



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

June 2020

From the Rector

The Rev. Timothy H. Graham

Summertime!

Almost everyone looks forward to summer, especially children. This is the time of year when we are supposed to relax, take vacations, gather with family and friends, and enjoy the best of life. Many of us anticipate the joy of summer for months, making plans to make it the best. Well, summer is here, but it is not quite like the summers that we have known in recent years. We are still in the midst of a pandemic, and life is not as usual for us, and there is still a need for us to take great precautions in the way we live our lives, the choices we make, and the ways we gather together.

In this photo collage you will find some kids having a wonderful time at our Vacation Bible School from last year. I'm not sure what VBS may look like this year, but Mama D is working on a new model program that will be different from what we have done before and it will be safe for all.

Summer is here, and it is not like the past summers. If you are a parent of young children, this social distancing time will be a great challenge. Kids still need to play. And adults still need to relax and change their routines in the summer. We all need to find a creative, healthy, and safe way to relax some this summer.

The natural rhythm of life means that we have to have times of refreshment and ease to be able to carry on for the long stretch.

This summer, I urge you to care for your body, mind and soul. Make some creative plans now to mark these weeks of summer as a change of your normal routine. Even if you cannot have the vacation that you really want to have this year, find a way to escape the heaviness that is filling our days and unwind a bit. Find some quiet time each morning or evening. Take a break from watching the news. Read a good book, or two, or three. Step outside and get some sunshine on your face. Find your grandmother's cookbook and create something wonderful to share with those that you can safely be around. Find all of your photo albums and family history records and take a few days to journey back into the past, while safely staying at home. Take lots of deep breaths, pray and ask God to help you find some inner peace and rest, even if you can't stick your toes in the sand and ocean. Summer is here. Find some new and creative ways to rest and recreate and laugh a bit! Your body, mind and soul need it.

May God bless you all.

Father Tim



Building a Spirit-empowered community that serves and celebrates Christ.

"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
Jack Collins
Peggy Collins
Johnny Crouch
Bill Harper
Lloyd Hudson
Bob Miller
Lucius Morton
Tracy Mourer
Bill Perdue
Jean Romeo
Jackson Schroeder
George Trussell, Sr.
George Trussell, Jr.
George Wade
Trudy Wade
Judy Wilkinson

Friends

Brandon Arrington
Ava Boisvert
Margaret Brown
Bob Bugh
Jim Buntin
Julie Burrus
Gardiner Church
Billy Cornelius
Sherri Culp
Darlene Hughes
Devon Levy
Cammy Marchetti
Connie Murphy
Michael Owen
Paul Rickard
Bill Scott
Morgan Wynne

If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital, has had a child, or is facing some crisis, please let the Parish Office know so our Parish family can respond.



Kyle Stillings

Dear People of God,

The beginning of chapter 3 of the book of Acts sees Peter and John walking to the temple for afternoon prayer. They encounter a beggar who asks for alms, and Peter tells him, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give to you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk" (3.6). The beggar is healed, and then, "he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God" (3.8).

Commentaries and sermons tend to focus on the parallels between Jesus and Peter, or on the healing power of the name of Jesus. But reading this text this afternoon what stands out to me is two things. First, *what I have I give to you*, offered without hesitation Peter gives something of much greater value than the coin the beggar hoped to receive. When we give of ourselves to others the value of the gift is often much greater than something that can be measured in dollars. One of the things I have been doing to avoid going stir-crazy has been riding my bicycle with my oldest daughter, Sophia. Getting my bike tuned up after not riding for a decade proved to cost more money than I expected it to (yes, I know inflation is real and that I sound like my grandfather remembering when a loaf of bread only cost a nickel). The joy I receive at spending time with my daughter, and at watching her expand her ability to explore her world, is a treasure that I will hold in my heart forever. So I encourage you to keep your eyes and your heart open for ways large or small that you can continue to give of yourselves to one another so that we may continue to grow in love and fellowship even as we are not all together again on Sunday mornings.

Second, *he entered the temple with them*, instead of just going on his way. When we give of ourselves it builds bonds, and invites those with whom we share to join with us in life and love and play and prayer. The beggar didn't follow meekly behind, but was right beside them giving praise to God in community with those gathered for prayer to also give praise to God. Not only were the beggar's legs healed, but his relationship with his community was transformed as well. This is the power of God working through us to restore the brokenness of the world.

Thanks be to God that we have been blessed with gifts to share with others, and given a spirit of compassion and generosity to do so.

Your Servant in Christ,

Kyle+

Handwritten signature of Kyle Stillings.

Lauren Blanchard

It's Summer Time! Now what...?

School's out!! Y'all made it! I'm so proud of all our students for persevering and overcoming the obstacles these past few months have brought on.

So, it's summer... now what? I know it might be difficult to enjoy this time in quarantine, but things are slowly getting back to normal. I hope you've taken time to relax and reset. This time we've been given is really a gift. It has allowed for self reflection and an opportunity to look inward. If you're a social butterfly and always on the go, maybe it has challenged you take a step back and enjoy the little things in life. If you're more of an introvert perhaps you can see things in a new light and appreciate the blessings in social gatherings. Whatever the case may be I hope this time has served you well! I hope your prayer life has grown. I hope your relationship with Jesus has been strengthened and renewed! I have prayed for you constantly and hope that you have taken time to focus on your spiritual life.



Although we don't have a set date for when we can be together again I am looking forward to that time. Until then I am excited about planning for the future! A few things on the horizon include a Welcome Back BBQ (when the time's right!), a high school girls bible study, a local summer mission trip and more! This is the calm before the storm and I'm SO excited to hit the ground running when it's safe to do so. You're all in my thoughts and prayers and until we meet again be sure to check our social media pages for updates and messages. Much love to you all!!



MUSIC

Special YouTube Project for Trinity Church:

In May, we completed a project that can be found on Trinity's YouTube page. It is titled REFLECTIVE HYMNS AND PHOTOS, and it features tracks from the Trinity Choir's most recent CD, Great Hymns of the Faith, coupled with photos of the altars and stained glass windows around the church.

Give it a look and listen and enjoy the heartfelt music and the beauty of our church home.

Safe recording environment for pre-recording music for Sundays:

We are following the recommended safety guidelines for recording singers when we are making our current weekly musical offerings for Sunday worship. These best practices keep the singer and the organists at safe distances from each other and crucial air circulation points in the Nave.

We are grateful to Erica Humbert and Mary Lee Turner for rotating as soloists during this time.

Trinity Choir:

We are in email contact with all of the members of the choir. They all are anxious to be able to make music again together.

Two Choral Scholars graduated from Columbus State University in May. Adeline DeBella finished her undergraduate degree in Flute Performance, and Corinne Veale finished her graduate degree in Flute Performance. They both were faithful choristers who contributed greatly to the work of the choir, and we wish them well as they begin their professional careers.

Until the choir can safely meet and work to prepare and share music in worship of Almighty God, our collective prayer is that all of Trinity's people can remain well and safe.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Joseph Golden and Aesook Moon

Dear Parents,

I've spent a good deal of time considering what to say at this moment. The juxtaposition between celebrating Pentecost with our precious children on FB Live, silly moments on ZOOM with the kids, and hearing their thoughtful prayer requests when we're together digitally, against what is happening in our world, is hard to bring together. How do we make sense of it all? How do we help our children feel safe? How do our attempts at digital church offset the upset we are witnessing?

Thankfully, I woke up this morning thinking about LOVE. I gave myself some time to consider where we are as a people, as a church, as parents; and suddenly I began to see the faces of our Trinity family. I remembered moments I've witnessed at our beloved church. I saw your faces, your smiles - I saw you hugging and laughing and learning together. I could almost hear the giggles of the Trinity Kids running down the halls, playing one of their favorite games. In my mind's eye, I saw the love of Jesus played out, time and again, among our church family.



Though we are distanced in ways we never thought possible, I saw your faces NOW, with the same loving smiles, holding one another up, and reminding each other how very loved we are. I heard the kids sharing their best jokes on ZOOM, saw the kids showing off their craziest funny faces, heard them laughing, and listened to their dear and earnest prayers for people they love and people they don't even know. I saw the moments that you mothers and fathers are rushing to do what needs to be done, while also helping to set up your child to visit with church friends over the computer. I heard your gentle voices as you helped your children get started. I SAW YOUR LOVE.

While I wish I had the secret to making sense of all that is happening in our world right now, along with a check-off list of how to explain it to your children, I certainly don't. I do, however, know that we can do this. We are raising beautiful, smart, caring, funny, curious children who care deeply about their families and friends and world. THEY KNOW THEY ARE LOVED. They know they are loved by their amazing parents, and they know they are loved by the Trinity family - so let's keep building on that!

- Hug your children more than ever.
- Listen to your children's questions, concerns, and stories.
- Remind them that the church is STILL OPEN - that our beautiful building is part of our church, but the people ARE the church.
- Help your kids feel connected to the church by helping them take part in our Tuesday/Thursday ZOOM calls and the Sunday Children's Chapel on FB Live.
- Talk to them about different folks in our wonderful church, tell stories about church folk, pray for our members, and consider sending some love to a church family member by phone or letter.
- Remind your children about how much they mean to our church family. (You don't have to remind them that Mama D prays for them every day - I've drilled that into them!)



There is so much hurt and suffering all around us right now. There is so much unrest. There is so much unknown. Let's come together to counter that for our kids - let's counter it with LOVE. Let's cover them with prayer, hugs, laughter, stories, and belonging that God has given us. Let's let our antidote to the scary and the hurt be love and allow our children to witness us living out our baptismal covenant each day and helping each other do it on the days our brothers and sisters are too tired.

We can't come to church right now, but we are still the church - and it's most important that our biggest treasures know that. I am here for you and for your kids. Please let me know of anything I can do to help you get through this time, and look forward to announcements coming soon about exciting plans for the summer. We may not be able to do what we "normally" do, but we aren't closed! I'm eager to keep on spreading God's love all summer with my favorite kids!

LOVE,
Mama D

(Info for our meet-ups are sent out each week by email, posted on FB on the church page and our children's ministry group. Let me know if you are not getting the announcements or if you would like to be notified by text with links and times. My number is 678-231-6369. We ZOOM on Tuesday at 2:00, ZOOM Thursday at 4:00, and we have Children's Chapel Sundays at 11:30 on FB Live.)

