

News from the Hill



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

April 2, 2020

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Send News from the Hill article submissions
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Spiritual Communion

The Rev. Canon Allisyn Thomas

Many of you have reached out to Father Mark and me to say how you miss having the Eucharist, that sharing in the bread and wine made holy is an important part of your connection to God. We miss it as well. For those of us called to be priests, being able to preside at the Eucharist is a fundamental aspect of our call and to not be able to do so feels like a profound loss.



And of course, in these times, we are all being called to put aside our usual way of doing so many things, and in the process see what God is teaching us, and how God is reaching out to us in new ways.

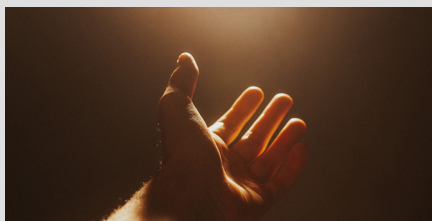
In consultation with Bishop Susan, beginning Palm Sunday, we will begin a practice that has been called "Spiritual Communion," and has been practiced in some churches, including the National

Cathedral. In Spiritual Communion, the priest blesses bread and wine, but it is not consumed. Instead, everyone is invited to say these words:

My Jesus, I believe you are truly present 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 physically from the Altar at this time, I am grateful to know you come into my heart spiritually. As you have come so many times and always will. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

In this practice we are able to hear the beloved words of the Eucharistic prayer, beginning with "The Lord be with you," and acknowledge both the times in which we find ourselves and how God comes to us always. Indeed nothing can ever separate us from the love of God.

Throughout this time and after, may we all drink deeply from the well of Living Water that comes to us in so many ways.



Healing Service

Wednesday, April 8, 10 a.m.

Join us on Wednesday of Holy Week for a special Healing Service with Cindy Campos. Come experience prayer and healing for the body, mind, and spirit. This service will be available on Facebook and YouTube.

See Facebook and YouTube links on page 2.

"Live" in Online Worship

John-Luke Addison

As part of our response to the COVID-19 outbreak, our worship services have now transitioned into online offerings, localized on Facebook and YouTube. We have been learning along the way, with several 'growing pains', but ultimately our 'virtual worship' has been a wonderful tool to stay connected and maintain our experiential worship together. I had done some video editing in college and vocations, so I had some knowledge of how to create these projects, but there has definitely been a lot of 'learning on the fly' and trial-and-error. I am grateful for all of the positive comments that have been coming in, as it seems like our daily videos are bringing elements of peace and normalcy into these anxious and uncertain times. Even our own

Bishop Susan was so impressed by our live-stream services that she requested we make a tutorial to share with other churches in the diocese who may need help establishing the infrastructure.

What I've learned in all this worship transition is that we can indeed stay together and connected. We can still lift each other up in prayer and support one another. We can still sing, read, listen, and think; our fundamentals of worship haven't changed. What has changed, and what we are all missing, is the physical connection to one another: the energy of communal worship; the hugs, handshakes, and high-fives; and the love we show and feel from our togetherness. While we do have these holes in our

hearts, we can still be the church in the world, and maintain our faith that God will be there in the storm. As we continue our discipleship, remember these words from one of our most beloved hymns:

*"Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere? We
should never be discouraged; take
it to the Lord in prayer. Can we
find a friend so faithful who will
all our sorrows share? Jesus knows
our every weakness; take it to the
Lord in prayer."*

How to Worship Today

Kristeen Evans

For a community accustomed to gathering together, online at home worship can feel uncomfortable at first. The suggestion to create a routine works not only for those newly working from home, but also helps those adjusting to at-home worship.

Set a schedule. Plan which service you plan to view and put it in your calendar. Share the plan with your partner and/or family. Do you have breakfast together before or brunch after the service?

Choose a dedicated worship space. Does your family gather on the living room couch? Do you worship in pajamas? Whatever the dress code in your home, make a routine.

St. Bartholomew's worship services are live-streamed on St. Bartholomew's Facebook page and YouTube channel. **You can find the links on our website**

home page stbartschurch.org right under the main menu options. If you have a Facebook account, use Facebook. But if you don't have a Facebook account, you should use YouTube. Just like in-person services, arrive early. For live-stream services, click the link five minutes early to make sure you are connected.

Remember, if you miss the live-stream, you can view the service in the videos section of both Facebook and YouTube later in the day.

Facebook link:
bit.ly/StBarts-FacebookVideos

YouTube link:
bit.ly/StBarts-Youtube



Procession of Palms

Sunday, April 5, 10:10 a.m. or earlier on Zoom

Join St. Bartholomew's on Zoom at 10:10 a.m. on Palm Sunday just before the beginning of the 10:15 a.m. service for our Palm Sunday procession. Bring your own palm leaves from your yard or ask a neighbor.

Join this link:
bit.ly/Zoom-PalmSunday

Director of Congregational Development Announced

Janice Miller

Our prayers have been answered. After a national search, Demetreus Gregg has accepted the call to join St. Bartholomew's as Director of Congregational Development. Demetreus will work remotely part-time beginning the first week of April and, if travel is permitted, he will join us full-time in mid-May.

Demetreus currently lives in Baltimore, Maryland and is on the development team for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra where he serves as assistant director of donor relations and development operations. He is also an Episcopalian and currently serves as the treasurer of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Baltimore. He has previously served as a Vestry member and Junior Warden

at Emmanuel. He is looking forward to making the move to California and this new chapter in his life.

The Director of Congregational Development is a new staff position called out in the 2019 Strategic Plan update as mission critical to build for our future. Responsibilities include fundraising, newcomer ministry, and community connections.

Please continue to pray for Demetreus as he prepares for his transition.

Finally, the search committee—Rev. Mark, Julia Foster, Mike Fuqua, Vanessa Greenwood, Maureen Hovannessian, Judy Macemon, Janice Miller, and Nancy Rollings—extends our thanks for your prayers and support during this time.



Easter Offering

Our church is needed more than ever to bring hope to the world, today and tomorrow. As you are able, please participate in this year's Easter offering. Your staff is working so hard—let's keep our team going strong and continue to support our mission and vision: transforming lives with the Good News, in real and tangible ways. **Go here to give online: bit.ly/StBarts-Easter.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with a humble and grateful heart that I have accepted the call to be Congregational Development Director with St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Along my faith journey, I have had no more welcoming and fulfilling experience than I have had with the Episcopal Church, and it is my hope that we can share such a wonderful experience with newcomers and each other going forward.



I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Vestry and Clergy leadership of St. Bart's for making this position a priority. As we seek to sustain and grow the parish, I look forward to working with each and every one of you to ensure that we are doing our part to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Equally as important, we must work together in the months and years ahead to affirm our faith and calling in ensuring that all of God's children are welcome at St. Bart's, with no exceptions.

I enter this new position with open eyes and an open heart. I am eagerly interested in your hopes and dreams for St. Bart's, particularly how we can engage new members and how we can position ourselves to be of continued a meaningful service to the communities we serve.

The short time that I have been able to spend at St. Bart's has taught me one valuable lesson—you are a devout community that faithfully serves our Lord Jesus Christ and that you make every possible effort to show God's love in an everchanging world. I am extremely grateful to be joining you at this critical time.

I will officially be on campus in mid-May. In the interim, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at dgregg@stbartschurch.org or 410-900-0125 if there is anything that you care to discuss.

I wish you and your family good spirits and good health. I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Faithfully,

Demetreus Gregg



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Change Service Requested

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Kristeen Evans

All services live-streamed on
Facebook & YouTube.

April 5 -

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

10:10 a.m. Procession of Palms on Zoom*

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and
Eucharistic Liturgy

*Palm Sunday Zoom:

bit.ly/Zoom-PalmSunday

April 6

Holy Monday

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

7 p.m. Compline, the final hour of daily
prayer

April 7

Holy Tuesday

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

7 p.m. Compline, the final hour of daily
prayer

April 8

Holy Wednesday

10 a.m. Healing Service

7 p.m. Tenebrae for Holy Week, a service
of prayer and darkness in anticipation of
the Holy Triduum

The Holy Triduum

April 9

Maundy Thursday of the Lord's

Supper

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy with
Spiritual Communion

April 10

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

12 p.m. Stations of the Cross (all ages)

7 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

April 11



The Great Vigil of Easter

7 p.m. Easter Vigil with Spiritual
Communion

April 12

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection

6 a.m. Sunrise Service

10:15 a.m. All Ages Festal Liturgy with
Spiritual Communion