

March 13, 2020

*God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal
of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. Amen.*

Beloved in Christ,

During this time of anxiety and caution around the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to make sure, first and foremost, that we are keeping each other safe. Lent is a time of deep prayer, self-reflection, and preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ in his glorious resurrection. As such, it is also a time of hope. The clergy of Trinity Parish encourage everyone to engage with us in this holy work of prayer and caring for one another.

Following the direction of Bishop Brown and guidelines from the CDC, **Trinity Episcopal Parish will cancel or postpone all events for the next two weeks.** We will update the parish every Wednesday as we hear more from our church and civic leaders.

Although we will not have events in person at the church, we WILL continue to engage in Common Prayer. What exactly does this look like?

On Sunday, March 15th, we will offer opportunities to worship together via online live streams. Beginning at 8:00 am we will offer a service of Morning Prayer, a form of Common Prayer which Episcopalians have used since our church was founded. You can download an order of worship (link below) and pray along with us. For those without internet access, the church can provide an order of worship for people to pray at home in the assurance that others are joining them in prayer from their homes.

Following our virtual Morning Prayer service, Bishop Brown will offer a live online service of Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am. For Episcopalians, bishops represent our unity in Christ. Bishop Brown, as our chief pastor, will offer this Holy Eucharist on behalf of all of the Episcopal Church in Delaware. Patty and Charles plan to attend virtually.

At noon, Patty and Charles will offer a livestreamed Holy Eucharist in Spanish. Please follow the link below.

When the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the mystery of the Incarnation, he said, "Be not afraid." Mary, Joseph, and Jesus endured great danger, hardship, and anxiety, yet God never abandoned

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them. Please know that the Church is here for you. Anyone needing pastoral care or guidance may contact Patty or Charles, and we will find ways of safely ministering to you.

Please help us spread the word about these changes by calling your friends. Hold one another in prayer. Lean into our long tradition of Common Prayer. Help us utilize technology in new ways to create fellowship and community. Wash your hands. Trust in God. Love one another. Stay safe.

In the love of Christ Jesus,



The Rev. Patricia Downing
Rector



The Rev. Charles Lane Cowen
Associate Rector

Links for worship:

Please note that you do NOT need to have a Facebook account to access the Facebook Live videos.

Morning Prayer at 8am

<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityparishDE/posts/10158146560373007>

Link to Diocesan livestream

<https://delaware.church/>

La Santa Eucaristía en español a las 12pm:

<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityparishDE/posts/10158146346803007>