



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

November 2020

From the Rector

The Rev. Timothy H. Graham

Dear friends,

We are wearing masks much of the time these days, and that is a very good thing to do to slow the spread of the virus. But if you are like me you struggle sometimes to recognize people with their masks on. I really miss seeing faces, and I know you do too. It has been several long months since I have seen some of the beautiful faces of our Trinity members. I made these two collages of faces to help me remember and feel better, and I hope they bring a smile to your face.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we still have so much to be thankful for. I am going to think about all of you, and your smiling faces, and be thankful for each one of you.

Remember to wear your mask, and remember to keep smiling, even if you think others can't see it. We will not be in this masked phase forever, and I look forward to the day when I can see smiling faces everywhere and share some hugs too. God is good. I'm thankful for many blessings from God this year, and you're all on my list of blessings!

May God bless and keep us 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

Jean Berry
Jenny Lind Berry
Nancy Bloebaum
Jack Collins
Peggy Collins
Joyce Curry
Michael Dudley
Bill Harper
Comer Hobbs
Karyn Marra
Bob Miller
Lucius Morton
Tracy Mourer
Bill Perdue
Jacquie Rawls
Jean Romeo
Hadley Scott
Fleur Stearns
George Trussell, Jr.
Bob Upchurch
George Wade
Trudy Wade
Judy Wilkinson

Friends

Julie Alexander
Brandon Arrington
Margaret Brown
Jim Buntin
Julie Burrus
Billy Cornelius
Sherri Culp
Lee Holloway
Darlene Hughes
Donna Lankford
Devon Levy
Cammy Marchetti
Philip McKagen
Connie Murphy
Michael Owen
Paul Rickard
Robert Rivers
Lynda Rose
Clifford Swift

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 Trinity Family,

When I record compline each week the service comes to a close with The Song of Simeon, also known as the Nunc dimittis from the first words of the Latin translation. It has been said as part of night prayers since the early days of the Church, and famously set to music by many different composers throughout the centuries. The words fit into a calm and peaceful liturgy at the end of the day:

Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as your have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

As it appears in Luke's gospel narrative it is anything but calm or quiet. Simeon was a righteous man who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. Joseph and Mary are bringing Jesus with them to make a sacrifice at the temple, and it is there that the holy family encounters Simeon.



He scoops up baby Jesus into his arms (no helicopter parents in those days) and praises God by saying he is now ready to die in peace because he has witnessed God's plan for salvation made real in Jesus. Simeon blesses the startled Mary and Joseph, and has a less peaceful message for Mary warning that the opposition Jesus will face will be like a sword piercing her own heart. We can see then why the song ends where it does when used to settle our minds for sleep. This isn't just something happening to one family while everybody else goes about their regular business either. At this same time an old prophethess named Anna begins to praise God and speak to all gathered about Jesus. So there is noise, and commotion, and we can safely assume probably very many confused people wondering what in the world is happening.

Yet, in the midst of that storm of activity, there is Jesus. Jesus who disrupts the regular order of the world, but also the same Jesus who will calm a literal storm when on the water with his disciples. Jesus who causes the faithful to rejoice and praise God at his appearing, even when we are warned that sticking with Jesus can mean heartbreak and suffering. God never promises that life will be easy and everything good will just fall into our hands, but through all the changes and chances of this life God will send His Son to be in the midst of us. God will show up in unexpected places to change the way we see the world forever. God will fill the hearts of the faithful with a song of hope that they cannot contain, so that voices cry out the good news of God in Christ.

Whether your song is the quiet words of compline in the courtyard, or the raucous cries of a prophet in the temple, the world longs for a voice to call its attention to Jesus. To find hope prepared by God for the life of the world.

May the blessings of God be with you now and always,

Kyle+

Lauren Blanchard

Grateful



Trinity Youth is back in the swing of things! I am so thankful for flexible families as we have adjusted to our new schedule. Patience is a virtue and I appreciate everyone allowing us the time we need to adapt!

Our High School Girls Bible Study is going well! We meet from 5-5:45pm on Sundays. If you're a girl in 9th-12th grade please join us! We have been focusing on our prayer lives, how we want them to improve and what steps we need to take to help us achieve our goal. We are holding each other accountable and remember each other as we venture this journey. One of the materials we're using is a coloring book focused on gratitude and wonder. It's called *Choose Joy*. Here are two quotes and part of a Bible verse that we have centered around.



“Every time we decide to be grateful it will be easier to see new things to be grateful for.”

-Henri Nouwen

“Count your blessings, name them one by one.” – Johnson Oatman Jr.

Let us be grateful – Hebrews 12:28

If you haven't joined us yet, we can't wait to see you!

Youth meets outdoors on Sundays from 6-6:30pm and is for everyone in 6th

-12th grades. Masks are required. We have been staying busy sorting donations and filling up the Health Hut and planning for future events such as Halloween Sunday and Trinity House. We want to thank everyone for their generous contributions to the Health Hut. Your donations are invaluable to our community. Thank you for helping us make a difference!



I hope you enjoy these few pictures from our recent times together. I am so grateful for our youth at Trinity. Despite our challenges with COVID we still are able to come together in love and community.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1– Patti Simkins, Benson Smith
- 2– Jacquie Rawls, Sophia Stillings, Carol Vowell
- 4– Ceil Bone, Will Peek, Jean Romeo, Kelley Watts
- 5– Walter Clark, Libby Wells
- 6– Tracey Mourer
- 7– Carter Watts
- 8– Jack Collins
- 9– Meghan Twigg, Traeger Young
- 10– Jennifer Gurrola, Maggie Yancey
- 11– Laura Kate Rambo
- 13– Emily Doll, Rush McMurphy, Randy Rowe, John Shinkle
- 14– Ken Henson Jr., Lily Twigg
- 15– Katie Anne Solomons, Elizabeth Woods
- 16– John Lasseter, Charlotte Laverty, Karen Oelgoetz, Theo Pound
- 17– Pat Passailaigue
- 18– Chloey Price
- 19– Effie Bowers
- 20– Susan Boes, Laura Tidwell-Book
- 21– Joseph Sillitto
- 22– Lillie Caves, Sally Rowe
- 23– Coate Manderson, Laura Porter
- 25– Ashley Holt
- 26– Ford Garrard, Richard Waddell Jr., Mary Maurice Young
- 27– Abigail McCambridge, Melanie Smith
- 28– Connie Armstrong
- 29– Claire Berry, Colin Matthews
- 30– Kenneth Followill, Henry Mullin Jr., Mary Stewart Mullin

Anniversaries

- 4– Susan & Andrew Prather
- 18– Whitney & Mulford Waldrop
- 22– Suzanne & Lucius Morton
- 26– Patricia & Jack Passailaigue
- 27– Helen & Comer Hobbs

My friends,

We had another great time playing ZOOM Bingo, and we will play again this month! Let me know if your child(ren) would like to play, and I'll get you the "supplies" (Bingo cards and Skittles)! It's a blast and a fun time for us to see each other's faces without masks! We will play Wednesday night, November 18th, at 6. Put it on the calendar, and let me know!

As we move into Thanksgiving season, it may be a bit harder for kids to feel grateful this year. They are tired, and their routines have been messed up. Asking that they go a step further than just making it through the day with their mask on and a halfway decent attitude could be hard. Gratitude, though, actually makes us feel better! It may be hard to jump into noticing our gratefulness; but when we do, we are happier folks. Let's do what we can to help our children move into November with a grateful heart. I'm including an article with ideas that I thought was helpful. I'll be emphasizing some of these same things in our on-line get togethers, but I'd love it if you tried a few at home! Let me know how it goes!

I hope these words, by Alaina Sullivan, are helpful!

8 Tips for Teaching Kids to Be Thankful

1. Play the Gratitude Game- Lennay Chapman, author of "Secrets to a Rockin Life" has created a game called "The Gratitude Game." The game needs ideally three or more players and one person to serve as a timekeeper. Have everyone sit in a circle with one person starting off saying, "I am grateful for [fill in the blank]." That person has five seconds to come up with something for which they are thankful, whether it be their favorite stuffed animal, food or activity. As soon as the first person finishes, the person to the left goes. "The key is to say what you are grateful for without repeating, and without pausing for more than five seconds," says Chapman.

2. Get Creative With a Thankfulness Jar- Robert Nickell, founder and author of DaddyScrubs.com, suggests putting a little creativity in incorporating thankfulness into the holiday. He recommends creating a "Thankfulness Jar" for the household. Have the children decorate a jar or basket, placing a notepad and pen next to it. Leave the jar out the week before Thanksgiving and have family members and caregivers write down things for which they are thankful. They can be big things, or small little gestures. This gives people time to think about it and write heartfelt answers. During the Thanksgiving meal, have the children pull them out and read them during dinner.

3. Be Thankful for Others' Hard Work- Teaching your children to be thankful for the hard work everyone put into making the family's Thanksgiving dinner possible is also important, says Polly Campbell, author of "Imperfect Spirituality." "In our household, we all have aspects of the meal to prepare. Everyone has a signature item and we always pause to notice that person and to appreciate their contribution," shares Campbell.

4. Create Thankful Turkeys- Another creative idea Nickell shares are "Thankful Turkeys." "Draw the old-fashioned hand turkey or be more elaborate, but have children write something they are thankful for on each of the turkey's feathers," he suggests. The family can use these turkeys as place cards or decorations on Thanksgiving Day.

5. Be Thankful Every Day of the Month- Have the children start early in recognizing the blessings in their life. Nickell suggests putting up a dry erase board somewhere prominently in the home. Starting on November 1st, have someone in the family write something down each day for which they are thankful. Make sure that each day is different, so there are no repeats.

6. Reflect Through Writing- Have each child write thank you notes to every family member who comes to share the meal with your family. In those thank you notes, have the children specifically focus on what it is about that family member that makes them so special.

7. Incorporate Teamwork- Encourage children to collaborate and put together a Thanksgiving show or write a Thanksgiving poem about thankfulness. Have them perform the show or read the poem during dessert.

8. Think About Each Member of the Family- Campbell also suggests utilizing creativity in showing gratitude for each person at the table. Her daughter decorates place cards for each person, and "When she does her artwork, it's an opportunity then to think about the members of our family and to talk about each one and the funny and special things they do. It's a time of appreciation.

Mark your calendar!!!!

Sunday, Nov. 8 - Facetime with Mama D at 2 p.m. to get our Thankfulness Thinking going!

Wednesday, Nov. 18 - Bingo at 6 p.m. - Let Mama D know if you'd like to play!

Sunday, Nov. 22 - Zoom games and fun with Mama D at 2 p.m. (We need at least 6 folks to participate!)

I love you and pray for each of you EVERY day!

Mama D

