



The Weekly Messenger
for
SAINT ANNE'S CHURCH
MIDDLETOWN, DE
News and Announcements for the
week of March 22, 2020

A reflection by the Rev. Celeste Cox

Jesus began to weep.

-John 11:35

Jesus told Martha, *I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.* These are words for our present journey through the valley of fear and pandemic. Jesus is our resurrection and our life!

The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Lent is John 11:1-45. This great text tells of the raising of Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha of Bethany, all three of whom were dear friends of Jesus. It is the last of seven signs in the Gospel of John, all of which point to the identity of Jesus as Messiah, Savior of the World. That is the Good News for Sunday -- and always.

But as we know, in this life there may well be sorrow before the surprise of joy, deep darkness before the dawn of a new day. In other words, sometimes there is bad news before the good news arrives. Like all of us, I'm waiting in hope for that good news. Nevertheless, I am sad. I'm sad about the myriad disruptions in our lives, the lives of our children, our churches, our neighborhoods, our state, our country, the entire global village. I fear for the most vulnerable among us, and for our health care community giving sacrificially for the sake of others, thereby putting themselves at risk. So, sadness, worry, fear, are inevitable feelings right now for me and for many of us, because we have lost a great deal and we don't know, yet, when the pandemic will ease and we may recover.

Therefore, we can acknowledge the pain of our losses, our grief, in the way of Jesus. The Gospel states, *Jesus began to weep*, as he witnessed the devastating loss felt by Mary and Martha. He weeps in the face of the power of illness and death to separate us from one another. He weeps because he loved Lazarus and could not bear the thought of his dear friend residing forever in the valley of dry bones. And right now, he weeps with us. He is with us, by grace, ready to comfort our broken hearts and strengthen us to meet the days ahead.

It helps to recall that the mystics spoke of the *gift* of tears, because tears cleanse our spiritual vision, help us to see what is most precious in our lives, and to let go of those things that are not so important after all. As Jesus shows us, mourning our losses, crying to express our feelings, is a right and good thing to do. It does not indicate a lack of faith, or weakness. Not at all! It shows that we are human beings, humbled yet hopeful, trusting in the mercy and love of God.



I find helpful, and commend to you, a silent breath prayer: *Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy.* Breathe in for "Lord, Jesus Christ;" breathe out for "Son of God, have mercy." If you have any questions about the prayer or simply want to talk, feel free to email me at clergy@saintanneschurchde.org and we can set up a time to speak by phone.

May God the Father bless us, God the Son heal us, and God the Holy Spirit give us strength!

Online Opportunities from Saint Anne's Church

All events broadcast through Facebook Live on Russ Bohner's Facebook page:
facebook.com/russ.bohner and through the Church Website: www.SaintAnnesChurchDE.org

Tuesday, March 31

The Daily Office of Evening Prayer - 6:00 PM

Led by Russ Bohner.

Thursday, April 2

Bible Study of Matthew 21:1-11 - 8:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Led by Russ Bohner.

Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist - 9:30 AM

Broadcast live from the sanctuary of Saint Anne's Church.

7th & 8th Grade Youth Group by Zoom - 6:00 PM

7th & 8th Grade Youth Group members are invited to connect over Zoom

High School Youth Group by Zoom - 7:00 PM

High School Youth Group members are invited to connect over Zoom

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Tuesday, April 7

The Daily Office of Evening Prayer - 6:00 PM

Led by Russ Bohner.

Thursday - April 9

Bible Study of John 13:1-17, 31b-35 - 8:00 AM

Led by Russ Bohner.

Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist - 6:00 PM

Broadcast live from the sanctuary of Saint Anne's Church

Friday - April 10

Good Friday Worship: The Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ - 12:00 PM

Broadcast live from the sanctuary of Saint Anne's Church

Good Friday Meditation - 3:00 PM

Broadcast live from the sanctuary of Saint Anne's Church

Sunday - April 12

Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist - 9:30 AM

Broadcast live from the sanctuary of Saint Anne's Church

Live Broadcasts

Our live broadcasts are produced on computers that are connected to the internet with ethernet cables and that are broadcast over the fastest internet speed available (1 gigabit). We are doing everything that we can to create the highest quality videos. All that we are doing on our end does not however negate the possibility that you will at times experience disruptions in the video.

Some video disruptions occur because of problems with Facebook, as happened this past Sunday during our celebration of Holy Eucharist. Facebook became overloaded and the system froze. As it turned out, the disruption was only for a few minutes and although the video froze, the sound continued. Fortunately, these occurrences are rare.

Most often, we experience disruptions with the livestream because of our home internet capabilities (internet speed, internet provider, how many devices are streaming at the same time), by the quality of the device on which we watch the video (an older computer, laptop, or tablet may not operate as well as a newer model), and by whether or not the device is connected wirelessly or directly to our router with an ethernet cable (direct connection is preferable). To help with the live broadcasts, here are some tips:

If the livestream ends suddenly during the broadcast (as happened Tuesday night during Evening Prayer), Russ will start a new livestream through Facebook. If you are watching through the website, Jonathan will need a few minutes to connect the new Facebook Live feed to the website. To view the new broadcast, you will need 1) to wait a minute or two, 2) refresh your browser, and 3) click on the link on the website to the particular broadcast you want to watch. If the new livestream does not yet appear, repeat steps 1, 2, & 3 until the new broadcast is live through the website. If you are viewing the livestream on Facebook, wait for the new notification from Facebook announcing that “Russ Bohner” is LIVE and then click on that link to join the new broadcast.

If during a live broadcast your screen freezes for a moment, begins to glitch, or you have other issues, wait patiently for a few moments to see if the video returns. Often, when the video goes out, the sound continues. If after a few minutes the video does not return, refresh your browser. Remember, after refreshing your browser, you will most likely need to rejoin the livestream.

Check your home internet speed. If you use Verizon, most homes can upgrade to internet speeds of 200/200. If you have four or more people in your home and all of you have multiple devices connected to the internet, you may consider upgrading to an internet speed of 400/400. You can call your internet provider to inquire about what internet speeds are available in your neighborhood. Also all internet routers come with at least a couple of ethernet ports. To avoid possible issues with streaming wirelessly, you can purchase an ethernet cord online and then connect your desktop or laptop directly to your router.

Church Finances

Thanks to all of you who mailed in pledge contributions to Saint Anne’s. If you are able, please continue to support our church financially by mailing your pledge contributions to the Church Office: Saint Anne’s Church, 15 E. Green St., Middletown, DE 19709. We are grateful for all of your support!

[Click Here to view Bishop Brown's Message](#)

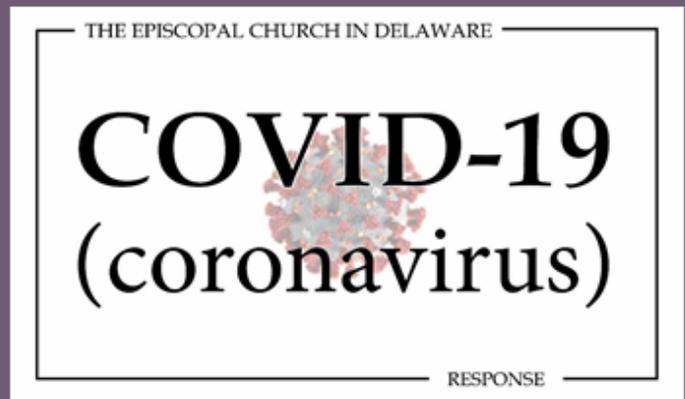


Bishop Brown's COVID-19 Response #6
March 25, 2020
Suspension of public worship extended +

Response #6

For a complete resource of the diocesan response to COVID-19, [please Click Here](#). This information includes:

- All of Bishop Brown's responses
- State of Emergency declaration and all modifications
- List of online worship services offered in our diocese and how to access each service
- Recent topics of interest, such as: Mission Support Office status, caring for someone at home, testing in Delaware, Facebook information, communications assistance for parishes
- Parish resources
- Worship resources
- News from the Episcopal Church
- Public health information



Parish Prayers

We pray for Donald Davis, Sr., Andy Dill, Nancy Emanuel, Suzanne Fields, Steven & Karen Kabatsky, Amy Klein, James Mace, James MacMillan, Jean McGinnis, Diane Shetzler, Christine Tschampel, Alan White, and Larry Wildasin.

In the Episcopal Church in Delaware, we pray for Saint Anne's and Saint Andrew's Schools and for Saint John the Baptist Church, Milton.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Church of Mbashe, Southern Africa.

Parish Staff and Leadership

Rector: The Rev. Russell Bohner, TSSF

Priest-in-Residence: The Rev. Celeste Cox

Minister of Music: Damien Jones

Minister for the Office: Nancy Koenig

Sexton: Cindy Cruz

Senior Warden: Nadine Burton

Junior Warden: Mandy Catalfamo

Treasurer: Mark Cavanaugh

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