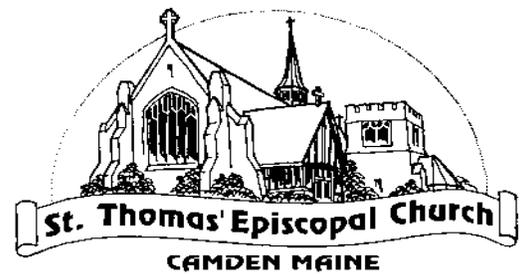


St. Thomas' Tidings

Sunday, May 10, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter

We welcome all who enter these doors, especially those who enter for the first time or after a long absence. Everyone is welcome! All are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this altar.



The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry, Rector
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Happy Mother's Day!

We remember all our mothers today, especially this year when visiting is not possible, and mothers and children are often separated. No matter how distant, our mothers are always in our hearts. God's blessings on all our mothers.

Returning to Church—Carefully

We have tentatively been cleared to reopen the church for limited worship on June 1st. I say “tentatively” because everything depends on what happens this month as businesses slowly reopen. If the numbers of new COVID-19 cases continue to drop or at least remain steady, we will begin Phase 2—a limited reopening. If numbers begin to climb again, we may not open again until July.

Our guiding principle as Christ's church in the world is this: Decisions should be based on an abundance of caution, with the care and safety of people as paramount, especially the most vulnerable, without assuming or judging who is vulnerable or not.

So our phased reopening—so long as conditions are at least stable—will likely look something like this:

- Worship will recommence in church—with groups of 50 or fewer. This 50 includes clergy, organist, servers, ushers, and acolytes--and all others in the worship.
- We would ask people to make reservations for one of three

services: at 7:30, 9:00, or 10:30. These times might change—as we address the need to sanitize the church and bathrooms between services.

- Any overflow (over 50) would be seated in the Parish Hall.
- We are trying to put in place technology to stream services online for those who are not comfortable coming to church. (Compromised immune systems. Medical conditions. Those who are ill. Just not ready.) We are also working on the ability to stream services to the Parish Hall for any overflow crowd.
- Communion will not take place at the altar, but from a station—people will have to be 6 feet apart during this sacrament. No wine will be given.
- There will be no choir, as scientists note that singing makes droplets travel farther, and the choir stalls are too close to each other.
- People will need to social distance in the nave and sanctuary, and be at least 6 feet apart and positioned in every other pew (or possibly farther apart). Immediate family (who share the same residence) may sit together.

- There will be no physical passing of the peace or passing of the offering plate. Offering plates will be stationed at both exits from the church.
- Wednesday's healing service will not meet.
- The church still will not be open during the week, to allow us to keep it free of contagion.
- Masks must be worn by all—clergy and laity. NO exceptions. We will keep a limited number of masks at the entrances for those who forget.
- No “in person” coffee hour—due not only to Parish Hall setup and social distancing, but because of food prep.
- We will continue streaming Noonday Prayer, Compline, and Sunday services
- We will continue to meet online for EfM, Vestry, Bible Study, Sunday School, Rector's Class, Virtual Coffee Hour, Committees, and Coffee Check-in.
- The offices will still be closed, and Susie and Lisa will continue to work from their homes during June.

We've lost some opportunities to meet face to face during this pandemic, but we are more

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'Reopening' continues...

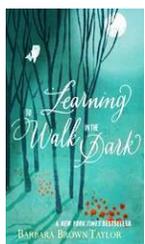
fortunate than parishioners during the flu pandemic of 1918. Then, church was closed for a substantial amount of time, and there were no opportunities to meet online—or to see streamed services.

We are not alone. We are part of a great, strong cloud of witnesses. We will strengthen our faith during this crisis. And we have found some real gems of opportunity: more people than ever are having the opportunity to join Bible study, for example. We've had former parishioners who live all over the country join us. We have had those who couldn't join in person, and I hope we can continue to reach out to those who didn't have much chance to participate before.

I would especially like to thank those who are feeding the hungry, tending the sick, teaching our children, providing our food, and making sure we are all safe. We are one human family who abide in God's love, and we are stronger together.

God bless you all.

Lisa+



Finding Light In a Dark Hour

A new Rector's Class has just begun, and this time we're reading the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to*

Walk in the Dark—a guide to discovering one's spirituality in times when we don't have all the answers. Kind of like now.

I loved this book, and I think you will, too. You can still order it from your favorite bookstore and join our discussions, **Fridays at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom!** We're just getting started. All (appropriate ages) are invited! It's a fun class, and a great book. Lisa+

Show Us Your Mugs—and 'Mugs'!

Rev. Lisa invites you to “check in” and catch up over a cuppa —**M-F, 9:30-10:00 a.m. on Zoom.** Come visit!

Then, after the 10:00 Morning Prayer service on Facebook, we'll hold a “virtual” Coffee Hour, **starting this Sunday, May 10, at 10:45 a.m.** The office will send a Zoom Invite. Our thanks to Fred and Victoria Bucklin and team for heading this up.

Don't forget your coffee and treats! It will be great to “see” everyone!



*You don't have to be a barista to join us!
Bring your coffee regular, Pekoe, cocoa...
What we really want to see is YOU!*

Prayer List

Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: *Janice Valentine, Pam Stewart; Carolyn Moore; Edward; Jack and Betty McDermott; Jeremy Tucker; the Brooks family; Amelia Mello; Paula; Sandra A.; Julie; Robert Pearson; Dustin; Hunter Fierro; Tadd Lyman; Shirley; Harry Hart; Ada Power; Larry Parker; Bayard Chanler; Carol; Marcie Vega; Vicky and Bill; Arnie Joy; Maxine; Judith Shepherd; Ron; Andrew; Joanne Scott; Tiffany Andrews; Seana Roubinek; Carolyn Morris; Amy; Joan Pottle; Paul Whittaker; Anne; Sandy Lyle; Brian Fitzpatrick; Skip Groman; Kathy Kulick; Lainie Vreeland; David Harper; Susan Conrad; Elaine.*

Click [here](#) for this week's lessons & services.

This Sunday

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14*

Next Sunday

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:7-18
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21*

Calendar

Sunday, May 10

10:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Facebook Live
10:45 a.m.—“Virtual” Coffee Hour—Zoom

Monday, May 11

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live
2:00 p.m.—Reopening Taskforce—Zoom

Tuesday, May 12

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

Wednesday, May 13

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.—Bible Study via Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live
4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.—EfM via Zoom
8:00 p.m.—Compline—Facebook Live

Thursday, May 14

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

Friday, May 15

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
10:00 a.m.—Finance Committee—Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live
4:00 p.m.—Rector's Class via Zoom

Saturday, May 16

11:00 a.m.—Children's Christian Education—Zoom
8:00 p.m.—Compline—Facebook Live

Sunday, May 17

10:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Facebook Live
10:45 a.m.—“Virtual” Coffee Hour—Zoom
*Click [here](#) to connect to our Facebook page.

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