



THE

APRIL 2021

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

ONLINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

10 am - Sunday In-Person Eucharist Service
or Live-Streamed via Zoom & Facebook Live

THURSDAYS

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer via Facebook Live

HOLY WEEK 2021

Updated Schedule

All services will be in-person at the church and livestreamed
RSVP with church office to attend in-person on Sundays

Palm Sunday
March 28 @ 10 am

Maundy Thursday
(No footwashing)
April 1 @ 7 pm

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 2
@ Noon

No Easter Vigil
Service

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 4
@ 10 am

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GRAND BLANC, MI

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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VESTRY

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Ken Duck (2023) Flo Gjerstad (2024)

Dawn Rutherford (2022)

Rebecca Stermer (2022)

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Dear Siblings in Christ,

What a great time we are having worshiping in our building. Hopefully, it will continue and we can begin to get back to some form of normalcy.

We have lots to look forward to as we move together into Spring and Summer. For example, more services can be held inside our building, the beginning of coffee hour (sometime in the future), the possibility of having a community garden space for planting things (stay tuned for more information on ways you can contribute) and the chance to help St. Christopher's move ahead and stay current.

Fr. Jerry has brought us inspiration and stability and we are grateful.

Let us all remember why we joined St. Christopher's and how we can make our community work better. With God's help and your prayers we can do this.

Blessings to you all,

Jane Brewer

Senior Warden

VESTRY MEETINGS

A reminder that any member of St. Christopher's Church has the right to attend/speak at Vestry meetings if desired. Generally, Vestry meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. If you wish to attend a Vestry meeting (they are currently being held via Zoom), please let Fr. Jerry or Elizabeth in the church office know so they can send you a link to join the meeting.

IN-PERSON SUNDAY SERVICES

We are pleased to announce that the Diocese of Eastern Michigan has released us into Phase II of our Plan for Re-Entry! This means that, beginning Palm Sunday, March 28, we are able to gather in person in our sanctuary at 25% capacity.

We will be hosting an in-person Eucharist Service every Sunday beginning on Palm Sunday (wafers only at communion) at 10 am. Everyone is required to sign in for contact tracing and wear a mask throughout the service. There will be no congregational singing, but we will have music from our organist and hymns sung by a soloist.

If you wish to join us in person, you will need to:

1. RSVP for any Sunday service you wish to attend:
Call and leave a message with the church office letting us know how many people from your household will be there -or- Sign up online (a link for each Sunday will be available in the Weekly Cyber Trumpeter emails and posts and also on Facebook every week.
2. Wear a face mask at all times.
3. Remain at least 6 feet apart from others who are not in your household.
4. Sign in! We will have a book for you to write your name, phone number and email (all required) for contact tracing.
5. You will need to bring your Book of Common Prayer, if you have one, a printed copy of the bulletin, or a method to view the digital copy of the bulletin (tablet, phone, etc.) We will not be passing out Prayer Books or paper bulletins!

If you prefer to continue worshipping with us online through Facebook Live and Zoom, you are welcome to do so. We will

UPCOMING LESSONS

April 4 - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

April 11 - Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

April 18 - Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

April 25 - Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

May 2 - Easter 5

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:24-30

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

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

FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

The Lord is Risen! The Lord is Risen INDEED! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We are an Easter people. We too have died with Christ and will one day rise again into the eternal home that God prepared for us eons ago. We must never forget the sacrifice God has made for us in sending Jesus to die for us. We are a forgiven, saved and immensely loved people of God.



On Easter Sunday, we heard the account of Jesus' resurrection from the Gospel of John. Along with Mary Magdalene, we proclaim, "I have seen the Lord." We proclaim? Wait, what? YES! We too have seen the Lord. Too often, we miss it because we are looking too hard. We think we are looking at an empty tomb but in fact, Jesus is already risen and is present in the world. Jesus is present in each of us through the power of the Holy Spirit. It's easy to forget that sometimes. Especially as we begin to slowly creep through our re-gathering in the building we call a church. We often forget that we are the church.

As we bask in the joy of the resurrection and as we

bask in gathering again, maybe it's time to realize what needs to die and what God wants to breathe new life into. I often hear people say that they just want things to get back to normal. I too have often said this but maybe, we need to look at the future in a different way. We all like to remember the "good old days." When things were simple, and life's pace was much slower. After this past year, I think we are probably ready for something new. Something to breathe new life into.

It's never easy when there is a death in our family. Despite our prayers and sadness, we miss them. But unless we die, we can't be taken up to heaven and enjoy the new life in God's Kingdom. Unless there is death, there can be no new life.

As we begin to re-gather it might be time for us to reflect on what in our churches must die. It might be time for us to begin to reimagine ourselves not as the way we have always been but in ways that God has planned for us.

When a baby is born, the family and friends dream of who that baby might become. It's the same with Easter. We renew our baptismal covenant and maybe it's time for us to take that seriously. The last three questions in our renewal of vows are these:

1. Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
2. Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
3. Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Our answer to all three questions is: "I will, with God's help."

Word and example. We've all heard that saying, "If you were the only Bible someone read, would they believe in God?" What we do, what we think, and what we say matters. We may not have an impact on the entire world, but we do have an impact on our family, friends, and those we meet when we are out and about. What we do, think, and say matters to them. It has an impact on them, often more than we realize! We say things to one another and around one another that leave a mark. We all know that we can apologize to someone for something we've said or done, but we can never undo it or not say it. When parents and grandparents talk around children, we need to be very careful. Many times, we've overheard conversations where parents and family members are discussing something that should not be discussed around the children. Especially when people are facing hard times. We have all heard someone disparage a spouse or an ex-spouse in front of the children. We may not realize it, but those children are listening. Our words around and to our children matter. As we renew this covenant, let us be mindful and life-giving with our words and actions. Someone is always watching, always listening.

Seek and serve Christ in all people, loving our neighbor as ourselves. Uh oh! When we look at someone, do we seek Christ in them before we open our mouths? Before we make a snap judgment on them? There is no rule that says that we should all agree on everything. We are human beings, made in the image and likeness of God. God gives us all free will. Everyone is entitled to their opinions, but we are not entitled to force our beliefs or opinions onto others. Mutual respect. That's something that our world seems to have lost. Everyone looks around and sees others as the problem. Guess what, someone probably is looking at us and thinking the exact same thing about us! That doesn't make it right!! Do we see Christ in one another? Do we really live by that Golden Rule?

Sometimes, we think that others are hard to love. But it is important to separate actions and words from the fact that others are made in the image and likeness of God. That God loves them just as much as God loves us. Rather than judge the actions of one another, we should be looking at each other and see God. Would we treat Jesus the same way we treat select people? If not, there is an opportunity for growth...in us!

Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. What does it mean to be a just society? A just society seeks to ensure that we are on a path towards shared prosperity for all. Everyone has the same opportunity to be safe and healthy. Everyone has the same opportunities for education and employment. A just society has no room for racism, sexism, or any other "ism." A just society makes sure that every single person is treated with dignity and respect, that laws are fair and apply to all equally.

Too often, we think we live in a world where everything is really "fair" for all. It isn't. Not when so many go hungry. Not when so many are homeless. Not when so many are not treated fairly. Not when a black man or woman is shot doing the same thing a white person is doing but the white person walks away. Whether we choose to see it or not, it is there. Sadly, unless it happens to us, we don't fully understand. We often choose to ignore things that don't affect us personally. We look the other way. Justice and peace for all IS our business.

As we begin to regather, we must re-create ourselves. I recently asked the Vestry some questions. What would happen if St. Christopher's ceased to exist? What would be missed in the community? What footprint are we making?

I don't ask these questions because we are headed for closure. Far from it! I ask these questions because we must answer them and answer them honestly. If we are simply a place to gather for worship,

we have not lived up to our Baptismal Covenant. Yes, gathering for worship is essential to who we are as a people of faith. But our faith requires so much more. As we move forward, we need to find new and creative ways to reach out to our community. Not by simply providing a space to someone, but US going out into the community and making a difference. There is a great need out there and we can help to fill some of those needs.

This will take all of us “rising up” and becoming a new creation. Every single person in our parish must take on responsibility. It is up to each of us to be that “LIGHT FOR THE WORLD” that draws others to Christ. You, yes YOU can make a difference! What gifts do you have that can impact the community? What can you add to the mission of St. Christopher’s?

My hope and dream is that we become a vibrant, bustling hub of activity. Where there is activity every day and every night. Where there is learn-

ing going on. Where people can gather and talk and feel welcome and safe. Where people can learn about God. Where people feel loved. A place that Grand Blanc cannot do without! What are we known for? Is that all there is?

People of God, we are so much more. We have so much to offer. Dream big. Dream new and exciting ways to bring the Good News to others. Dream about how you can make a difference.

Have you seen the Lord? I have. I’ve seen God in you!

Happy Easter!

Fr. Jerry



ALTAR FLOWERS

Following this Easter Sunday, April 4, we will go back to having altar flowers for our services every Sunday.

We rely on people signing up each Sunday to provide flowers (the suggested donation is \$50). You can email or call and leave a message with the church office to sign up for a day or you can sign up online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10coc4dacac28a4ffcf8-altar>