



# 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

April 2020

## From the Rector

*The Rev. Timothy H. Graham*

Dear Parishioners,

The times we are living in are different, so this month our monthly church newsletter will take the form of a pastoral letter rather than our regular format. Most of us cannot remember a time when we were unable to gather for public worship. We have suspended our public worship to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and for the health and safety of our parishioners, guests and citizens of our community. Giving up what we love for the sake of others is the right thing to do, and it is difficult. The church is not closed, but we are adapting. Your Trinity Church staff is continuing to work even though the offices are closed to the public. We are here for you if you need us, and clergy are available as usual for pastoral emergencies. The clergy and staff are providing worship online each Sunday and other weekday occasions. Your vestry is working on ways to help us stay connected to each other. We ask you to do your part and reach out to others in our parish by phone, letter or email and stay connected.



How long will all of this go on? When will we be back to normal and able to worship together in person? We don't really know the answer to that. Our bishop has given us the directive that churches in our diocese will be worshipping online until May 25. This seems far away, and it is only a guess at this point. The obvious and difficult part of this is that we will not be able to have our regular Holy Week and Easter Services as we normally do. Easter Sunday worship will be online and we hope you will join us in worship from the comfort and safety of your home. You will receive an at home Easter bulletin in the mail soon and we hope it will be uplifting and comforting. We hope you will begin thinking about how you may make your home a special place on Easter Day, a place of celebration and blessing.



Here are some other things that we are doing to adapt in these days:

- We are still having worship each Sunday at 10:30am and these services are broadcast live via Facebook. The recordings stay on our Facebook pages, they are sent out in my weekly email on Mondays, and they are also on our church website. If you need help finding these recordings, please call the church office and we will coach you over the phone. You can find our website at [trinityepiscopalchurch.com](http://trinityepiscopalchurch.com) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/trinityepiscopalcolumbus/](https://facebook.com/trinityepiscopalcolumbus/)
- Kyle and I are also leading occasional morning and noonday prayers and placing those recordings on our Facebook page. I made two short videos about "prayer" and "trusting God in this crisis time" that have been viewed by thousands of people. Even though we are limited in what we can do, we are trying to provide you with as many options as possible, so that we can all maintain spiritual connection during this time.

- I am still here for you if you need me. Kyle and I both are just a phone call away if you want to chat on the phone or if you have a pastoral emergency.
- Lauren has been meeting online with the youth group. Deana (Mama D) has been meeting online regularly with our children, reading books to them, talking to them, and doing art projects with the children. We are staying connected to our younger members as much as possible.
- For the immediate future we will continue to have some “drive through prayer times” unless we determine that this should be discontinued. So far a good number of you have taken advantage of this personal prayer time with the clergy while keeping a safe distance in your automobiles.



- We used ZOOM online technology to gather us together for an online Happy Hour this past week. It was fun to connect with our members for conversation online. We will find other opportunities to connect online using ZOOM.
- As I mentioned earlier, the church office is closed but staff members are working to keep our facilities maintained and ministry provided in new and different ways. We are keeping our employees on the payroll and our expenses have not changed. We hope that you will continue to support this church with your offerings, prayers and presence online as you are able.

Please remember that the church is **you....all of us....**not the building. While we are unable to get together as usual, we are still the church and God is still using us as we are dispersed. Please continue to hold one another in prayer, and reach out to other members of this church and call them on the phone and write notes. And please continue to pray for the safety and welfare of those who are sick. Pray for those who are working to care for the sick. Pray for those who are providing food, protection and necessary things for us in these times.

I look forward to seeing you all face to face when it is safe for us to be together. Please know that I love you and hold you all in my heart and in my prayers.

*A Blessing*

May God keep you in all your days.  
 May Christ shield you in all your ways.  
 May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.  
 May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you and pour upon you blessing and light.

Father Tim

*Timothy H. Graham +*

