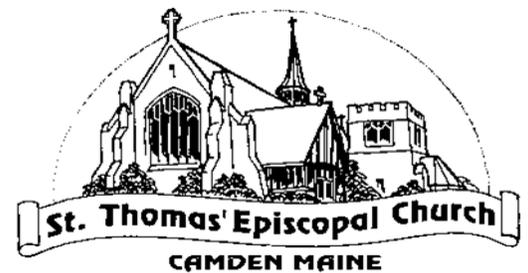


# St. Thomas' Tidings

Sunday, July 26, 2020

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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.



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This week, there will not be a video service from St. Thomas', but you are invited to view the diocese's monthly service. This full service, with music and a sermon from Bishop Brown, was compiled by a diocese-wide team of clergy and lay leaders. It "premieres" on [facebook.com/episcopalmaine](https://www.facebook.com/episcopalmaine) at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, but the link will be available on our website starting Saturday night.

### Update on Reopening

The vestry, task force, and rector have decided to keep the church closed during the month of August. We are concerned about the strong uptick in COVID-19 cases nationwide in states that elected to reopen faster than we did here in Maine. So far, we are one of the remaining states not seeing a precipitous rise in numbers. Maine's more conservative tactics resulted in fewer churches in our area opening for in-person worship. This may have helped to keep our numbers down when other states' were surging.

In the Episcopal Church in Maine, the churches that are reopening to small congregations are primarily doing so outdoors. We don't have the

space outside our church for Sunday services, and a sound system we would have to use would disturb neighbors.

We're considering holding an outdoor service offsite in August. Having it on private property would be easier as the behavior of non-church members could put our parishioners' safety at risk in a public venue. If we do this, people would still need to be physically distanced and masked. Socializing would be done masked and distanced, too. Studies have found that being outdoors doesn't eliminate risk.

We are looking toward September to begin one small service by reservation each Sunday in our church. Again, unless there is a vaccine or medication developed, we would still be masked and physically distanced, no singing would be permitted, and we would be seated throughout the service. We would continue to stream the service for all who are still not comfortable, or unable, to be in the church.

For now: enjoy the virtual coffee "hours" each Monday-Friday morning with fellow parishioners. Noonday Prayer, Compline, and our great service on Sunday morning are there for your spiritual nourishment. We may also add a weekly podcast that anyone with a phone could listen to.

And remember, if you need to talk, please reach out to each other or call the rector, Br. Donovan, Abby, or our phone tree champions: Sarah Groman and Lucy Ebbert. Let us know if you need anything. We are still a church community, and we are still united

by our commitment to each other. You are gifts of God, and you are the people of God to anyone whose lives you touch. God bless.



### Outdoor Worship Spaces

We are creating a prayer garden in the lawn space behind the parish hall. It will accommodate up to four people at a time to sit and pray. Brother Donovan Bowley is making meditation stations to go by the seating areas. People will be asked to wear masks and to physically distance at all times. We hope to have it up by the first week in August.

The garden by the statue of Saint Thomas is always available for quiet prayer or a chat with a friend while socially distanced and masked. The weed whackers have been hard at work to make it ready for visitors.

### Zoom Meeting with Summer Parishioners!

I will soon send out an invitation to all our summer folk to come together virtually to check in, get updates, and have a chance to be filmed saying hello to everyone. I would love to see you in our weekly services now appearing Sunday mornings on YouTube and Facebook! We miss all of you—so watch for the email from me sometime next week. I look forward to checking in with you. Lisa+

## Last Call: Zoom Coffee Hour Host

It would be nice for St. Thomas' to have coffee hour virtually, but we need someone to "host"—to go on Zoom and start it. It's easy and you don't have to make coffee or bring snacks! If you have to leave early, you can have a "co-host" end the meeting. If you are interested, please let Susie or the rector know. We can't have coffee hour without you!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries During Our Time Apart

I will be saying a special prayer for those who have birthdays, and a special prayer for those with anniversaries, as we stream services. Please email me if you are having one of those, or had one since March 15. If you want your age, or number of years married, announced, let me know that, too. I'm looking forward to saying a special prayer just for you. — Lisa+

*Presiding Bishop Curry has asked that Episcopalians pray this prayer from Pentecost through September 1.*

### A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God

God of all power and love,  
we give thanks for your unfailing  
presence  
and the hope you provide in times of  
uncertainty and loss  
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us  
your holy fire.  
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the  
world;  
a people who pray, worship, learn,  
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,  
bear good news, seek justice, rest and  
grow in the Spirit.  
Wherever and however we gather,  
unite us in common prayer and send us  
in common mission,  
that we and the whole creation might  
be restored and renewed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Prayer List

Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need:

Short-term: *Megan Nowak; Eric Jenson; Jeff; Mary; Kevin; Edward; Jeremy Tucker; the Brooks family; Paula; Sandra A.; Robert Pearson; Dustin; Hunter Fierro; Tadd Lyman; Harry Hart; Ada Power; Larry Parker; Bayard Chanler; Carol; Marcie Vega; Vicky and Bill.*

Long-term: *Shirley; 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; Lainie Vreeland; David Harper; Susan Conrad; Elaine.*

God of all, we pray for our departed, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. May their souls rest in peace. Amen.



**This Sunday  
July 26, 2020**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Genesis 29:15-28*

*Psalms 128*

*Romans 8:26-39*

*Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

**Next Sunday**

**August 2, 2020**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Genesis 32:22-31*

*Psalms 17:1-7, 16*

*Romans 9:1-5*

*Matthew 14:13-21*

Click [here](#) for *This Week's Virtual Services, lessons, and Facebook links.*

## Calendar

**Sunday, July 26**

Diocese-wide Service—Facebook and YouTube. You can find the link on our website starting Saturday night.

**Monday, July 27**

9:30 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom

12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

**Tuesday, July 28**

9:30 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom

12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

**Wednesday, July 29**

9:30 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.—Bible Study—Zoom

12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

*EfM is off for summer*

8:00 p.m.—Compline—Facebook Live

**Thursday, July 30**

9:30 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom

12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

**Friday, July 31**

9:30 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom

12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

**Saturday, August 1**

*Youth Christian Education is off for summer*

8:00 p.m.—Compline—Facebook Live

**Sunday, August 2**

Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Facebook and YouTube. Available after 7:00 a.m. Sunday for your viewing.

### How to Reach Us:

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(voicemail only, messages retrieved Monday mornings)

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