

The Piper

July 2020



Constitution of the Episcopal Church (Philadelphia, 1785) "Resolved That: the fourth of July shall be observed by this Church for ever as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the inestimable blessings of religious and civil liberty vouchsafed to the United States of America"

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Rev. Rob's Corner

Fellow Parishioners:

If you are anything like me it seems as though the days are seeming to flow one into each other because of our restricted movement. I hope you are all keeping well and adjusting to this time of trial. I remind you to join us at our weekly Morning Prayer service at 10:00 AM on Sundays via Zoom. I will not go into too much detail about where we are with re-opening in this portion of the Piper because I included a Status update under an email I sent out to the congregation which is included here as well for those of you without regular access to electronic mail.

Our community both at St. Andrew's and the community at large seems to be coping. We have been helped through this rough time a bit by the government and the national church. The government allowed for loans to cover two month's salary expenses which should be forgiven and changed into grants after several months and the Church Pension group has picked up the cost of two months pension payments for yours truly. Thanks and blessings be upon them. We have had what would have been normal attendance for Morning Prayer via our electronic version and by that I mean those weeks in the before time, Pre-COVID 19, when we had Morning Prayer only our attendance was roughly 15 or so and that is about what we are drawing weekly to our on-line services. You who pledge have been faithful in your offerings. Thank you very much. Even with the help and support of our community, the government and the church we are still, like most of you all struggling. Our normal weekly plate offerings are now non-existent. Our fund raisers have stopped and while our physical plant overhead has diminished we still are running on fumes. I would like to ask those of you, friends of St. Andrew's, who aren't necessarily participants in services or pledgers if you could remember us in your prayers and with your financial support over the coming weeks and months as it seems as though this trial will not pass away as soon as we'd all like. If you get this newsletter you are connected, and you wish to stay connected. Please help us endure through these times so that we might continue to shine a light throughout the community. Thanks.

Join us if you can in our on-line offerings – Check out our Facebook page – our website. Check under my name in YouTube for recordings of the weekly sermons and click deep, I am there. Once you've found me hit subscribe and the path to viewing the sermons will be easier. Remember us in your prayers. Wear your masks and social distance when outdoors or with others. Pray ceaselessly and love with abandon. Remember, as the song says, it is God who loves you. In God we find strength and have our being. God has given us people who study and learn about this pandemic we are going through. Let us listen to their wisdom. We will meet again, don't know how, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day.


I love you, God loves you and there's not a damn thing you can do about it.

Blessings

Rob+

Rob Neville - Priest in charge, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Ben Lomond

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	101 Reasons to be Episcopalian
	Reason 90
Episcopalians don't tend to be demonstrative, no one expects you to shout Amen or hallelujah! On the other hand, it's OK if you do.	
Donna H. Barthle Diocese of Central Pennsylvania	

Thoughts about the events of the day . . .

from Steve LaFever

The world is experiencing a paradigm shift! Our beliefs are being challenged, peoples prejudices are being exposed, those on the fringe of society and those who have remained silent are responding with a thunderous voice. We are hearing feelings surfacing that have been buried for generations. The pressure cooker safety valve has blown, and our world is in chaos and heading toward anarchy.

Two advocates of non-violence were Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Ghandi. Ghandi said if the world practices an eye for an eye we will all end up blind.

Martin Luther King said to let freedom ring. Not only from the mountain tops of the deep south, but everywhere. LET FREEDOM RING EVERYWHERE for all people, for everyone.

"And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Emma Lazarus' poem is on the Statue of Liberty. She also said "None of us are free until all of us are free." Lady Liberty looks down on all of us today. And when all the media is gone, all the fires extinguished and the work begins to create a new inclusive nation, she will still stand vigilantly in New York harbor watching us, shining her light of freedom down on us and symbolizing the hope that is possible, that is needed in this time of national crisis.

The message was clear then, it is clear now, and it was clear 2000 years ago. Jesus commanded us to love each other and to love God. He preached non-violent activism. As Episcopalians we are all part of the Jesus movement. Let me say that again . . . **THE JESUS MOVEMENT!** That means, for the sake of repetition, to love one another and to love God. Are we falling short of those instructions? We need to find a way to pull the knives out of each other's wounds and apply the healing salve of His love, compassion and justice. Change can only be achieved when people focus on a goal and work

together to achieve it. We need to be looking together in the same direction to build a community of respect, care and concern for each other. Change can only occur when all us stop being complacent with the status-quo and use our intelligence to remedy the injustices inherent in a system we have allowed to grow.

This country was founded by traitors. At least that is what the English branded the Patriots. We branded those who supported England as traitors. Traitor vs. Traitor. “Patriotism is merely a religion – love of country, worship of country, devotion to the country’s flag and honor and welfare.” So says Mark Twain. Who are the traitors of today? Who are the Patriots? Who are the Christians? Where is the Jesus Movement?

I taught a graduate degree class on Facilities Design. We spent two weeks about the American with Disabilities Act. The history of ADA was that the government believed the public would do the right thing when it came to the disabled. They didn’t. Therefore a law was enacted to protect those with disabilities. It was hoped that the public would do the right thing when it came to civil rights. They didn’t, so the Civil Rights Act was created to protect minorities. It was thought that people would see the inhumanity in slavery. They didn’t, so Lincoln crafted the Emancipation Proclamation. At each turn in history, the public has turned its back on the poor, oppressed, minorities and the disenfranchised. Laws were required to protect their freedom. Philosophers call that a social contract. I call it common sense. If humanity is by nature selfish, greedy, and leaning toward self-interest, then we need laws to protect those who are being devalued.

There are protests, rioting, killing, agitation, looting, threats of the army taking over, statues being removed, politicians entrenching themselves to the right and to the left, places names being changed. But people are missing the point. That’s not what it’s all about. Wake up America! Bob Dylan wrote . . . the times they are a changing. I said at the beginning there is a paradigm shift going on – a real shift in the way we think and feel about things. People are having to look at what’s going on, what’s been allowed to go on, and stay STOP! This can’t continue. The world is ripping itself apart with this “us and them” mentality. And people are trying to get our attention. It’s time to STOP, listen, and realize that a new morality, a new norm, a new way of dealing with each other is not only

needed, but imperative if we are to come together as a great country. I have taken the liberty to use a song we all know, and changed the words a bit.

**"Mine eyes have seen the launching of a hundred bombs of fire.
They are showing their contempt for the wrong that has been
done.**

**They have loosed their fateful lightning with the woe and death
of old.**

His truth is lost again.

**I have seen the angry faces in a world plagued by hate. They
have built by fear an altar which has symbolized their fate.**

**I have read their loudest message which cries those tears of
grief. Their night is marching on.**

**In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born so far away. His time
has come to heal us all and to give us strength today. Let the
fighting stop and peace prevail and work for justice now. God
truth will give us power.**

**As Christ died to make us holy, let us live to spread His love. His
justice works and needs our vote before his judgment seat. Be
swift to answer Him by deeds of needful change. His truth will
march again.**

**Glory Hallelujah! Glory Glory Hallelujah. Glory Glory Hallelu-
jah, God's truth is with us now. "**

The most urgent question about today is what are you doing to make this a better place? "We may have come on different ships, but were in the same boat now. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." MLKjr.

Heal the wound of your people. O Lord! Let us work for change, justice, and peace. It is through peaceful change we will also achieve true reconciliation.

The English call the song, "God Save the Queen." We made it meaningful to our country. My county tis of thee, sweet land of liberty . . .let freedom ring. Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light. Let freedom ring!

This evening, the President of the United States stood in front of St. John's Episcopal Church, lifted up a bible, and had pictures of himself taken. In so doing, he used a church building and the Holy Bible for partisan political purposes. This was done in a time of deep hurt and pain in our country, and his action did nothing to help us or to heal us. The bible teaches us that "God is love." Jesus of Nazareth taught, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The prophet Micah taught that the Lord requires us to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."

The bible the President held up and the church that he stood in front of represent the values of love, of justice, of compassion, and of a way to heal our hurts.

We need our President, and all who hold office, to be moral leaders who help us to be a people and nation living these values. For the sake of George Floyd, for all who have wrongly suffered, and for the sake of us all, we need leaders to help us to be "one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all."

Michael Curry – Presiding Bishop



“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue to face difficult times, please keep faith and pray that we will prevail and keep our little church alive. With God’s help, we can figure out how to worship together when it is safe.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Mark 10:27

Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.’

Be safe and healthy.

Prayerfully,

Rochelle

Episcopalians believe that God loves all –
no exceptions.

Hi Everyone:

I wanted to give you all an update on where we stand vis a vis the Pandemic and our Re-entry. As you might remember we are approaching our response in phases. Phase one was meeting on-line only with only 3 people at a time on church property to prepare and produce a service. This didn't effect us because we are Zooming not from the church. Phase two was the planning phase. We are in that phase now. Each congregation was to come up with a plan on how to achieve phase three which was providing in-person Morning Prayer services. Well we, thanks to the hard work of the Re-Entry committee have come up with a plan and that plan has been approved by the Vestry and with some minor tweaks which we included the Bishop. So we have a plan. This does not bring us to Phase three by itself. It still needs to be safe to gather in-person and the trend for regional infections need to be going down for some period of time. This is not the case. Part of our plan is that we would continue with on-line services even when we also held in-person Morning Prayer. Our plan too includes an okay from the diocese to implement the plan. I am sure when they feel it is safe they will give the okay and then the Vestry and I will determine our comfort level to decide if we are ready to add the in-person service.

Remember though as we endure the continued slow re-entry that when we gather it will be in a safe socially distance way. There will be limitations – including but not solely restricted to no singing. We will be wearing masks, etc.. The final version of the plan will be sent out to you all when we are ready to roll it out. Since no one is approved to start gathering in person we will hold off on distributing our implementation details until closer to the date.

Bless and keep you all;

Rob+

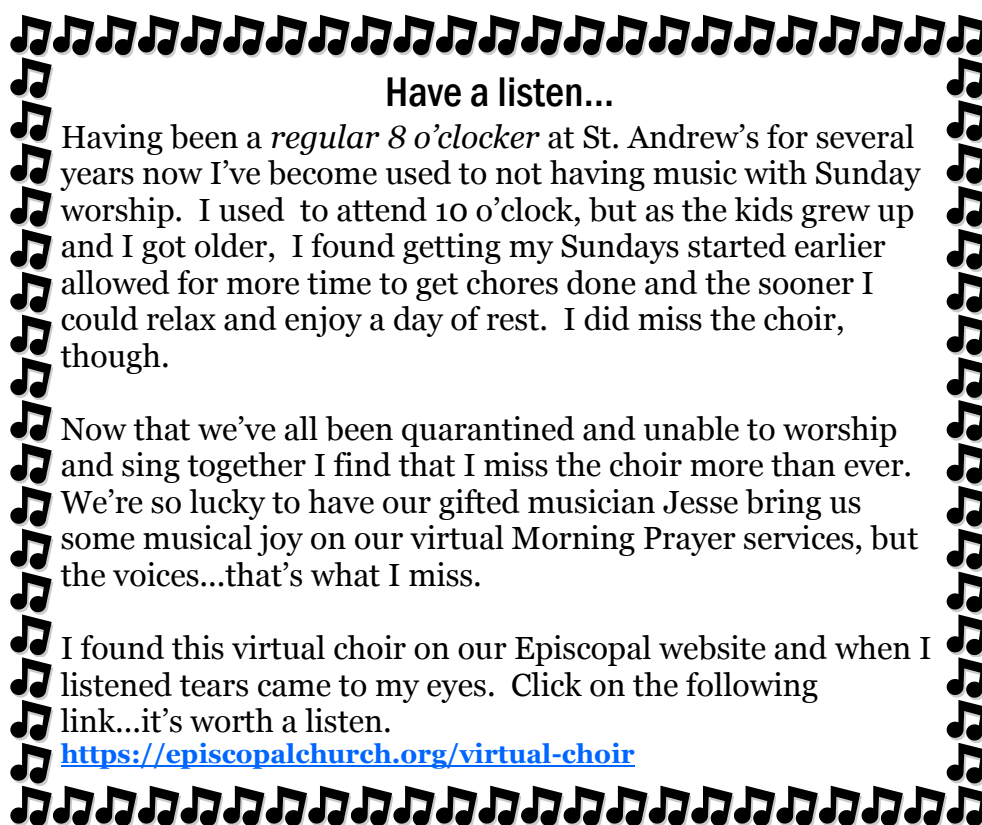
Spiritual Communion: Excerpted from Wikipedia:

The practice of Spiritual Communion has been especially used by Christians in times of [persecution](#), such as during the era of [state atheism in the Eastern Bloc](#), as well as in times of plagues, such as during the current [COVID-19 pandemic](#), when many Christians are unable to attend church, and therefore not able to receive the Eucharist on the Lord's Day.

**A Spiritual Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we desire earnestly to experience your love as guests at the heavenly feast you have prepared for your children on earth in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar. As we are not able on this day to be gathered at your Table, may we receive you into our hearts by faith, trusting the word of your promise, that "those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope; and after this life grant us a place at your heavenly table, where we shall eat of the eternal manna, and drink of the river of your pleasure forevermore. Hear us for your own Name's sake. Amen.

“Those who want to reap the benefits of this great nation must bear the fatigue of supporting it.” [Thomas Paine](#)



Have a listen...

Having been a *regular 8 o'clocker* at St. Andrew's for several years now I've become used to not having music with Sunday worship. I used to attend 10 o'clock, but as the kids grew up and I got older, I found getting my Sundays started earlier allowed for more time to get chores done and the sooner I could relax and enjoy a day of rest. I did miss the choir, though.

Now that we've all been quarantined and unable to worship and sing together I find that I miss the choir more than ever. We're so lucky to have our gifted musician Jesse bring us some musical joy on our virtual Morning Prayer services, but the voices...that's what I miss.

I found this virtual choir on our Episcopal website and when I listened tears came to my eyes. Click on the following link...it's worth a listen.

<https://episcopalchurch.org/virtual-choir>

Song Lyrics for Quarantine

"Don't stand so close to me" - The Police

"You can't touch this" - MC Hammer

"Dancin' with myself" - Billy Idol

"It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine" - R.E.M.

"My loneliness is killing me" - Britney Spears

"Bored in the house and I'm in the house bored" - Curtis Roach

Vice President Byron Rushing of the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church, offers two Collects for use for Independence Day to better reflect who we are as a church and our intention to include everyone in our prayers for this special day in our history. Both are from the Book of Common Prayer.

17. For the Nation (Traditional) page 207

Lord God Almighty, who hast made all peoples of the earth for thy glory, to serve thee in freedom and peace: Grant to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with thy gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

17. For the Nation (Contemporary) page 258

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Angel in the Kitchen
Feel'n good when cook'n
Sharing the love of God through your love
of cooking



Roast Chicken with Backyard Lemon and Herbs

Serves: 6 to 8

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 1 hour 15 mins, plus 15 mins resting time

Ingredients:

- 2 tsp ground coriander seeds
- 2 tsp ground fennel seeds
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin seeds
- 2 whole chickens (about 1.6kg each; necks reserved), air dried
- 2 onions, sliced
- 3 carrots, peeled, quartered
- 2 lemons, halved
- 10 garlic cloves (with peels on)
- 1/2 bunch fresh oregano sprigs
- 1/2 bunch fresh sage sprigs
- 1/2 bunch fresh rosemary sprigs
- 1/2 bunch fresh thyme sprigs
- 4 tsp extra virgin olive oil, divided

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F (400°F convection). In small jar, mix coriander seeds, fennel seeds, paprika, and cumin. Season chicken cavities with some spice mixture and salt. Stuff cavities with some onion, carrots, lemon halves, garlic cloves and herbs. Tie chicken legs together with kitchen twine.
2. In center of heavy rimmed baking tray or roasting pan, place remaining onions, carrots, lemon, garlic, herbs, and reserved chicken necks. Generously season chickens all over with some spice mixture, salt and pepper. Drizzle about 4 tsp oil all over chickens and place chickens atop veggies in baking tray.
3. Roast chickens 1 hour and 15 mins, or until skin is crisp and juices run clear when chicken is pierced (thickest part of chicken thigh should register 165°C on digital thermometer).
4. Rest chicken for 15 mins before carving.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7 Ken Madonia

8 Sue Roe

13 Deidre Guindon

18 Miles Redmon

30 Peggy Dwyer

31 Doreen Anderson

31 Erin Newfield



Yikes....Did we miss your birthday???

If we missed your day, we are sorry. Please let us know the month and date of your special day. You can keep the year a secret.

Lettuce come together. Romaine calm.
This may just be the tip of the iceberg



The editorial staff welcomes your comments to any of the Piper content. We are always looking for articles of interest, spiritual journeys, poetry, recipes, jokes, pictures or other information to share with the congregation. Send your comments to: staoffice@sbcglobal.net



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Where God is worshiped and the people are fed