

# The Trumpeter

May 2020

The Newsletter of Trinity Long Green

[www.trinitychurchlonggreen.org](http://www.trinitychurchlonggreen.org)

## The Eucharist, Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper



One of the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic has been the need to halt in-person worship. For Eucharist-centered denominations like the Episcopal Church, that presents a major problem. Attending a service on-line can give us the Liturgy of the Word (scripture readings, sermon, creed and prayer) without too jarring a change from our ordinary worship; but the Liturgy of the Table, Eucharist, Communion is significantly altered by our inability to receive the bread and/or wine.

As has so often happened in the past, this crisis demands that we examine our understanding and our theology of the sacrament of the Eucharist. We can't merely wait until the crisis passes, as there is good evidence that we are months away from full in-person services and therefore from receiving communion as we currently understand it.

First, I need to be clear as to the three terms often used interchangeably for this particular form of worship – Eucharist, Holy Communion and The Lord's Supper. *The Lord's Supper* is commonly used by non-liturgical Protestant churches such as the Presbyterian and Baptist denominations. This term emphasizes the memorial aspect where the participants consume bread (often a cracker) and wine (or more often grape juice) as one calls to mind our Lord's last supper before he was crucified. *Holy Communion* focuses our attention on the individual's reception of communion, being one with God and fellow worshippers as we consume blessed bread and wine as the body and blood of Christ. *Eucharist* is a transliteration from the original Greek, meaning "thanksgiving" or "to give thanks." This term embraces the entirety of the service, from the Liturgy of the Word through the Liturgy of the Table, it is all Eucharist – giving thanks.

Now we need to clarify our understanding of sacrament. A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace; the sacrament both points to AND conveys that grace. Think of a \$ (dollar sign). We all know it means money, but the \$ doesn't give us any money, it doesn't have any power to convey wealth. On the other hand, a credit card is an outward sign of wealth, it both promises AND delivers (until a hold is placed on it, of course). So it is with a sacrament, it both promises and delivers what it promises.

In the case of the Eucharist (communion), the outward and visible signs are the bread and wine, the spiritual grace is communion, unity, with God and with one another. The Eucharist promises our union with God and other believers, and it conveys that promise as we receive the bread and wine alongside other believers.

What happens when we can neither share the consecrated (blessed) bread and wine, nor share with one another in the same place at the same time? How do we hold onto this sacrament that is so much a key part of our identity as Episcopalians.

(continued on the next page)

We can move towards an “agape” (translation – love) meal, that is, bread and wine that we share in our own homes but at the same time, perhaps reciting a special prayer as we participate in a live-streamed service. It isn’t Eucharist, but it is grounded in scripture. The early Christians shared agape meals which included bread and wine, and also, olives, cheese and perhaps even meat, but was different from what we now call Eucharist.

We could change our theology to allow for “distant” consecration, that is, the priest consecrates the bread and wine at the altar and “virtually” consecrates bread and wine we have set out for this purpose in our homes. Such a change would require the House of Bishops’ approval and so is not a real option at this time.

Many in the Episcopal church are choosing some form of “spiritual Eucharist.” I confess that I have been resistant to this concept; it reminds me too much of the Roman Catholic mass where only the priest received or only the priest received both bread and wine. If you have done on-line church with either the Diocesan Cathedral of the Incarnation or Washington National Cathedral, you have seen Spiritual Communion practiced with only the priest consuming while the congregation says a prayer that dates to the middle ages (that is, to the time before the protestant reformation). This does not work for me. Although some say the priest is consuming on behalf of the people, that is too high a clericalism for my taste, it puts too much “specialness” into ordination. My ordination as a priest does not make me better than a lay person, than any other baptized person; rather, it gives me the authority to do three specific tasks on behalf of the people of the church – absolve, bless, and consecrate.

I have searched for an alternative understanding and/or way to do spiritual communion. A major Anglican historian, Fredrica Thompsett (former professor of church history at Episcopal Divinity School) has provided me with some insight. Drawing on the Anglican church fathers, particularly Thomas Cranmer (primary author of the first English Book of Common Prayer) and Richard Hooker (one of the chief theologians in shaping Anglican theology), she emphasizes that participation of the laity as essential for communion, for the sacrament and therefore for a “spiritual Eucharist.” We can celebrate the Eucharist together and receive the sacrament, provided we do so together, in communion. That means, either all have access to the bread and wine, or no one consumes it.

That works for me. All I need to do is reword the prayer of reception in a way that reflects the understanding that to receive the sacrament of Eucharist without receiving bread or wine is not deficient in any way, just as we have always understood that reception of either the bread or the wine alone was full communion. Here is my rewording of that prayer:

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection and your presence in the consecrated bread and wine. Although I cannot consume that bread and wine at this time, I still receive this sacrament. Strengthen me with your grace that I may do the work you have given me to do. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the age to come. AMEN.

This is where I stand and what you can anticipate for any liturgy that we hold at Trinity until I retire or the restrictions on in-person worship restrictions are lifted. If you believe such a service would be helpful to you at this time, whether you watched it on video or participated in person (current limit would be 10 people), please leave a message on the church phone or give me a call (301.898.8731). I would be happy to celebrate Eucharist in this way with you and will make it happen.

Fran+



## CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES!

**Brendan E. Fitzgerald**, son of Dawn & Kevin Fitzgerald and grandson of Elaine Fitzgerald and Theresa Powdowski is scheduled to graduate from Fallston High School in May. Brendan plans to attend UMBC in the fall with a focus on Cyber Security and Computer Science. He is hopeful to get an internship at NSA. He keeps busy working part-time at Fallston Market, playing soccer and gaming with friends. Brendan is also waiting to be scheduled for his board review for his Eagle Scout award.

**Duncan Troy**, son of David & Leigh Troy and grandson of Bill & Claudia Troy will graduate in May from Hereford High School. Duncan will be going to West Virginia University this fall and will focus on a degree in Green Energy Land Management.

**Steven Rozics**, son of Andrea Rozics and grandson of Nancy Bainbridge is scheduled to graduate from Loch Raven High School in May. He will attend community college in Baltimore county. He is interested in computers and computer games.

Congratulations to these three young men and their families. Your Trinity family wishes you well!

-Bobbie Nelson-



## Resurrection

Resurrection comes small  
like seeds and leaven.

One little word of  
encouragement, one  
affirmation,  
perhaps evoking  
one smile or laugh.



## CONGRATUALIONS GRADUATES

Any news of 2020 graduations, recognition awards of children or grandchildren please contact Bobbie Nelson, 410-628-2107 or email [robertaannnelson@gmail.com](mailto:robertaannnelson@gmail.com). We will include names and awards in the Trumpeter.

## DIOCESAN PRAYER

*O God of compassion, giver of life and health, we pray your healing mercies upon all who are in any way affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Comfort and sustain those who have been stricken; relieve their pain, and restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength. Grant to all in authority the courage to make wise decisions that are essential for the common good, and strengthen them to lead institutions that care for those whom they serve. Watch over all first responders and those in the medical professions whose duty it is to care for the sick; guard them from all danger, and keep them safe in the knowledge that is through their sacrifice and service that the health of the whole community is promoted. Mercifully accept these our prayers, O God of all comfort, and our only help in time of need. Amen.*



## Trinity Church Day School Update

The halls of TCDS have been dark and quiet since the pandemic forced us to close our doors on Friday, March 13. We have since made the difficult decision to close for the remainder of the regular school year, although the Summer Nature Program is still a possibility. The staff misses the children immensely and we all grieve the loss of the end of this school year with broken hearts. But we are also thankful to know that we are doing our part to flatten the curve and keep our community safe!

However, it's not all bad news! The teachers and staff have come together to communicate weekly curriculum and activities for families to do at home. They have also created opportunities for their classes to connect virtually through video conferencing software, email, and more! The staff has gone above and beyond to ensure their students keep learning and growing, even when away from the classroom. The Parents Club was able to run a successful Silent Auction, even though they were forced to cancel the in-person Barn Bash party. The Parents Club will use the deposit paid for the Barn Bash catering to donate a meal to a local hospital for the healthcare workers on the front lines of this disease. Many families participated in a virtual project to thank the workers in our community keeping people healthy and safe! And Dr. Fran, Ms. Sue, and I were even able to take Easter Chapel to the homes of our families via Zoom. Although we are physically apart, we are succeeding at staying emotionally together during this time.

Luckily, TCDS was able to apply for and receive funding from the Paycheck Protection Plan, a forgivable loan through the SBA. This money will help us to pay our teachers their full salary while also reimbursing our families for days we have been closed this year. Some families have very generously donated their reimbursements back to the school, so hopefully we will have the funds we need to follow through on our plan to improve the playground this summer! The Day School is financially stable and looking forward to the day when we can safely open our doors again.

Although this time in our lives is scary, frustrating, and uncertain, it brings me great solace to see all of the wonderful things that people are doing in our community. Neighbors helping each other to get groceries in their houses, children making homemade cards for their friends who are celebrating a birthday in quarantine, and families who are willing to donate to our little school during a financially difficult time. We are so grateful for the good people in this world, especially those in our school family!

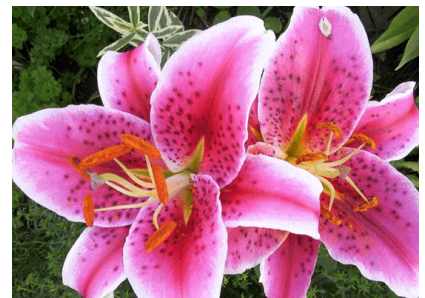
Stay well and hang in there!

-Chrissy



### WORSHIP DURING THE TIME OF QUARANTINE

While we cannot yet gather as a parish to worship together, Dr. Fran continues to post weekly sermons and we will, perhaps, schedule some form of on-line service before she retires. For Sunday mornings, we suggest you "visit" the [Diocesan Cathedral service at 11 a.m](#) or the [Washington National Cathedral at 11:15 a.m.](#) each Sunday morning. (right clink to open hyperlink)



## FINANCES DURING QUARANTINE

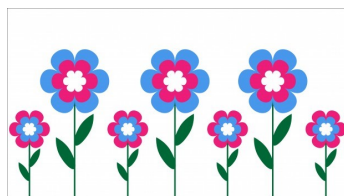
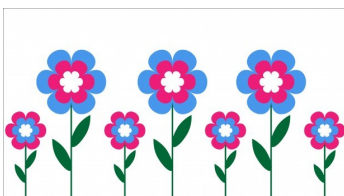
The vestry wants you to be aware of the financial situation at Trinity.

**First the Bad News:** As you would expect, during the time of no in-person services, our income has fallen. Pledged income is down - budgeted Year to Date (YTD) \$34,112; actual income - \$28,659. Fund raising income is zero. For March, our expenses exceeded our income by \$7366. We have been able to pay our bills by borrowing from the restricted funds, which will need to be restored either by taking in more than we spend or drawing from our investment accounts.

**Now the Good News:** We were able to apply for the **PPP Forgivable Loan** from the federal government and were approved. Likewise, the Day School applied for the same grant/loan and were also approved. That means the church will receive \$18,914 for payroll and utilities over the next 8 weeks. The Day School will likewise be able to cover their payroll and utilities through the end of the school year.

**The Bottom Line:** We still need your gifts and pledges to keep Trinity going during the time of quarantine.

- You may send your checks by mail. Someone picks up the mail every day and a deposit is made every week. Many have chosen this option - **THANK YOU!**
- You may direct your bank to pay the church as you would pay any other bill (either a single time or as a regular payment). Many have done this - **THANK YOU!**
- You may also pay through the diocesan account and they will send us the money while absorbing the small charge for the account; use this link to do that <https://episcopalmaryland.org/my-offering/> Some have done this - **THANK YOU!**
- If you are not able to give at this time, we understand. Please keep Trinity in your prayers. - **THANK YOU!**

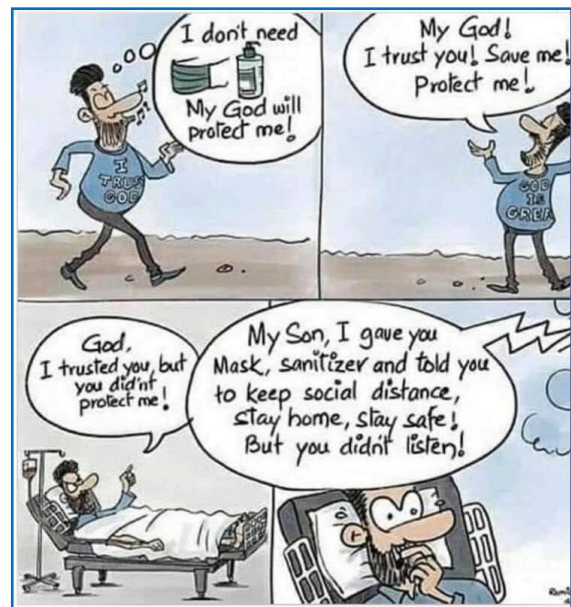


## RETIREMENT UPDATE

As was announced to the parish by letter in March, I retire May 31. I regret that this occurred during the coronavirus pandemic, but my plans were made before the quarantine began. The vestry and I anticipated some form of good-bye party mid-May with my final service being May 31 and my leaving immediately after giving a final blessing. That plan has obviously been impacted by the quarantine, but the timeline remains the same. The Canon for Deployment (Canon Stuart Wright) is in contact with Senior Warden Joyce Lynagh and will work with the vestry to smooth the transition. Although the norm is for no contact between previous rector and the parish for a year, these are not normal times; therefore, I will be able to return for a leave-taking once gathering restrictions have been sufficiently lifted.

As to my retirement plans, we have bought a home in Vermont and plan to move there in two stages. Early June, restrictions permitting, we will make a partial move and spend the summer and part of the fall there, returning to Frederick for the college school year. In June of next year, we will complete our transition and become Vermonters.

Fran+



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carol House  
Ann McMahon
- 2 Nancy Jones
- 4 Michele Gallagher  
David Sutphen
- 5 Gabrielle Meyer
- 11 Carolyn Evans  
Edward McGee
- 14 Anne Brandt
- 15 Molly Jacobs  
Kevin Rast
- 19 Mike Berry
- 23 Pat Kincaide
- 28 TJ Talbot
- 29 Jeff Abplanalp  
Scott Saunders
- 31 Douglas Anderson



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 14 Joe & Joyce Lynagh
- 18 Leonard & Carol House
- 19 Richard & Judy Neumyer
- 21 Roger & Liz Lee
- 23 Jake & Kristen Deford



## GLADS AND SADS

A chance to share: send Martha yours for next month



### DR FRAN:

#### GLADS

- ◆ Latte has learned how to “go for a walk.” As she has been confined by an invisible fence, I have always put her in the car to take her for a walk. Now we have a ritual where I take her to the end of the driveway, change her yard collar for a walk collar and off we go. She has learned, more or less, to stay on the left side of the road as our neighborhood has no sidewalks.
- ◆ I’ve branched out a bit in my cooking, trying a few new things like a Quinoa salad.
- ◆ My household is well, as is my extended family.
- ◆ I’ve been able to get out and work in the garden more.

#### SADS

- ◆ I haven’t been able to be with you in person for way too long!
- ◆ I miss the Day School Chapel.
- ◆ Recent wind storms have ripped some of the siding from my house. Fortunately, insurance will cover part of the cost to re-side my house.
- ◆ Miss sending time with my friends and co-workers.
- ◆ The class of 2020 is missing all of their special festivities.

### SANDY:

#### GLADS

- ◆ How many Trinity folk are keeping in touch with one another and help one another when needed
- ◆ That we were able to meet Madison, our new granddaughter, before the quarantine was imposed.

#### SADS

- ◆ Video hugs are no substitute for the real thing.

## TRUMPETER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Please submit your June/July/August articles to [marthab28@verizon.net](mailto:marthab28@verizon.net) by May 26, 2020.

## Wait without hope

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope  
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love  
For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith  
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.  
Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought:  
So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.  
Whisper of running streams, and winter lightning.  
The wild thyme unseen and the wild strawberry,  
The laughter in the garden, echoed ecstasy  
Not lost, but requiring, pointing to the agony  
Of death and birth.

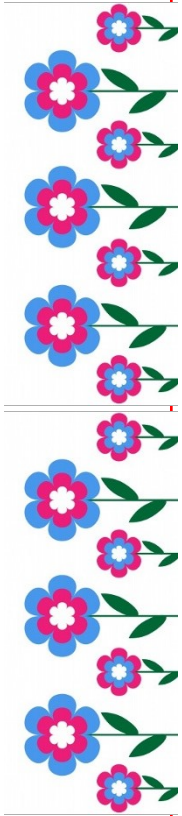
–T.S. Eliot, excerpt from “East Coker”, *Four Quartets*

## In Memoriam



**Judith S. Wiseman**  
March 15, 1944 - April 1, 2020  
*Rest eternal grant to her*

# May 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 8:30pm Steps & Tradition	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 8:30pm Steps & Tradition	15	16
17	18 6:30- Vestry	19	20	21 <b>Ascension Day</b> 8:30pm Steps & Tradition	22	23
24	25 <b>Memorial Day</b> 	26	27	28 8:30pm Steps & Tradition	29	30
31						

## Remembering Easter 2019



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