

Time Together

While We are Apart

Trinity and St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Churches

Wednesday,
February 17, 2021

Time Together Newsletter
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Good day dear church communities,

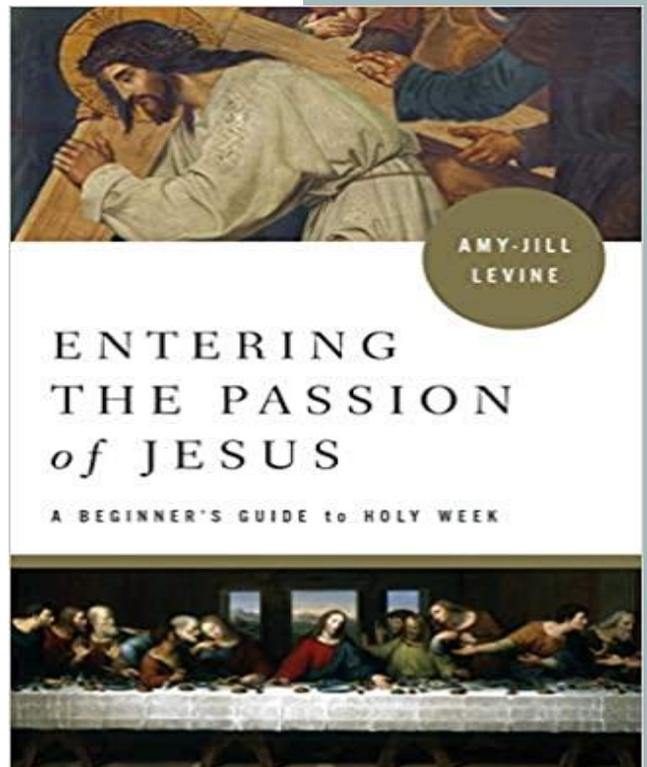
With Ash Wednesday today and the start of the season of Lent, I thought I'd take this front article to outline our Lenten offerings.

1. I will be offering a Lenten book study on "**Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week**", **written by Amy Jill Levine**. A brief description of the book:

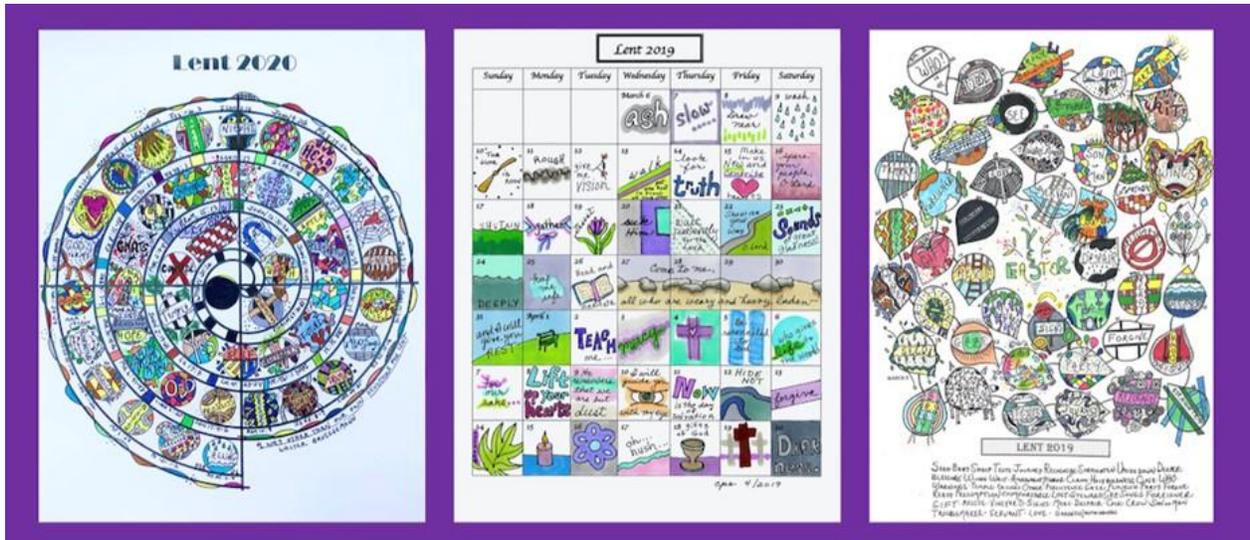
"From Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his prayerful agony in Gethsemane, Levine brings forward aspects and details that open doors for beginners as well as seasoned readers of the Bible. She shows how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience."

A reviewer wrote: "This exploration of the passion narratives is not only greatly informative but also deeply comforting and challenging as Levine shows the risks Jesus asks us to take in order to love as he did."

The group will meet by Zoom once a week for an hour and 15 minutes, on either Fridays or Sundays, depending on the preference of those signing up. If you want to participate please let Megan know as soon as possible by text, phone call or email so we can plan our schedule of time together. All are welcome; invite a friend to join us!



2. **Praying in Color:** All are invited to try a new method to help us pray through the 40 days of Lent. You will create, with a printable calendar template, a daily prayer calendar. In each space on the calendar you can write a word or the name of a person you are praying for. Then you can draw, doodle or color around it, while praying for that person or meditating on that word. Think of it as a visual prayer. Here are examples of completed calendars:



And here is a link from the website “Praying in Color” to get you more ideas and templates for blank calendars to download and print.

https://prayingincolor.com/making-the-lenten-journey-calendar-templates?fbclid=IwAR345Vp07h_9fkBehCz-adurLwqkBo3jGhTq7

There is also a book “Praying in Color”, if you want to learn more!

3. Last year many folks enjoyed the **Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten devotional booklets.** This year they are offering a link to receive the meditations daily in your email, or download a PDF of the full booklet. Go to [Episcopalrelief.org/lent](https://episcopalrelief.org/lent) to sign up.

And now onward to a little more “Time Together”,

Megan

Prayer Notes

We will include our prayer lists in each Wednesday Newsletter and in our worship services. Please continue to let us know of folks you would like to have on our prayer lists.

Prayer Lists:

St. Mary's Whitechapel: Dave Arnold, Alexa McGrath, Agnes Robbie, Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, Jori Keckman, Alexa Frisbee, R.W. Courtney, Tammy, Dorsey Ficklin, Glenn Courtney, Terry Thompson, Wendy Burnett, Lin Greene, Jake Cobb, Dave Petersen, Dan Ficklin, Marie Beringer, Mimi Chace, Donna Brayton, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Howard Hanchey, Jennifer Cassell Cole, Karen Woodruff, Gina Adams, Brad Quillen, Jessica, Joanne and Michael.

Nursing Home Resident: Lancashire - Mary Sue Courtney

Armed Forces: Jacob Sensenig, Joshua Green, Aimee Budzinski, Kathryn McCormack Akacem, Mehdi Akacem, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

(Trinity:) Lella Lee Edwards, Malcolm Jett, Sherri Carter, Terri, R.W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Steve, Rick Bateman, Earline Tomlin Kelley, Ed Borer, Dean Haine, Mary and Karen Jackson, Berkeley Kellum, Preston Bryant, Michael, Mel and Frances Ercelino, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Karen Woodruff, Joey Coker, Michael Dunaway, Brad Quillen, Ian Larmore, Brandon Dunaway.

Armed Forces: Giovanni Elhordoy, Ward Gavin, Paul Price and Michael Stout.

February and March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Trinity Birthdays: Elizabeth Hyde, February 3rd; Anne Kingsbury, February 3rd; Kate Warfel, February 9; Bill Buhmann, February 13th; Emily Carlson, February 13th; Justin Kingsbury, February 18th; Brooke Hayden, February 20th; Eli Hamrick, February 23rd; Hunter Hayden, February 24th; Mickey Blandford, February 25th; Anne Draper, February 26th; Ian Larmore, February 26th; Lane Hayden, March 4th; Dave Whitlow, March 6th; Jane Dunaway, March 9th; Hannah Ellery Kellum, March 10th; Jock Chilton, March 11th; Kelly Brent Kellum, March 15th; Ellen Tracey, March 16th; Glenn Courtney, March 19th; Ian Dunaway, March 22nd; Michael Dunaway, March 23rd; Megan Limburg, March 23rd; Adam Tyler Dunaway, March 27th

Anniversary- Carol and J. R. Roscher, February 29th; Fred and Judy Ripley, March 21st

St Mary's White Chapel: Kendall Stoneham, February 2; Derrick Stoneham, February 2; Ben Weimer, February 4; Howard Hanchey, February 17; Katelynn Wood, February 19; Sharon Gill, February 24; Tracy Nester, February 26; Kurt Muse, February 27;

Kimberly Wood, March 8; Sue Johnson, March 12; Page Henley, March 12; Glenn Courtney, March 19; Megan Limburg, March 23; Gloria Romaine, March 24; Mary Chilton Senell, March 31

Anniversary – Dave and Mag Petersen, February 10

Announcements

Our Zoom Storytelling event has been re-scheduled for this Saturday, February 20th at 4pm! The ice storm and power outages postponed our Eve of St. Valentine's event, but we are glad to be able to gather this week! Bill Arnold and Margaret Anne Fohl will present a dialogue story written by the great humorist, Dorothy Parker, in which newlyweds talk on the train as they head to New York for their honeymoon. Bill will also tell a story of love and marriage out of the legends of King Arthur. If you'd like to invite a friend, just share the zoom invitation with them; all are welcome!

Ash Wednesday is today and we will have a Zoom service at 6pm.

All are welcome at this service as we are invited into the observance a holy Lent.

Pavilion Update Renovations and construction have begun at the Trinity Pavilion! In this photo you can see the pillars being constructed to hold the overhang that will extend from the new roof. The overhang/canopy will provide coverage when Food Pantry folks are loading groceries into cars on rainy days, and when folks arrive for events at the Pavilion. A new road will be constructed to allow cars to pull right up to the Pavilion. In this photo you can also see our bright green permit for all construction; alleluia! Watch this space for regular updates!



Welcome to Trinity, Gladys Rogers! Gladys joined Trinity in February. I have known Gladys for 30 years, first at our church in Charlottesville, and then when I served at Grace Church. Gladys was born in New York City, and lived on Long Island for many years, she and her husband, Jim, raising their three children there. Her daughter Ellen Huddy, and husband Dan, live off River Road. Gladys lives now at RWC in Assisted Living. Please join me in welcoming her to Trinity!

Kate Warfel has become active at Trinity this year, first helping with reading in our services, and recently offering her thought-provoking monologue in our worship a few weeks ago. Kate's contact info will be included in our next edition of the Directories, but here is her info:

898 James Wharf Rd
White Stone, VA 22578
kjlw1st@aol.com
217-552-8591

Many thanks for sharing your talents with us, Kate!

Remember, come as you are to Sunday Zoom Church! 10am can be mighty early for some of us. Getting out of your pajamas and doing something about your hair can be a challenge for some too. Do not let these issues keep you from attending our 10am Zoom church service! You are welcome to attend with your camera off. Just sign in but do not start your camera. Being together and sharing God's love is too important to have it hinge on fixing your hair by 10am! Know that you are always welcome; come as you are!

Are you looking for the video of Sunday's worship? Just a reminder that the video of Sunday worship is available for one week on the Trinity website: trinityva.org

Do you need help getting trash to the dump or picking up prescriptions or an occasional grocery item? Please know that we have folks ready to help in our joint churches community. Contact Megan for connection to a volunteer.

Washington National Cathedral continues to offer beautiful and moving worship daily. They can be found at cathedral.org

You can continue to mail pledges and donations to Rector's Discretionary Fund to each church:

Trinity Church
PO Box 208
Lancaster, VA 22503

SMWC
5940 Whitechapel Rd
Lancaster, VA 22503



Thoughts from the Organ Bench
by Glenn Courtney, Organist
SMWC and Trinity

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling was written in 1747 by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Charles and his brother, John, were founders of the Methodist movement. This hymn is probably Wesley's best known and most loved. His hymn texts that are solidly based on the Scriptures give them an appeal across denominational lines. It is estimated that during his lifetime, Wesley penned more than 9,000 poems of a spiritual nature, 6,000 of which are hymns. His writings were passionate and well-crafted, conveying the true essence of Christian teaching.

Love divine, all loves excelling
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

It is said that Charles Wesley wrote a poem every day for 50 years. A substantial number of his writings were completed while riding on horseback to his evangelical meetings. What really set Charles apart from other hymn writers was his effective use of scriptural allusions, providing a spiritual roadmap whereby individuals could imagine a Christ-centered life.

Some of his other famous hymns are Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, and Jesus Lover of my Soul. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling appears in 1,328 of the North American hymnals indexed by the online Dictionary of North American Hymnology, comparable to Newton's Amazing Grace (1,036).

At its first appearance, the hymn was in four stanzas of eight lines (8.7.8.7.D), and this four-stanza version remains in common and current use to the present day. As early as 1760 it appeared in Anglican collections, and in Methodist hymnals around 1783.

A second, abridged version of the hymn (with the second stanza omitted), appeared as early as 1778 in Hymns and Psalms for the Service of Fitz-Roy Chapel (London, 1778), then in the Wesleyan "Large Hymn Book" of 1780, and thence in many others, chiefly British and predominantly Anglican, but including also many later official Methodist hymn books. Over the years, Wesley made several changes to the original lyrics, as did some editors and publishers. Today, the second verse is often omitted from hymnals.

There is no better way of describing the culmination of adhering to the biblical teachings of Christ, than in stanza four of this hymn. Wesley's phrase, "changed from glory into glory" is almost a direct quotation from 2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV). Wesley describes that day in heaven when "we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise."

In current use, the hymn seems to be set most often, particularly in American hymnals, to the tune Beecher by John Zundel (1815–1882, from *Christian Heart Songs*, 1870), an organist, composer, arranger, and educator. He named the tune after Henry Ward Beecher, his pastor at Brooklyn's Plymouth Church, where Zundel served for 28 years. The tune was first published in 1870. Other tunes associated with the hymn are Welsh tunes Hyfrydol by Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811–1887), Blaenwern by William Penfro Rowlands (1860–1937), and Moriah—the latter two especially in Great Britain.

Here are three performances of the hymn. First, tune Beecher; second, tune Hyfrydol; third, tune Blaenwern.

[Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - YouTube](#)

[Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - Mormon Tabernacle Choir - YouTube](#)

[Blaenwern, Love Divine - Prince William and Kate Middleton Royal Wedding - YouTube](#)

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Sources:

www.Wikipedia.com

www.rodgersinstruments.com

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>

Reflection

Our Reflection today comes from Rachel Hackenberg, who serves on the national staff for the United Church of Christ. She is the author of “Writing to God” and the co-author of “Denial is my Spiritual Practice”. Her blog is “Faith and Water”.

From One Grasshopper to Another

“It is God who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes rulers of the earth as nothing.” Isaiah 40:22-23 (NRSV)

Dear grasshopper,

How are you holding up in this fleeting world of ours? How is the song in your wings-- does it still have its passion?

How is your spirit--blissfully shedding layers of noise and busyness and stress, or building up its defenses against disappointment, against change, against loss?

Are you tired of flying and fleeing, without a decent moment of rest? Or longing to defy limits and leap free of every care?

In our most glorious moments, at the height of our vigor, in our most aspirational living: we are still just like grasshoppers, small and short-lived beneath the heavens. In our most weary moments, when the pain of living is acute, through the long seasons when purpose feels elusive: we are still like grasshoppers, intricate and beautiful within the vast tent of creation.

Dear fellow grasshopper, stretch towards the heavens and marvel at the stars. Reach down to the earth and give thanks for the fading flower.

And be at peace: The day is fleeting—no matter how deeply we plant our stakes in it, no matter how long we write our “to do” lists, no matter how valued our labor, no matter how lofty our motives. The abuses of the day are likewise fleeting—from the vanity of princes to the injustice of rulers, from the wildfires of fear to the plagues of power.

No matter what else: today we reside within God's tent.

No matter what else: tomorrow the Morning Star will again rise and bless this holy tent.

Prayer

For the fleeting days we are given: thank you Jesus. For all the joy and humility of being just one life under the whole tent: thank you Jesus. Amen.

