



The

SEPTEMBER 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
6:00 pm - Zoom Bible Study (resumes Sept. 30)



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

News is slow coming but hopefully we will be making news ourselves soon. Its our job to stay safe and healthy as we go forward. Meanwhile, our online worship continues with the help of Fr. Michael, Rev. Ann and others.

FISH is still operating and distributing necessary food and goods to our neighbors in need from our builing. We thank them for feeding folks during this time and keeping an eye on our building.

When we are allowed to gather together again, we have many oppourtunities ahead of us. Just think... Thanksgiving and Advent are fast approaching. Outreach, Inreach, and Stewardship are just some of the activities we can look forward to. The Annual

Meeting is our first order of business for 2021.

Pray for our Search Committee, this church, and God's blessing.

Jane Brewer

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Of course, we have already started planning for a return to Sunday School – in some fashion – once school starts back up later this month and into September.

Like many of you, I think we're all anxious to get back into our former routines, but while that may not be realistic to an extent, I believe Sunday School can and should be part of that routine, at least every Sunday.

We have the building. We have the teachers. We have the curriculum. We have some kids. Now we need to take it up a notch.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Be well, my friends!

Matt Mackinder

Director of Christian Education

STEWARDSHIP STILL IMPORTANT!

Ways that you can continue your pledge:

1) Mail checks to
9020 S. Saginaw Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

2) Go online and give:
<https://onrealm.org/SaintChristopher/give/now>

*You can give a one-time gift or set up automatic giving

3) Text StChrisGB to 73256

THANK YOU NOTES

It's been a little while since I contributed something to the Trumpeter, and given all that's happened since the last time, the thought that keeps coming back to me is gratitude. I want to take a moment to say thank you to so many who have helped me in the last few months and who have helped our St. Christopher's community in extraordinary times.

- Thank you, Ann, our Priest-in-Charge. I am so grateful to have you on board. I cannot say enough about your leadership, presence, and support. I have so appreciated our conversations and your generosity of time and talent.
- Thank you, Elizabeth, our administrator and solver of all unusual problems! You have found so many ways to help keep our community informed, supported, and going strong. I am grateful for your flexibility and cheerful attitude.
- Thank you to our Care Circle connectors. Your humble ministry is vital in a time of quarantine and distance. The work you do is ministry par excellence, and our community will be forever changed because of it.
- Thank you to all the Ally Challenge volunteers and a special thank you to our fearless leader Ellen Safley, who once again steered us through an amazing event with grace, strategy, and cheerfulness. You are incredible!
- Thank you to our sexton Joel Stoecklin, our altar guild, to Nada Radakovich our music director, and to our musician-of-all-trades, Victor Galea, who worked hard to make the ordination services in July a wonderful, safe, and special day for Bishop Perry and the ordinands.
- Thank you to our vestry, for making some difficult decisions in the face of rapidly changing circumstances. I am not envious of your job, and I appreciate the time you have put into deciding how St. Christopher's can be faithful to our call in Jesus Christ while making radical (and hopefully, temporary) changes to our common life.
- Thank you to our FISH volunteers, especially Caroline James, who keeps an eye on things in the building and helps keep our space clean and safe for the 400+ households that receive food assistance each week on our doorstep.

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- Thank you to everyone for hanging in there with us while we figure out how to do and be the church in these incredible times. We may not get it right all the time, and I know the separation has been so hard for so many. Please, whatever you do, do not doubt that Ann and I pray for you every day, that you are in our hearts and minds, and that we look forward in faith to the time when a reunion so sweet is almost more than we can bear. Thank you to those of you who have reached out to us in Zoom or on the phone or with notes and cards to express your appreciation; they mean so much.

Faithfully,

Michael+

Assistant to the Rector



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

I know that I have been rather quiet over these past few months, however, I think that it is time that I poke my head out and say 'hi'. Like everyone else, the reality of this pandemic has hit me to the core of my being, and truly, I long for the days when we will be allowed to gather and make music together again.

Now, in case anyone was wondering, yes--we still have a music room, albeit a less used one for now, but as this virus is still rampant, we will have to just be patient. Our choir robes are still hanging there,

waiting for us to don them; the bells are waiting in their cases, waiting for us to ring them---but, the day will come when we will shake the dust off of our vocal cords, polish up our beautiful Malmark Bells and once again fill the church with the gift of music. I believe that the music we provide at St. Christopher's is integral to the liturgy.

There are so many things I want to talk about, but most of all, I want to assure everyone that we will Ring in Bell Choir again one day, and we will sing again (shaking it from the rafters) in the nave of St. Christopher's!

For now, however, scientific advisers see singing as a dangerous activity. The aspect of 'droplet transmission' by singers is a real threat to health/safety, so we will have to try to be content by singing alone in our own homes (the shower tends to be a popular spot) OR in the car--BUT when the time comes that we can make music together, won't that be a magnificent moment?

So, as September is upon us, I would like to set up a Zoom meeting for our first Bell Choir and Adult Choir rehearsals---just a moment for all of us to say, "Yes, I still am here and HI". I am hoping for Bell Choir, that on Wednesday, September 9th, at 4:00 p.m. we can connect via Zoom. Then, for our Adult Choir Zoom session, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, SEptember 9th. The Zoom and dial-in information for

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both meetings are below.

St. Chris Bell Choir Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99370347806?pwd=ODBmbDlxdotieWVEMjZjY2I3eFJpdzo9>

Meeting ID: 993 7034 7806

Passcode: Ring

OR you can call in by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 993 7034 7806

Passcode: 650426

St. Chris Adult Choir Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99716903219?pwd=SDRnbEF6aWRkQ1dTR3VJa3BWNu9oUT09>

Meeting ID: 997 1690 3219

Passcode: Sing

OR you can call in by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 997 1690 3219

Passcode: 854727

I hope everyone can attend our Zoom session(s) and just take a minute to say hello. I miss you all so terribly much---

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada Radakovich

Director of Music

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR A

September 6 - Proper 18

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13 - Proper 19

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:(1-7), 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 - Proper 20

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 - Proper 21

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

Psalms 25:1-8

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

October 4 - Proper 22

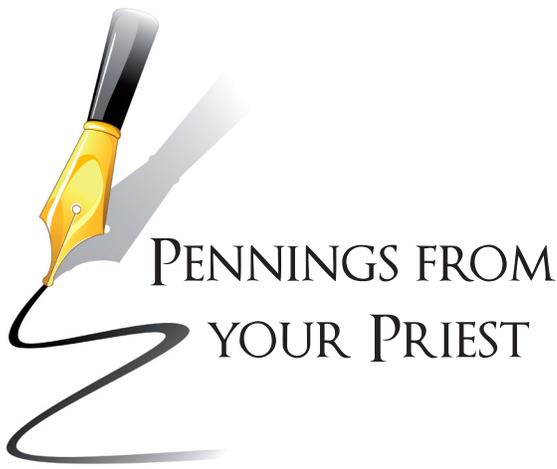
Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-14

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

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



PENNING FROM YOUR PRIEST

September 11 marks the 19th anniversary of the coordinated attack by al-Qaeda on the United States that resulted in 2,977 deaths. The entire incident occurred between 8:46am and 10:28am on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

Two planes crashed into both towers of the World Trade Center. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon. And a fourth plane was taken down in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing everyone on it after the passengers stopped the hijackers who were headed to The Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The attack changed the United States. It resulted in a War on Terrorism, the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies, the demonization of Muslims, and an ever-present, toxic fear that continue to this day.

On September 11, 2001 former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, who at that time the Archbishop of Wales, was at Trinity Church, Wall Street, a couple of blocks from the World Trade Center. He was there with others to record several hours of discussion around issues of spirituality.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Archbishop Williams' reflections on that day, *Writing in the Dust: After September 11*, was published in 2002. In this compelling, evocative book Williams makes some uncomfortable observations – and some hopeful ones – about our country's response to this horrendous act of violence.

Almost 20 years on from that day, the policies enacted in the aftermath of 9/11 still impact our common life.

It is always risky business to quote out of context. I am, nonetheless, taking that risk. Many of Williams' insights into the 9/11 attack are useful in this time in our common life of chaos, fear, and anger.

Here is what Williams has to say about Muslims and about how we use religious language in general to justify our own way of seeing the world. "It isn't (say it now and get it over with) a problem about Mus-

lims, about some kind of religiousness that is 'naturally' prone to violence. It's true that Islam seems to think differently about language for God from the way Christians and Jews do: Muslims will regard what we say as too ambiguous, too larded with irony or paradox, self-indulgent in comparison with the sober directness of the Qur'an. But Christians at least have used their irony and paradox often enough to slip out from under the demands of justice or compassion. They have found plenty of ways to be absent from what they say, play with commitment We'd better acknowledge the sheer danger of religious-



ness. Yes, it can be a tool to reinforce diseased perceptions of reality. Muslim or not, it can be a way of teaching ourselves not to see the particular human agony in front of us; or worse, of teaching ourselves not to see ourselves, our violence, our actual guilt as opposed to our abstract ‘religious’ sinfulness. Our religious talking, seeing, knowing, needs a kind of cleansing.” (Emphasis mine)

Williams writes about violence, and what responding to violence with violence does to us. His observation about the repeated use of violent imagery to stoke anger applies to us as we are bombarded with the images of protest and looting, and as those images are used in Presidential campaign attack ads.

“The point at which we need to show more footage of collapsing towers or people jumping to their death, when we raise the temperature by injunctions never to forget – that is when something rather ambiguous enters in. We are trying to manipulate and direct the chaotic emotions of victims. There may be something like a dreadful innocence about the first surge of anger; there is no innocence about the deployment of images to try and revive it.” (Emphasis mine.)

The fear we are experiencing in the midst of a pandemic, racial unrest, white supremacy and privilege, and economic inequality can bring out the best in us, or the worst. It seems to me that the latter is the case. Once again, Williams’ words are insightful – and uncomfortable. “And in the face of extreme dread, we may become conscious, as people often do of two very fundamental choices. We can cling harder and harder to the rock of our threatened identity – a choice, finally, for self-delusion over truth; or we can accept that we shall have no ultimate choice but to let go, and in that letting go, give room to what’s there around us – to the sheer impression of the moment, to the need of the person next to you, to the fear that needs to be looked at, acknowledged and calmed (not denied). If that happens, the heart has room for many stranger, near and far.”

In the Epilog to *Writing in the Dust*, Archbishop Williams explains the title of the book. He cites a story from the Gospel of John about the woman taken in adultery. “When the accusation is first made, Jesus at first makes no reply but writes with his finger on the ground. What on earth is he doing? Commentators have had plenty of suggestions, but there is one meaning that seems to me obvious in the light of what I think we learned [on the morning of September 11]. He hesitates. He does not draw a line, fix an interpretation, tell the woman who she is and what her fate should be. [Jesus] allows a moment, a longish moment, in which people are given time to see themselves differently precisely because he refuses to make the sense they want. When [Jesus] lifts his head, there is both judgement and release.

So this is writing in the dust because it tries to hold that moment for a little longer, long enough for some of our demons to walk away.”

This, it seems, to me is our task – to see ourselves differently, to reckon with what that means, and to do the work it takes to make the sense that is, not the sense we want.

If we do that, maybe some of our demons will run – not walk – away.

Blessings,

Rev. Ann

Priest-in-Charge

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

“Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense . . .”

Fr. Michael and I have begun the process of revising and reorganizing the list we pray from each week. Currently, there are names on the prayer list that neither he nor I recognize. We don't know how they got there nor the reason for their inclusion. Those names have been removed.

We are creating a system by which names can be added and removed on a regular basis. In the process we ask your patience as this will be a work in progress for a while. We need your help. If you would like to have a name put on the St. Christopher's prayer list here is what we would like you to do:

- You can go to our website: stchrisgrandblanc.org, click on the “Prayer Requests” tab and fill out an online form with your request information.
- You can email Fr. Michael (michael@stchrisgrandblanc.org) or me, Rev. Ann (revann2709@gmail.com), with the following information: 1) Date of request;
- 2) your full name; 3) the full name of the person you want on the prayer list (we use only the first name); 4) the reason for that person being on the prayer list, e.g. surgery, illness, fall; and 5) the length of time you would like the person to remain on the prayer list, e.g., 30 days, 60 days, or a shorter period of time than that.
- You will also find a printed form at the bottom of this article to use if that's easier for you than email. You can tear it off this page, fill it out, and mail it to the church.

You will notice that the prayer list on Sunday will be longer than in the past. We are going to include the Anglican and Diocesan Cycles of Prayer because we care for the larger world as well as our own worshipping community. When applicable a brief “Thanksgiving for the Life of” will be included focusing on “saints of the Episcopal church” who are indigenous people, people of color, and women so that together we might learn a little more about those who shaped the Episcopal church.

Rev. Ann

Priest-in-Charge

Prayer List Form

Date _____

First/Last Name of Requestor _____

First/Last Name of Person being prayed for _____

Reason for Inclusion on Prayer List _____

Length of Time on Prayer List (Check one) 30 Days 60 days Other