



The

JUNE 2020

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services

ONLINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

8 am - Morning Prayer Service via Facebook Live & Zoom
Zoom Gathering following

10:15 am - Morning Prayer Service with Music
via Facebook Live & Zoom
Zoom Gathering following

WEDNESDAYS

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer via Facebook Live
6 pm - Bible Study via Zoom

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pennings from Your Priest
Senior Warden's Report
Giving Online Updates & Guidelines
and so much more!



LET'S CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES

If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or receiving a degree this year, we want to celebrate with you! Please let Elizabeth or Michael know about them by June 15.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600

Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

STAFF

The Right Reverend Whayne Hougland Jr,
*Bishop Provisional of the
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern MI*

The Reverend Ann Grady
Priest in Charge
RevAnn2709@gmail.com

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,
Priest in Residence
FrMike@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,
Associate Emeritus

The Reverend Canon Michael Spencer,
Assistant to the Rector
Michael@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Dr. Greg Hassold, *Parish Organist*
Greg@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Elizabeth Sailus, *Administrative Assistant*
Elizabeth@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Matt Mackinder
Director of Christian Education
Matt@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Ashley Sweers, *Nursery Coordinator*
Ashley@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Joel Stoeklin, *Sexton*
sexton@stchrisgrandblanc.org

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Greetings All,

As we continue into our fourth month of stay-at-home I seriously miss you all.

We will continue Sunday online services and our Wednesday service and Bible study. Once we reopen, as the Bishop directs, and we can hold church services in the building we may continue the services online to accommodate all.

Speaking of reopening our building, we are not sure when that will be. Rest assured we will keep you posted with announcements regularly.

Outdoor clean up of the garden areas and islands has begun so hopefully when you take a drive make St. Christopher's a destination. You will be glad you did.

Continue living your faith and we will be together soon!
Peace to you and yours,

Jane Brewer
Senior Warden



PRAYER UPDATE

The Prayer Team is still praying for existing requests.

We will gladly accept new paper requests whenever we can once again gather in our building. In the meantime, requests can be submitted for inclusion during either our Sunday Morning Prayer or the Diocesan Monday/Thursday afternoon healing prayer services on Facebook.

Requests can be submitted to the Rev. Ann Grady or the Rev. Michael Spencer.

Linda Rathburn
Prayer Team Member



PENNINGS FROM YOUR PRIEST

The Memorial Day murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin, a white Minneapolis police officer has left me reeling. It has happened yet again.

I am heartbroken. I am angry. I am at a loss as to what to do.

My mind is a jumble of thoughts that I am struggling to organize.

Protests of the murder of Mr. Floyd are taking place in cities from coast to coast. The news has been dominated by reports of media members being arrested for doing their jobs, cops

in full out riot gear, injuries from tear gas and rubber bullets, and looting.

The death of Mr. Floyd seems to have been hijacked by the upheaval in American cities. Some believe that right-wing groups do much of the looting; others believe left-wing groups are responsible.

Most of the handwringing about looting comes from white folks. White energy goes to that rather than understanding the pain, anguish, and grief at the murder of yet another person of color.

Looting is destruction of property. It is not violence.

Nine minutes of a knee of a white police officer on the neck of a restrained black man – that is violence.

As I write this I am concluding that I cannot – nor do I have to – convey all my thoughts, feelings, and questions in one 500-600-word article. In fact, the issues and concerns surrounding the murder of George Floyd deserve long-term, on-going, uncomfortable conversations.

So, I will share some of my thoughts, feelings, and questions here. I hope you will forgive the randomness of them. I also hope my reflection will result in some reflection on your part. Maybe we can figure out a way to reflect together.

I am likely stating the obvious when I say the murder of George Floyd is simply an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual darkness affecting and infecting American culture.

All the structures of American society – the justice system, the education system, the economic system, the healthcare system, the housing system – are built to favor white people, and disadvantage people of color. Why is that?

There is a lot to that question. I will reflect on that in a future column.

We have refused to acknowledge the sin of slavery and the generations of trauma that has resulted. Many in our culture dismiss that assertion as if American slavery had a discrete beginning and end.

...continued on page 4...



..."Pennings" continued from page 3...

And yet . . . and yet . . .

How could being stuffed in the underbelly of a ship, shackled and standing shoulder to shoulder wondering if you will even survive the journey not cause trauma?

How could being bought and sold like a piece of property not cause trauma?

How could be whipped and tortured at the whim of a white slaveholder not cause trauma?

People who considered themselves "good Christians" mined scripture to justify slavery. Most denominations have a mixed record, at best, when it comes to slavery in particular, and white privilege and structural racism in general. Frederick Douglass, American orator and abolitionist had this to say about good, white Christian folk:

"Between the Christianity of this land and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference—so wide that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy, is of necessity to reject the other as bad, corrupt, and wicked. To be the friend of the one is of necessity to be the enemy of the other. I love the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ; I therefore hate the corrupt, slave-holding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of this land. Indeed, I can see no reason but the most deceitful one for calling the religion of this land Christianity..."

It is way past time for we as white people of faith to engage in serious, uncomfortable conversations about the white supremacist culture in which we live, and work, and have our being. We have a lot of work to do. That work will inevitably make us uncomfortable. The question is, are we willing to go there?

I would commend to all of us the book *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. Her website, robindiangelo.com, is a repository for resources relating to structural racism.

I realize how disparate and random these thoughts are. I warned you. My thoughts, feelings, and questions will continue to percolate. But, I need to take a break for now.

To be continued . . .

Blessings,

Ann+

Priest-in-Charge

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR A

June 7 - Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

June 14 - Proper 6

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalms 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)

June 21 - Proper 7

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalms 69: 8-11, (12-17),
18-20

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

June 28 - Proper 8

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalms 89:1-4,15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

July 5 - Proper 9

Zachariah 9:9-12

Psalms 145:8-15

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**Find the readings every
week on the church
website or at
lectionarypage.net**



...the little phrase "God bless you" somehow seems to say it best.

May 28, 2020

Eldon & Shirley Dove would like to express a heartfelt Thank You to each and everyone at St Christopher's and the Episcopal Eastern/Western Diocese of Michigan for all of the prayers that have been lifted up to our Lord recently for Shirley's son, Kevin.

Thank you so much, dear friends, your concern and prayers are so greatly appreciated. May God richly bless you.

Shirley & Eldon Dove



FISH is still using St. Christopher's for drive-up food distribution for over 200 Grand Blanc families every Monday.

They could really use people to donate cereal and hand soap. If you are able to drop off during the week (at the door if nobody is in the building and there is good weather) they would appreciate it.



OUR BALANCED BUDGET & TECHNOLOGY

If you remember, our Vestry and finance committee were happy when we were able to adopt a balanced budget for the first time in years. We presented it to you at our Annual Meeting in January. You were happy, too! I remember. We had received the pledged support of so many and had worked with options for earning

extra income through the rental of our church building and grounds. We were disciplined and realistic in our expectations. After all, we had successfully worked with our bank and our Diocese to re-finance our mortgage and reduce our monthly payment. This was a big victory. I could not stop smiling. Now, after all that work our balanced budget is under threat and we must meet that threat. The cause is Covid-19 and our need to preserve our health and our mission.

We are using technology to meet in worship through Zoom and Facebook, since we are not using our building for any meetings or services. We continue to practice our faith. We continue to meet in prayer. We continue to educate ourselves and each other. We are making use of technology to enrich our lives in these challenging times. Meanwhile, we cannot use our building to produce extra income as we have in the past. We do not know how long this will be so.

We have had a good reputation for supporting our community and allowing the use of our beautiful church for concerts, family gatherings, organizational meetings, defensive driver training and parking cars for the Ally Challenge. Now, we are facing the challenge of coping with the Covid-19 virus and adapting to our inability to use our building.

Again, technology will help. I have recently turned to technology to help me meet my pledge commitment. I had been sending my pledge and free-will offerings to the church through snail mail. This required me to remember to write the check and get it in the mail by Monday, so the pledge offering would make it to the bank that week. Last week, I decided to try our new option to meet my pledge offering by using Realm, the online option to donate. I set it up to make periodic withdrawals from my bank account. I was surprised at how easy it was. Why didn't I do it before? I also set it up to pay the small extra bank charge for using this system.

I propose we explore meeting our pledge commitments by using technology. I have just done it and I am delighted that it works so well for me and for St. Christopher's. Help us work to keep our balanced budget by using this easy system as well.

Bobbie Walton
Treasurer

CHOOSE HOW YOU GIVE

"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God."

- Deuteronomy 16:17

Give easily and securely...

If you are able to continue your pledge through these challenging times we have several options:

1. Mail in your pledge to address below
2. Online Giving:
<https://onrealm.org/SaintChristopher/give/now>
3. Text StChrisGB to 73256



**St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church**
9020 S. Saginaw Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

If you have questions about giving, please feel free to contact the church office:
(810) 694-3600
or office@stchrisgrandblanc.org



Pentecost Sunday 2020!

