



The Messenger

TRINITY Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Rector

The Rev. Kyle Scillings, Associate Rector

Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

March 2020

From the Rector

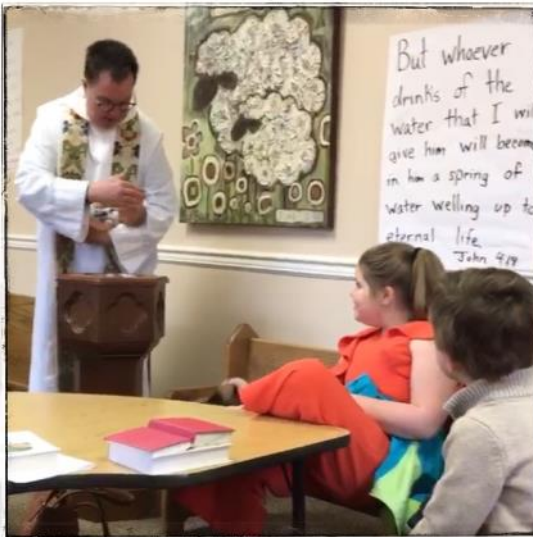
The Rev. Timothy H. Graham

Dear Friends,

We are in the season of Lent now. The official church teaching is that Lent is a penitential season. But what does penitential really mean? If you look up the word penitential in the dictionary you might get a little confused about what the word means. I looked up the definition and here are some other words that I found to describe its meaning: apologetic, compunctious, conscience-stricken, contrite, mournful, penitent, regretful, repentant, rueful, sad, sorrowful, sorry, attritional, chastened.

When I read all of these words, Lent seems to be a bit overwhelming to me. I know as a person of faith that there are always things about my life that I need to change to be a better person, to be more like the person that God wants me to be. I know that I need to change some of my attitudes and behaviors, and Lent is my opportunity to do just that. I can't really change anything about my life unless I take some time to first examine my life and come up with a plan. That is what Lent does for us. Lent gives us some time, 40 days, to really look at our lives and spend some time with God and see what we can do to make some changes that are life giving.

A few weeks ago I spent a Sunday morning upstairs in Children's Chapel and I talked to the kids about baptism. In this photo you will see that I baptized a baby doll while I was talking to them. Kids don't understand complex theological language, but they do understand more than we think. In my talk with them that day I explained that God loves us always, and that baptism is our way of understanding that we belong to God, always. Lent can remind us of that too. God loves us, always. And even if we do things in our lives that we ought not to do, God still loves us. God invites us to let go of the things that take us away from God, and God invites us to move more in God's direction. So, Lent is that simple. In these 40 days, think about what you need to do in your life to move more in God's direction. And make those changes.



May God bless you and help you to keep a holy Lent.

Father Tim

"Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry;" Psalm 88:2

We pray God's protection for those serving in battle.

In Our Prayers:

Parishioners

Margaret Barber
Jean Berry
Kathleen Bishop
Nancy Bloebaum
Peggy Collins
Johnny Crouch
The Grogan Family
Bill Harper
Lloyd Hudson
Margaret Lewis
Bob Miller
Lucius Morton
Tracy Mourer
Ginger Ollman
Jean Romeo
Melanie Smith
George Trussell, Sr.
George Trussell, Jr.
George Wade
Trudy Wade
Judy Wilkinson
Alma Winn

Friends

Margaret Brown
Bob Bugh
Jim Buntin
Gardiner Church
Billy Cornelius
Sherri Culp
Darlene Hughes
Devon Levy
Cammy Marchetti
Michael Owen
Paul Rickard
Bill Scott

If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital, has had a child, or is facing some crisis, please let the Parish

Kyle Stillings

Throughout the years in addition to giving things up as part of my Lenten discipline I have added a new devotion or practice to my daily routine. One of those is keeping a gratitude journal, where each evening I take stock of the blessings in my life that I was thankful for that day. Well, as helpful as that is to making me feel good about my life, it is something different to let that gratitude shape my behavior.

I am amazed at the quality of singing by our choir, and I am so grateful that I worship each week in a place with such beautiful music offered up for the glory of God. To show my appreciation for all that they do for Trinity I am cooking a meal to share with them after Easter services. Trinity doesn't usually have a communal meal on Easter Sunday, but I can't think of a better time to celebrate and give thanks than on the day of our Lord's resurrection.

They are all special to me, and so I want to make this meal special as well. I am also a priest, and so I can't help but to try to make a theological point with it as well. So here is my plan. During Holy Week I want to dig a pit in the yard behind the church. I will light a fire and let it burn hot until Good Friday, and on that day when the light of the fire is extinguished I will place a whole lamb in the pit, and cover it like a tomb. On Easter Sunday after church we dig it up, empty the tomb, and feast together on the lamb. There will be more to the meal than the main course, but I don't have any theological reflections about potato salad.

I've made meals like this before, and am capable of pulling it together on my own. But that isn't nearly as fun as inviting everybody to get involved and making this a participatory celebration of the whole congregation. So this is my invitation to you. Come, give thanks, taste and see.

Come, and get your hands dirty preparing the tomb of what will become a blessing for all who gather to share. Tend the fire as we attend to the fire in our hearts in preparation for the Easter feast. Help prepare the lamb for burial with fragrant oils and spices.

Give thanks, and pray for those you will feed by making a dish to share at table with friends. Let your love shine forth through the kneading of bread, your sense of beauty in artful arrangements of fruits and garnishes. The first fruits of our harvest are an offering unto the Lord and a blessing to God's people.

Taste and see that the Lord is good, the lamb is cooked, and there is joy in our hearts. Stay and share a plate, share your gratitude, and share your presence.

Kyle+



**Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenten Lunch Series**

March 2 - The Rev. Brandon Duke,
Rector of St. Julian's Episcopal Church,
Douglasville, GA

March 9 - The Rev. Mary Demmler,
Chaplain at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School,
Rabun Gap, GA

March 16 - The Rev. Jimmy Elder,
Pastor of First Baptist Church,
Columbus, GA

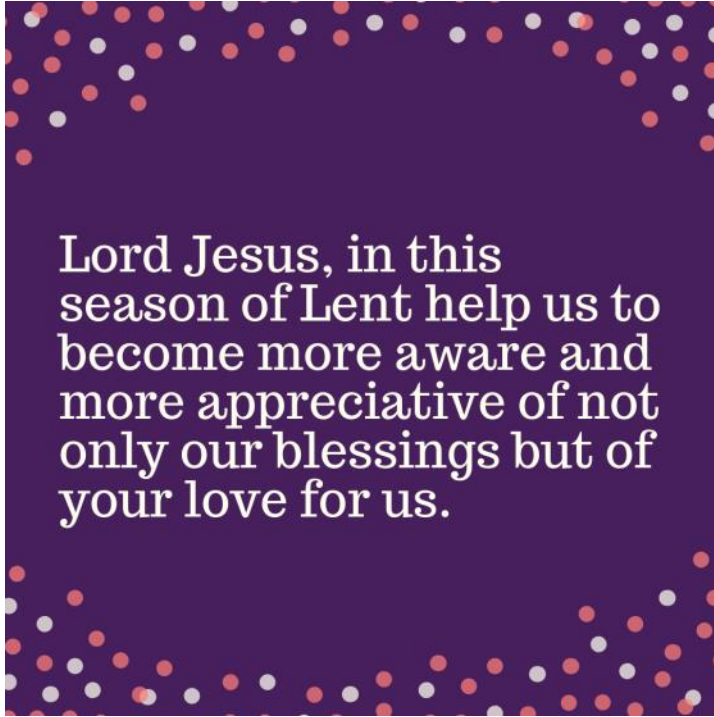
March 23 - The Rev. Adrian Chester,
Pastor of Greater Beallwood Baptist Church,
Columbus, GA

March 30 - The Rev. Ceci Duke,
Rector of Christ Episcopal Church,
Norcross, GA

Mondays at Noon in Trinity's Parish Hall



Ashes to Ashes



What are you giving up? When we hear those words we know it must be Lent. How many times have we heard that question? It's so popular – let's give up what we enjoy the most! Sweets, social media, favorite foods, sodas... the list goes on and on. Have you ever added anything to your routine during Lent? Maybe you take extra time every day to pray or reflect. Maybe you give to a charity or spend time volunteering at a local shelter. All these things are good and get the job done, right? You give something up, or add something, and you're set for Lent. 40 days and then life resumes as normal.

When we met as a group we decided that at this point in our faith journey we need to take this a little bit deeper. What do the aforementioned things have in common? Sacrifice. We are shifting the focus from what we are giving up/adding to why we are doing it. This is our prayer going into the season of Lent. "Lord Jesus, in this season of Lent help us to become more aware and more appreciative of not only our blessings but of your love for us." When we reflect on Matthew 4:1-11 we see Jesus' sacrifice firsthand. This season calls us out of the garden and into the desert with Christ. We can journey with him during these 40 days. This time is to prepare and purify our hearts for Easter.

This information isn't really new to us, but that doesn't mean it makes it easier! We are holding each other accountable during Lent. We have shared what we decided to give up/add and will be supportive of each other, always remembering the reason why we do what we do. Our second goal is to complete a Lenten devotional as a group. Although it's sometimes hard to enter fully into Lent, when we focus on the sacrifice Jesus made for us all, it helps carry us through to the end.



Music News

Choir CDs still to be picked up: We still have approximately 20 CDs "Great Hymns of the Faith" that were reserved but that have not been picked up and paid for. So, if you are in this category, please come by the church office during the week and ask Meghan or Mary to assist you in taking care of this. We have had many kind things said about the recording! Many thanks for supporting the Choral Scholar program.

Lent is here: that means particularly thoughtful and provoking music, including the Mozart "Ave verum," the Schubert "Agnus Dei" from the Mass in G Major, a grand traditional Spiritual, "Greater Love" by Ireland, "Born to Die," new last season and already a much requested work for Palm Sunday, the Durufle "Ubi caritas" for Maundy Thursday, and, of course, the Handel "Hallelujah! Chorus" for Easter Day. We are all busy preparing these and other compositions.

Trinity's own, Dr. Robert Pound, has composed a mass setting for Lent in honor of Prof. Joseph Golden, and it will receive its world premier sung by the all professional choir at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, just off Times Square in New York City, on March 8, which is the Second Sunday in Lent. It will be directed by Dr. David Hurd, who was Fr. Tim's professor of sacred music during his days at General Seminary in NYC. This was a complete and wonderful surprise for Prof. Golden!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Joseph Golden, Organist/Choirmaster
Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist/Choirmaster

I had a thought last night, as we had fun together playing Bingo and celebrating Shrove Tuesday. I decided that if Forrest Gump's mother can claim that life is like a box of chocolates, I can proclaim that being part of a church family is like a good night of Bingo.

Hear me out . . .



1. We come to church to be our true selves, to act crazy, to lament about a bad day, to share a concern, or maybe even to laugh ourselves silly. We DEFINITELY did that during Bingo! How amazing it must be for the children growing up in the Trinity family to know that they are welcome - they are welcome when they are happy, when they're silly, when they're frustrated or tired or down right sad. And they get to see us being accepted just as we are, too!

2. We come to church when we need help. We might need a hand up, a friendly suggestion about how to proceed with a situation, or a meet up with a friendly face. We had that covered last night, too! Look at how the smallest among us took it upon themselves to aid (well, force) us adults about what we should choose when we got Bingo!



3. We come to church when we are wrestling with decisions and need some clarity. After Adam came to terms with the fact that the orange plastic tool set had already been claimed, he had to do some thinking. Luckily, Maura was right there to step in and stand beside him as he worked through his hard decision.



4. We come to church when we need to feel like our church family is on our side, cheering for us, supporting us, loving us through whatever challenge or turmoil we might be feeling. There really aren't words for the cheerleading moves and excitement that little Margaret felt for Carter when he finally got a Bingo!



5. And, of course, we come to our Trinity family to feel loved. We come to share in God's love, and it is here for the taking. It is all over in the faces of these pancake-eating, Bingo-playing, cheerleading, all accepting, hug-giving, mask-wearing, funny face making, and precious souls who come here to play and to pray and to cook and to serve and to wonder and to love.

We come to church to find God. And we do . . . in the faces and hands and hugs of the marvelous people at Trinity. God was present in the laughs over pancakes and Bingo, and God is present in the face of each soul who calls this beautiful, sacred place home.

Aren't we a lucky bunch?

Love, Mama D