.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Keep the faith,

The Rev. Mark H. Chattin
Rector

Bread For The World Sunday... Offering of Letters

Each year in June, we write to our Congressional delegation advocating for complete funding of child nutrition and other feeding programs. See the enclosure for further information. Since we are unable to be together to write these letters, perhaps you will take a few moments and write them from home this year.

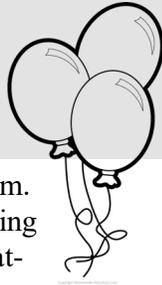
Handwritten letters raise the most attention and there is suggested wording on the insert, although you are welcome to put it into your own words.

These letters should be sent to the addresses below. Thank you for your participation in this outreach effort.



- **Senator Robert Menendez**
528 Hart Senate Office Building – Washington, DC 20510
- **Senator Cory Booker** -
717 Hart Senate Office Building – Washington, DC 20510
- **Representative Donald Norcross** 2437 Rayburn House Office Building – Washington, DC 20515

Celebrating Pentecost Even While at Home...



On May 31st, at 9:30 a.m. We will be live-streaming a Festival Mass celebrating Pentecost Sunday. The link to the service is available on our websites at www.holytrinity.us. No computer? No problem, you can listen in by phone on the conference line at 856-861-3864 PIN 924821.

Please join us as we celebrate the joyous festival of the Holy Spirit. Red is the color of the day, so I encourage you to wear something red, even at home. The Holy Spirit has been described as wind or air, so to visualize this (and have a little fun), a red balloon is included in this mailing. Please blow it up and have it with you during the service.

Forward Day By Day Booklets Available from the church Office...

The new *Forward Day By Day* books for May through July have finally arrived and are available. If you would like one mailed to your home please call the Church at 856-858-0491 and leave a message for Charlotte or e-mail the Church at holytrinity1@verizon.net.

Points To Ponder

I find the greatest thing in the world is not so much where we stand, but what direction we are moving.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Supporting Our First Responders Reaching out to our Community...

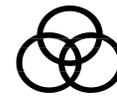
On an upcoming weekday in June, we will be taking lunch to the Collingswood Police and Fire Departments to thank them for their service to our community during this time of crisis.

We welcome help covering the cost of this outreach, which may become monthly in the future. Please send donations marked “Feeding First Responders.” Please keep all our local Police and Fire Departments in your prayers.

Another Outreach Opportunity... Food Donations for St. Wilfrid’s in Camden

Although our donations to St. Paul’s food pantry are temporarily suspended, here’s another way to help those needing food during this difficult time. Each week, food bags are distributed by St. Wilfrid’s Episcopal Church in Camden (we’ve periodically donated peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for them to donate during their monthly health clinics). Grocery donations (canned vegetables, fruits, and meat, sauce, pasta, peanut butter, cereal, and other shelf stable products) are needed.

Supporting this project is easy because donations can be left in the large container on the back steps at Grace Church in Haddonfield at any time. (Back steps can be accessed from the parking lot adjacent to the Haddonfield PATCO station.) If you venture out to shop and are able to pick up some extra food, please help by dropping them off at Grace.



Finance Update Continued Support is Appreciated...

As you can imagine, Holy Trinity has been significantly impacted by this crisis financially. Having no rental income or fundraiser in the last two months accounts for in excess of \$6,000 lost income.

BUT...on the positive side, we did receive a Paycheck Protection Plan loan as part of the Cares Act in the amount of \$31,000. This loan has enabled us to continue to pay our staff and has helped with utility payments during the shut-down. It will not have to be repaid if used in accordance with the program directives, which we are following closely. AND, because of you, our weekly offerings have been stable. Thank you for your faithfulness in sending in your envelopes or using our online giving option on the website.

Our Re-Gathering Looking forward with Hopeful hearts...

We do not have a certain date for when our church facility will be able to re-open. But, the Vestry has begun to discuss what it will take to re-open, and the Bishop has appointed a task force that will issue guidelines and directions about re-opening.

Please be aware that when we first begin to gather together again, it will be different than in the past. There are many issues to be addressed including Communion, singing, distancing (inside or on the plaza), masks, etc. We will let you know the details of the path forward as soon as they are available.