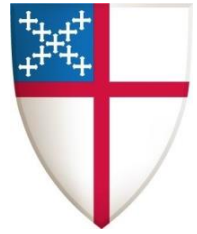




ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER
April 2020



Rector – Rev. Allison Cornell

Editor – Carol Dockter



Rector's Greeting April 2020

Dear Friends,

Well, the key word for now for us all is flexibility. With the outbreak of Covid19, and the healthcare experts' advice and direction that we should practice social distancing and remain at home as much as possible, we find that our usual routines are interrupted and our daily or weekly schedules are topsy-turvy. We don't yet know how long this may continue before we can resume "normal" life.

As your pastor, I want you to know that I am available to talk with you via phone, email, text, facebook, etc... Bishop Reddall has allowed one exception to not visiting with you, and that would be if you fall ill and are in extremis or near death. I certainly hope none of us will fall into that circumstance, but if you do, I

will come to you.

In the meanwhile, if you need anything that is not in the stores or if you are reluctant to go to the store, let us know. The church still has toilet paper and paper towels we can share. If you need other things, we can also try to "crowd source" among our members and see if we can find and share with you what you need.

In times like these it is all too easy to become anxious and fearful. It also may be hard to fill your time at home. We recommend limiting your exposure to news reports which have an abundance of bad news and precious little good news. Find ways to relax, de-stress, maintain your health, and stay connected with others. We offer a few suggestions in this newsletter.

Remember Jesus' words of comfort in times of worry:

Matthew 6: 25-29: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these."

In our blooming springtime, we have many flowers and birds to admire, to consider the divine creation all around us and to enjoy.

We will get through this. Julian of Norwich is famous for her words: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

Peace and blessing be upon you,
Rev. Allison+





1 *PETER* 5:19

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings

WORSHIP

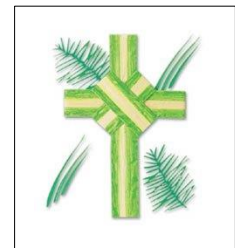
Concerning Weekly Worship:

We have begun trying new ways to have our worship time together using various technology methods. In the coming weeks we may try a number of different ways to provide worship opportunities for us all. We have tried the Facebook Live! We know that Mark can record and post video and sound to our website. We may try to have a Zoom session (which is a video/audio conference call type of software). We may recommend other church's worship videos (the Arizona Cathedral in Phoenix is going to record the Easter service and post it, for instance) so that we can be part of something larger than ourselves – especially for our High Holy Days.

One thing that we as clergy have discussed with Bishop Reddall is the importance of Communion to our churches. Since we (priests) cannot share communion with you, most of us have decided to also fast from communion with you. For myself, taking communion is one of the most profound ways that I connect with God. As our recently used Rite I Eucharistic Prayer states: "... that He (Christ) may dwell in us, and we in Him." I imagine some of you feel the same way. So, for now, we are asked to feast on God's Holy Word in Scripture... hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Word of God.

Palms for Palm Sunday

Your vestry will deliver to you a palm cross for Sunday April 5th Palm Sunday. We had hoped to have these handed out to you for our Palm Sunday Worship in person, however, we hope that having a palm cross brought to you will still help you to celebrate Palm Sunday from home.



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Holy Week and Easter:

St. Stephen's will post service bulletins the second week of April on the church website for **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday**. Rev. Allison is working on a **Sunrise Easter Service** – Live Streaming and will post a link to the Diocese of Arizona Cathedral's

Easter service which will be a recorded service but with a grander celebration and with Bishop Reddall as Celebrant and Preacher.



ACCESSING OUR ONLINE WORSHIP From Rev. Allison

Accessing our online worship:

Some of you may have questions about how to see the online worship on Sundays. Here are some instructions:



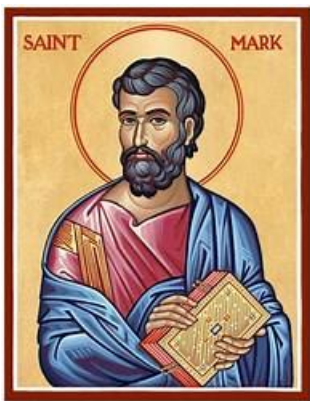
- 1) First you should have either a computer or a phone with a decent size screen.
- 2) To watch on Facebook –
 - a. If you already have a Facebook account and can follow St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Sierra Vista by searching for our facebook page and when you go to that Facebook page click “Follow” under the title picture.
 - b. Scroll down to see latest posts and the one nearest the top will be where our Live streaming will appear at the appointed time.
 - c. If you don’t have a Facebook account, I think you can still see our Facebook page by either clicking on or copying and pasting the following link into your internet browser (Chrome, Google, Bing, Firefox):
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Stephens-Episcopal-Church-Sierra-Vista-142050989167098/>
- 3) To watch on St. Stephen’s website –
 - a. Go to the website at www.ststephensaz.org by clicking the link or copy/paste the link into your internet browser.
 - b. On the St. Stephen’s Welcome Page (first page of our website), look below the picture at the top and in the line that says “Sundays Click Here” do just that. Click on the words (which are a link) and it will take you to the Live Stream page and the worship will begin at the appointed time.
- 4) Before the 10:30am time –
 - a. Get your Book of Common Prayer (also available online at www.bcponline.org) or download from St. Stephen’s website the weekly worship bulletin
 - b. Get your Bible or the Lectionary insert from St. Stephen’s website, or look up the lessons on www.lectionarypage.net (downloadable to Word)
 - c. Rev. Allison will give page numbers for the Book of Common Prayer as we go through the service to keep everyone on the right page.
- 5) Missed the Live Streaming event? No worries.
 - a. The video will be available through our Facebook page (on the left see menu of options, one of which is videos. Click on that and scroll down for the library and look for the one for the most recent Sunday.
 - b. Mark will also have it available on our website on the front page of the website under Most Recent Sermons. It is usually posted there on Tuesdays.
 - c. Mark will also upload it to St. Stephen’s YouTube page which is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV9r7bg64k-v9eVue3xUYOQ> . On that website you can subscribe to follow St. Stephen’s videos.
- 6) NOTE: We may also be using Zoom application to do our live service in the next couple of weeks. We will send out to everyone the link to join the Zoom session. This will be an interactive platform in which everyone can hear and see (if you have a computer camera or a phone camera) each other. We may use this application because it would allow us to have Mike play his keyboard and the choir to sing. We may pre-record it and then upload it for others to watch without being live.

It is a brave new world out there in virtual church and technology. We hope to get our church live worship back to having everyone in the same place at the same time as soon as we can. However, this may also drag our Episcopal congregations into the 21st century and give us opportunities to reach even more

Here is an opportunity to invite your friends, family, former parishioners to try us out on the internet and see if they would want that capability to continue...



THE SAINT HONORED IN APRIL



Mark the Evangelist, Saint

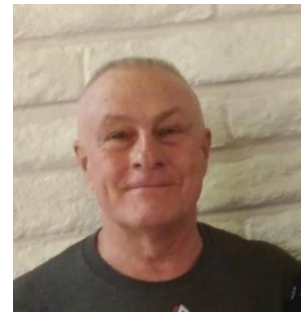
(Author of the second gospel. He was also known as John Mark. He was the son of Mary of Jerusalem. Although she was a widow, she was a woman of means. She owned a house which was large enough to hold a large Christian gathering, and she had at least one maid. The Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples may have been in her house. Mark may have witnessed some of the final events in Jesus' life. It is believed that Mark was in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus was taken captive. The young man was noticed and about to be questioned. Apparently he lost his nerve and ran away, leaving his clothes in the hands of Christ's captors. Later on, Mark went to Antioch with his cousin Barnabas. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on part of their first missionary journey, but "ran away" again for some unknown reason. His action angered Paul. When Mark asked to go along on the second journey, Paul flatly refused. Mark seems to have been close to Peter. It is believed that Mark was Peter's secretary and wrote down many of the things Peter remembered about Jesus. The gospel which bears Mark's name may be based on the eye-witness reports of Peter. Mark is supposed to have taken Christianity to Alexandria. The church in Alexandria claims Mark as its first bishop. One ancient account states that he suffered a martyr's death there. Mark's life is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on **April 25**. *From the Episcopal Dictionary and Glossary*

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

Greetings from Tim Holsonback

Even during the Corona Virus, our church is still functioning. During our March meeting, each member of the Vestry volunteered to keep in-touch with our parishioners by phone, texting, or email. If you have not been contacted by a Vestry member, please let me or Rev Allison know so we can make the appropriate arrangements to ensure the church stays in touch with you.

Also, Jill and I have been dealing with the Corona Virus by living one day at a time. We can all take comfort in our Lord's words from the Sermon on the Mount....

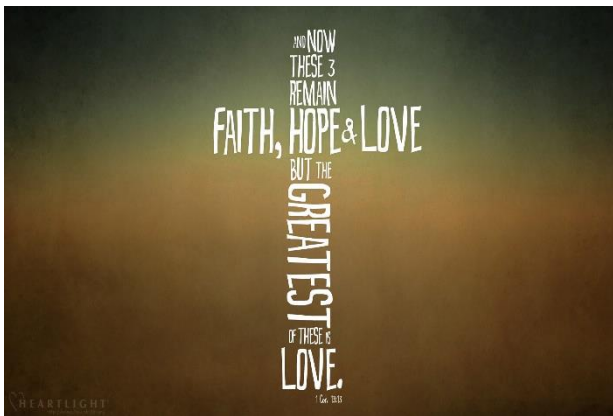


“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Also, with the abundance of winter rains, the grass around our church is growing. Anyone is welcome to help out with the mowing. Presently, the lawn mower at the church is in iffy condition if anyone chooses to use it. If you desire to use your own lawn mower, that is OK too. Please let me know if you want to mow any part of the yard (and which part) around the church.

May God continue to bless us all during these extraordinary times. My home number is 520-459-1937; cell 520-227-4483; email: Holsonback@cox.net



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SPIRITUAL COMMUNION ATTRIBUTED TO ST. ALPHONSUS de LIGUORO (1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

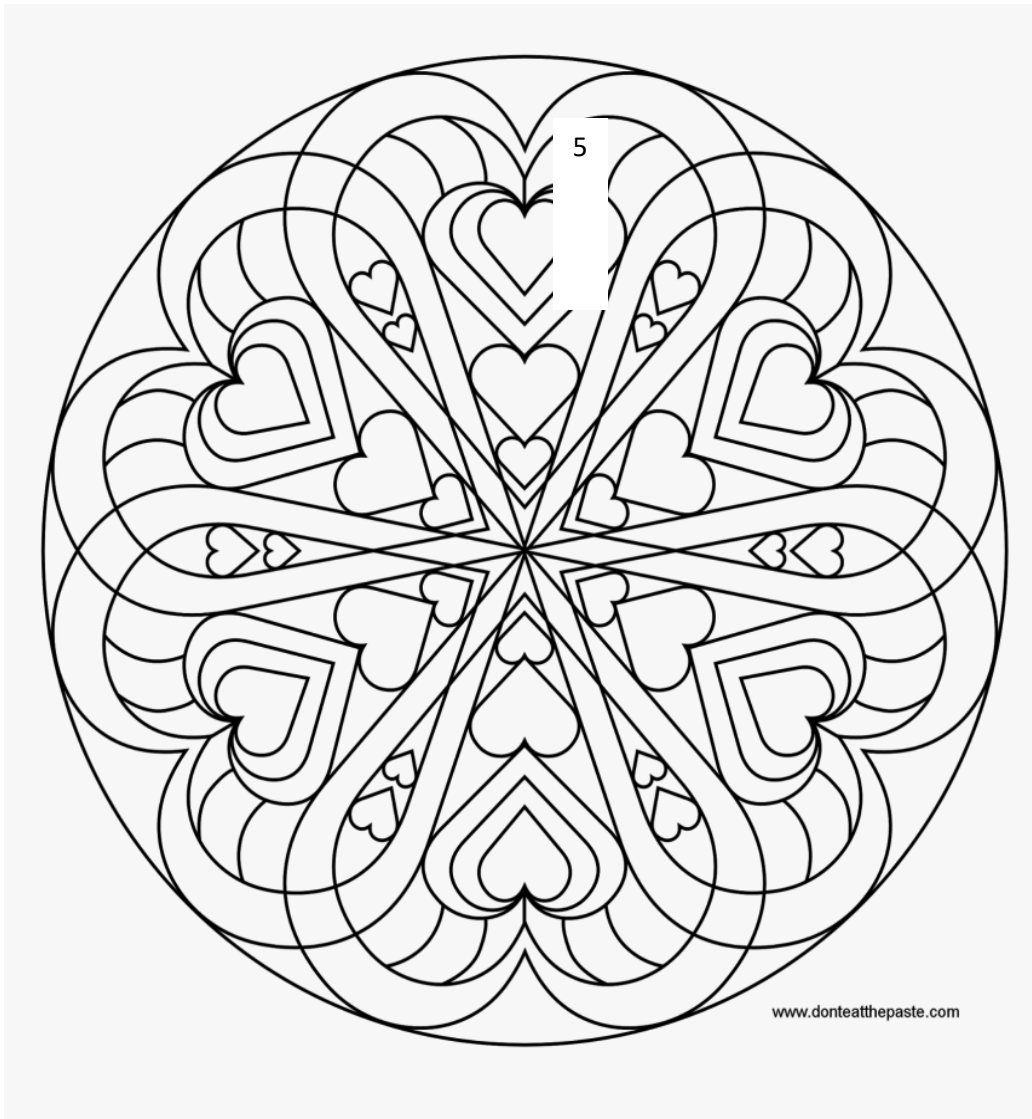
submitted by Dottie Gutwein

A MEANINGFUL ACTIVITY

Coloring as a Meditative Practice

Remember coloring as a kid? The passing of quiet time as you colored in a picture with crayons or markers? Adults have rediscovered that simple pleasure of coloring. As you while away the hours during our social distancing and staying home periods, you may want to try coloring as a way to relax and unwind. Included in this newsletter are some coloring pages (more can be found online and downloaded). Coloring is a good meditative practice that allows your mind to wander as you fill in the spaces of your coloring page. Talk to and listen for God’s response as you spend some quiet time alone. (see next page)

Submitted by Rev. Allison



ONE LAST THING

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC, BY CAMERON BELIM

May we who are merely inconvenienced Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working at home Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country (and the world) Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other

Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. AMEN

Submitted by Dottie G.