SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IGLESIA EPISCOPAL
SAN CRISTÓBAL

10233 W. Peoria Ave.
Sun City, AZ 85351
623.972.1100

StChristophers-AZ.org
Facebook.com/StChristopehrsAZ
Office@ StChristophers-AZ.org

Lantern MARCH 2020

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S?

Following Services Suspended Through

April 20, 2020

As a COVID-19 Precaution

Watch for announcement of resumption of services at a later time.

Wednesday 10:00AM Service

Friday Stations of the Cross

Sunday 9:00AM/11:15AM Services

Sunday School 11:15AM

Also:

- **Wednesday Choir Practice**
- **Bargains and Bookstore**
- **Men's Bible Workbench**
- **Women's Club Meeting**
- **Voter Registration**

Questions Call: 623-972-1100 and leave a message

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To my
St. Christopher's Family,

Well, I did not expect to be writing this note to you from home during these strange and unexpected times, but here we are. Given everything that is going on in the world right now, I am convinced that it is more important than
ever to remember that we are One Family, God's Family, and that even though we have to be physically distant for a while, we are not separated from the love and fellowship we share with another. That is why we will continue to share stories during this time of "social distancing" as a way to affirm our common life. God holds each of us close during these times of uncertainty, and remembering God's love and faithfulness to each of us through the years can help us make it through this newest trial.

I love you all and you are in my prayers each and every day.

Until we see each other again,

Perry

Una carta a toda mi familia a la Iglesia San Cristóbal:

Nunca creí que escribiría esta carta desde mi casa durante esos tiempos extraños, pero aquí estamos. Con todos los eventos en el mundo, estoy seguro que ahora es el mejor momento para recordar que somos una
familia, la familia de Dios, y aunque tengamos que estar separados por un corto tiempo, no estamos separados del amor y compañerismo que compartimos con uno y otro. Por esa razón, continuaremos compartiendo las historias de nuestras vidas de fe como un método de afirmar nuestra vida en común. Dios nos tiene a cada uno de nosotros en sus manos durante momentos inciertos, y el recuerdo de su amor y fidelidad en tiempos pasados puede
ayudarnos en el presente.

Los amo a todos y ustedes están en mis oraciones todos los días.

Hasta que nos veamos,

Perry

Three Things to Pray

- Jeremiah 33:3 is God's phone number.
- Zechariah 2:5 Pray this "wall of fire" around our cities, states and nation. And most importantly right now pray this around yourself and your loved ones. I pray this constantly around our son during every deployment.
- Psalm 91 Pray this also for yourself and everyone. It covers plagues and many other things. I also pray this daily for our son during deployments.

Carol Masters

Christopher Singers

Hello Singers, just to let you know we have cancelled all sings that were set for March and April.

Joanne says there will be **no** more scheduled until we reconvene in October.

Thank you all for your participation in this wonderful ministry
Diane

The High Tea being offered by the Women's Club is officially canceled and should be removed from the church calendar. Many thanks to all for dealing with these unplanned circumstances.

Bonnie

“God Winks”

A Plant
by: Killy Balabanis (1983)

There is a plant that sits on our dining room table. It isn’t pretty as plants go, but it has life and is fed by the sun and the soil in its pot. Charlyn takes care of it by watering it and occasionally giving it some fertilizer, but it grows slowly.

You can hardly tell when it is well or struggling, when it is drowning or thirsty, or if it is too hot or cold. Its leaves are tough and a reddish color, so you cannot tell when it is sick until the leaves start falling off. It survives through some sort of miracle.

The plant was given to me at the beginning of my awareness of Christ in my life. The plant had no part in my own transformation, but it has become a symbol of that new beginning. I see the result of God’s work in that plant just as I see the result of God’s work in my life. I also see Charlyn’s contribution (which by no means has been little) in the survival of both that plant and within my own life. God’s influence is unseen and mysterious like this—who among us does not believe that the Son keeps us alive? Without sunlight and without Charlyn’s care, that plant would have died long ago. BUT—God gives the sunlight and put Charlyn there, too.

How much my own life is like that plant. How dependent I am on God and Charlyn. Charlyn is the visible and loving and caring presence in my life, and yet I cannot deny God’s presence because I know that everything comes from God, including Charlyn, and for that I am thankful.

Why does God even bother with such an ugly plant? I suppose because His light shines everywhere and it is free; one only has to absorb that light. So why does Charlyn continue to feed it? Perhaps because she knows it has meaning for me and it stands as a symbol. It gives back so much less than she gives it. I am like that plant, yet I do respond to her love (and perhaps the plant does too) and care for her as well. She is my “heart’s one cry” and her role in my life reaches to the depths of my soul. Because we were made one in marriage and because God feeds me through his light and through Charlyn, I have survived. Does she know how important a role she plays in my life? Does she believe it? Does she feel God working in and through her? It is that way with me also?

Why do I always secretly take the credit? Why do people give it to me? I wonder what my reaction would be if someone would say, “God played beautifully through you today?” Would I be thankful or jealous? I know I am a little when they say, “Your cello sounded so good.” How difficult life is—to accept who I am and what I am not. God is and God does and one day I will know.

Una planta

por: Killy Balabanis (1983)

Hay una planta que se sienta en nuestra mesa de comedor. No es bonito como otras plantas, pero tiene vida y es alimentado por el sol y la tierra en su maceta. Charlyn se encarga de regarlo y de vez en cuando darle un poco de fertilizante, pero crece lentamente.

Difícilmente se puede saber cuándo está bien o está luchando, cuándo se está ahogando o tiene sed, o si hace demasiado calor o frío. Sus hojas son duras y de color rojizo, por lo que no te puede saber cuándo está enfermo hasta que las hojas comienzan a caerse. Sobrevive a través de algún tipo de milagro.

La planta me fue dada al comienzo de mi conciencia de Cristo en mi vida. La planta no fue parte en mi propia transformación, pero se ha convertido en un símbolo de ese nuevo comienzo. Veo el resultado del trabajo de Dios en esa planta tal como veo el resultado del trabajo de Dios en mi vida. También veo la contribución de Charlyn (que de ninguna manera ha sido poca) en la supervivencia de esa planta y en mi propia vida. La influencia de Dios es invisible y misteriosa como esta: ¿quién de nosotros no cree que el Hijo nos mantenga vivos? Sin luz solar y sin el cuidado de Charlyn, esa planta habría muerto hace mucho tiempo. PERO, Dios da la luz del sol y pone a Charlyn allí también. Cuánto se parece mi propia vida a esa planta. Cuán dependiente soy de Dios y Charlyn. Charlyn es la presencia visible, amorosa y afectuosa en mi vida y, sin embargo, no puedo negar la presencia de Dios porque sé que todo proviene de Dios, incluido Charlyn, y por eso estoy agradecido.

¿Por qué Dios se molesta con una planta tan fea? Supongo que porque la luz de Dios brilla en todas partes y es gratis; uno solo tiene que absorber esa luz. Entonces, ¿por qué Charlyn continúa alimentándolo? Tal vez porque ella sabe que tiene un significado para mí y se destaca como un símbolo. Devuelve mucho menos de lo que ella da. Soy como esa planta, pero respondo a su amor (y tal vez la planta también) y también la cuido. Ella es el "grito de mi corazón" y su papel en mi vida llega a lo más profundo de mi alma. Porque fuimos hechos uno en matrimonio y porque Dios me alimenta a través de su luz y a través de Charlyn, he sobrevivido. ¿Sabe ella cuán importante es el papel que juega en mi vida? ¿Ella lo cree? ¿Siente que Dios trabaja en ella y a través de ella? ¿Es así conmigo también?

¿Por qué siempre tomo el crédito en secreto? ¿Por qué la gente me lo da? Me pregunto cuál sería mi reacción si alguien dijera: "Dios jugó bellamente a través de ti hoy." ¿Yo estaría agradecido o celoso? Sé que soy un poco cuando dicen: "Tu chelo sonaba tan bien". Qué difícil es la vida: aceptar quién soy y qué no soy. Dios es y Dios lo hace y algún día lo sabré.

Esta historia viene del corazón de Killy en un momento en que reflexionó sobre su nueva vida en Cristo. Se había comprometido a seguir a Cristo solo unos años antes de escribir este ensayo, y se puede escuchar la gratitud por las bendiciones de Dios en sus palabras, especialmente el amor y el apoyo de su esposa Charlyn.

Esta semana, nuestras lecturas examinan el tema de tentación. Es verdad que a muchos cristianos no les gusta discutirlo. Pero todos tenemos momentos de decisiones en nuestras vidas, y muchas veces, las relaciones que tenemos con los seres queridos nos ayudan a mantenernos en el buen camino.

Cosas para considerar esta semana:

¿Quiénes son las personas en nuestras vidas que han ayudado a nutrir nuestra fe en Dios? ¿amigos? ¿miembros de la familia? ¿mentores o líderes espirituales?

A few words from our Senior Warden

Lent is a time to pray, reflect, prepare and renew. While at a recent retreat we reflected on Jesus' summary of the law: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself. As we reflect on our current situation around COVID-19, let's pray with all our heart, stay informed, do what is best to be safe, and be kind to our neighbor. God blesses us and sends us out to become a blessing to our neighbors. We continue to prayerfully ask God to direct us in all that we do so that we may become the people He has created us to be. May God's light shine in our hearts and shine through us to others as we serve God and our neighbor.

In His Love,

Beth

Unas palabras de la Guardián Mayor

Greetings from your Minister of Music

We thank each and every choir member for their musical contribution throughout the year.

I also extend my personal gratitude and thanks for all your prayers given to me while I was recently hospitalized for pneumonia.

Don Palm
Minister of Music

Altar Servers, Acolytes and Verger

On March 7, 2020 the Altar Servers, Acolytes and Verger held their spring meeting. This meeting is held in preparation for our Lenten Season.

As Fr. Peter sometimes refers to 'God Winks', our meeting was held at an appropriate time particularly since there are many questions and concerns regarding the COVID -19.

The meeting covered some 'house-keeping' items that will assist the Altar Servers and Fr. Peter during the service.

Our main discussion centered around the current concerns and issues surrounding the COVID-19. The group reviewed the Letter from

Bishop Reddall and Fr. Peter re: 'the common Cup' at Communion and also 'passing of the Peace'. Discussion followed and our Ministry will follow the recommendations presented by the Diocese. We are also aware that the recommendations may change on a daily basis, but our Ministry will be ready to respond as requested and / or needed.

I am pleased that the Altar Servers have been 'using hand gel' for over a year.

Another area of concern that was discussed was Safety on the Altar. It was strongly recommended that if one isn't feeling well to feel comfortable to 'not serve' on an assigned Sunday. The Servers are all able to share all of the tasks on the Altar. Safety on the Altar is important not only for the Server but for Liability issues that may occur if a Server is injured.

We welcome new members who wish to serve on the Altar. Come and see what we are all about! Training is provided.

Blessings,

Patty Emanuelson

Verger

Happy First Anniversary to

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall, Bishop of The Episcopal

Diocese of Arizona

LANDSCAPING

The weather has been most unusual for us this year...long with many other things. The trimming of our shrubs will be postponed a little longer to allow more new growth to occur before cutting.....thereby stretching number of trims/year by one, if possible.

The bird spikes above the front steps at church have been replenished and seem to be doing the trick....at least for now.
New lights has been installed on both the cross adjoining the digital sign and the flag pole. One is sufficient and the other needs more attention.

Bill Lynn and Al Franco addressed the spotlight on the St. Christopher statue by replacing the auto on/off mechanism and adjusting the beam of light.

Although Al and I are both socially distancing ourselves from others, we managed to work at church Monday morning while no one was around. Weeds were sprayed, palm debris was collected and the southern perimeter section was raked.

People within our church family are organizing ways to stay in touch with one another and meet the needs of most during this isolation.

Best prayers to all. Trust in God! (and keep your hands clean!)

Bonnie

Dear St Christafarians,

(Is that a word?) Just want to say thanks to those of you who participated in Stations of the Cross this Lent. Especially as I wasn't feeling very well for the first two. (Not virus related.)

I hope you are feeling good as you read this and keeping well. God bless!

Clive

To those of you Celebrating your Birthday in March or April. Have a Blessed Birthday! Or Anniversary!

Due to the fact there are many scams going on we will not Be Publishing individual Birthdays or Anniversaries In the Newsletter

The Maricopa County Democratic Party posted the following info on fb. Walgreens has since come out on their site. Others have come out (like Walgreens). I've summarized in a spreadsheet for myself. Hope it helps.

For most of them, someone cannot shop for someone else (caregiver can't go for someone). Most say it is senior AND other vulnerable shoppers. --m

Community update

For Arizona seniors, here is a list of shopping hours for many local grocery stores. If you're unable to go shopping yourself, the Arizona senior helpline can arrange grocery delivery for you. Please call 602-264-4357.
Thank you and let's look out for each other!

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
AJ's			5-6am				
Albertson's		7-9am		7-9am			
Bashas			6-7am				
Cardenas	7-8am	7-8am	7-8am	7-8am	7-8am	7-8am	7-8am
Costco		8-9am (60+)		8-9am (60+)			
Dollar General	1st hr daily	1st hr daily	1st hr daily	1st hr daily	1st hr daily	1st hr daily	1st hr daily
Food City			5-6am				
Fry's	6-7am (60+)	6-7am (60+)	6-7am (60+)	6-7am (60+)			
Safeway		7-9am		7-9am			
Target			1st hr				
Walgreens		8-9am					
Walmart		1st hr					
Whole Foods	1st hr daily (60+)	1st hr daily (60+)	1st hr daily (60+)	1st hr daily (60+)	1st hr daily (60+)	1st hr daily (60+)	1st hr daily (60+)

LIGHT UP THE REZ

BY ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, SUN CITY

In March 2019, the Outreach Committee at St. Christopher's in Sun City became aware of a Navajo photographer named Mylo Fowler whose photographs were featured in the March 2019 issue of Arizona Highways. An article accompanying the photographs included this quotation: "Fowler works as a landscape photographer and workshop leader and he uses his work to fund solar panels, lights and batteries for Navajo homes that are off the electric grid."

els on some of the 15,000 homes on the Navajo reservation that are off the electric grid. To date, Mylo and his friends have "lit up" about 250 houses.

Mylo buys his solar panels from Cool Zero, a company in Salt Lake City, Utah. Cool Zero is very supportive of his efforts and gives him a generous discount on the solar panels, batteries and lights. The equipment to "light up" one house only costs about $250. Mylo and his friends do the installations for free.

In June 2019, St. Christopher's Outreach Committee decided to raise funds to "light up" ten houses. This was a project that touched the hearts of St. Christopher's congregation and parishioners generously responded.

In July, the Outreach Committee wrote an article about their "Light Up the Rez" project that was published in a local weekly newspaper. Nearly $2,000 was received from non-church members in the local community. Some people sponsored one house and several people sponsored two houses.

Outreach received $10,8308 as of 3/5/2020, Outreach added $1,500

Total $11,808 almost enough for 43 homes (42.7918)

Situation 1500 homes on Navajo Reservation

Mylo Fowler and his friends on the reservation hae been able to light about 250 homes at 276 per house to install

Growing Our Faith

As hard as it is to believe, we are smack dab in the middle of Lent. The children have learned what Lent is and we have made and buried the "A" words until Easter Sunday. They made beautiful butterflies with the "A" word across their wings. While they made their butterflies, we talked about how the butterfly is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection. At this writing, the children are one line away from completing the Lord's Prayer. We've gone through the prayer line by line learning what the King James words mean. Now we will be working on memorization.

Sunday School will finish up on May 31st with an end-of-the-year party! Shhhhh..don't tell the kids!

Have a blessed Eastertide,

Miss Barbara

Miss Patty

Miss Marie

A note from your Junior Warden

Here are some things I've been doing around the church. I've been replacing our indoor fluorescent tube lights with LEDs.

Resident handyman and electrician Al Franco showed me how to rewire fixtures to by-pass the ballasts. It's interesting but time-consuming. If you have tube fluorescents at your home, and would like to replace them with LEDs, email me at billcorno@cox.net, and I'll arrange a time to show you what Al taught me. Then if you find the time, maybe you could replace a few here at the church as well. I try and spend maybe an hour or so each weekend replacing some.

The Building and Grounds Committee lead by Jane Myers is working on new hot water units. We are researching point-of-use water heating at some bathroom sinks. If you have any experience with this please let myself or Jane know. Our present system is pretty old and needs upgrading. Doing maintenance here at the church can also be a learning experience.

Bill Lynn

Coping With Staying at Home

Amy Schultz

I am so grateful for technology. Tonight I "face timed" my five precious grandsons to say "Good Night". They were in their pajamas and I could see the smiles on their faces as they said "Good night, Monie. I love you."

I have checked on some of my friends who live alone and they have shown me quilts and baby blankets they have been making while in isolation. I even took my piano lesson on line. Two of my grandsons have also taken their piano lessons on line. What a wonder "Zoom" and "Facebook" are!!

I have a cousin who is my age in Missouri. She has a daughter who is the mother of four young girls. The three of us have committed to
pray for the world and our families every Friday at 1pm (3pm CST).

I am reading lots of books on my "eReader"—books are my "Linus Security Blanket"! Other coping activities I enjoy are walking, writing in my journal and praying.

One more thing I might do—again, I say "might"—is to clean and sort out my junk drawers.

Cans for CAN

During Lent, rinse out a vegetable or soup can and toss all of your loose change (..and maybe a few bills) into the can. On Easter morning, the cans will be collected and all of the money given to the "Ride Choice" program at Sun City CAN (Sun City Community Assistance Network).

"Ride Choice" is new Maricopa County program. It is for people who are ADA-certified (Americans With Disabilities Act). It uses Lyft and Uber to provide transportation and it is $3.00 for the first 8 miles.

Sun City CAN provides $50 worth of rides to low income ADA people every three months. There are about 60 people in the program.
Last year, our congregation raised approximately $1,000.00 for "Cans for CAN". If we can do that again this year, we can provide over 330 rides to the doctor, grocery store or other destination for some of Sun City neighbors.

First letter about COVID-19

From Bishop

March 16,2020

Today, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall, Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, released the

following statement:

"*That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord*." –the Great Litany, BCP page 151.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to give instructions for congregations in the Diocese of Arizona in the coming weeks in light of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for gatherings of groups during this pandemic of COVID-19.

I am instructing all of our congregations to cancel all in-person, public worship through at least April 20, and I expect it will be likely to continue longer, as the CDC is recommending cancelling 8 weeks of public gatherings. I also instruct our congregations to cancel all public events involving more than 10 people during this time, including classes, rehearsals, and meetings. All in-person Diocesan events during this time are also cancelled or being moved to online platforms.

I do not take this decision lightly. But it is made out of love. In this particular season, loving our neighbors means being apart from them.

Guidance for several areas of our congregational life is contained below.

WORSHIP

Several of our congregations in Arizona experimented with offering live-streamed worship yesterday. You are all permitted and encouraged to do so; the Diocese is going to attempt to feature one specific service each week to remind us that we are all in this together, and that we can gather collectively in prayer and praise.

I note that we are not cancelling prayer—if anything we are called to pray more, not less, during this time of trial. We will be offering additional online prayer resources as the days proceed. But at home, use your Book of Common Prayer. If you do not have one, go to your local Episcopal Church and ask to borrow one. If you do not know how to use it for Morning Prayer or other services, we will teach you. I'm planning to do a YouTube tutorial tomorrow on how to pray Morning Prayer on your own. Nothing can separate us from the love of God—and nothing can force our prayers to cease.

PASTORAL CARE and FELLOWSHIP

We are called to love one another, and we are now called to do so in more creative ways. Work with your congregation to establish a phone tree, and reach out particularly to those who are elderly or isolated. Have children write letters and draw pictures for the homebound.

I know many in our congregations will be missing coffee hour as much as worship. Tiffany Cramer, our Events Coordinator, has offered to be a liaison for helping teach you how to set up an online event for your congregation so that you can see each other's faces and talk to friends. Even when you are confined to your home, you are not alone. Christ binds us to one another in life and even in death.
Guidance for several areas of our congregational life is contained below.

OUTREACH

If there is one area where we must continue to put ourselves at some risk, it is in caring for the most economically vulnerable in our communities. I encourage all congregations to see how they can maintain their food pantries, meal programs, small 12-step meetings, and other ministries that will be absolutely essential during the time when hourly employees are unable to work, and ever more people find themselves food insecure. Do so wisely: keep social distance, disinfect everything, and offer meals to go, or drive up food pantries rather than in your buildings. But do not cease serving the vulnerable. And I encourage those who are able to donate to their clergy's discretionary funds, so that our clergy have the capacity to help those who need help when they come to our doors.

CHURCH OFFICES

At this time, I do not see a need to instruct congregations to close their offices entirely. Follow CDC guidelines about keeping yourselves safe, use good judgment about which staff and volunteers are at-risk and should stay home, and work remotely if you can. But phones need to be answered if possible, and instructions given for how to connect if you are in need. An essential function of church life right now is communications: keep talking to your people through phone trees, Zoom gatherings, your website, and good old-fashioned mail. Update your signage, so that people who come to your property know how to get in touch with a human being.

FOR THOSE WHO GET SICK

It appears to me, from what I have read, that even with all these precautions, it is likely that many of us will end up acquiring COVID-19. There is no shame in doing so. Seek help, according to the recommendations of the CDC and others, and let your clergy know so that they can be helpful in making sure you receive the care you need, and have access to the supplies you need.

Canon Nicole Krug, our Diocesan Disaster Coordinator, is developing a protocol for congregations who have members with COVID-19 and are concerned that the disease may have spread within the congregations.

FINANCE

Cancelling public worship is going to have economic effects for our congregations and our diocese. As the beginning of a plan, we have three guidelines:

- I am asking all congregations to continue to pay all of their staff, even staff who may not be working because of the suspension of worship.
- I am asking all church members to maintain their pledges, as they are able.

I am in the process of asking the Standing Committee to approve a Diocesan Relief Fund to assist congregations in maintaining their payroll, insurance payments, etc. if necessary.

WHAT WILL THE DIOCESE BE DOING?

Right now, I envision the Diocesan Office as a clearing house for questions, and a source of connection for congregations in need. Some staff members will work remotely; others will come in to the office.

We have set up a resource page on our website to include links for prayer, reliable information about COVID-19, and support for clergy and lay mental health.

BUT WHAT ABOUT EASTER?

The word “quarantine” comes from *quaresima*, the Italian word for Lent. Ships were “quarantined” for 40 days in port before they were able to dock and unload people and supplies. So of all seasons of the year to be experiencing quarantines, this is very appropriate. Just as Lent ends with Easter, so this season of quarantine will end with renewed faith in our Risen Lord—though it will likely not happen by April 12, 2020. Over the next few weeks, as the situation develops, we will discern what the right way to observe calendar Easter is; and what the right way to observe our eventual return to congregational life, proclaiming “Alleluia” with shouts of joy. That day will be an Easter Day indeed, celebrating the restoration of new life, having passed through the valley of the shadow of death.

I will be in contact with you as things change and develop; know that you are in my prayers: congregations, clergy, laypeople, and all those whom you serve.

May God’s peace be with you in the coming days.

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laicos y todos aquellos a quienes sirves.

Que la paz de Dios esté con ustedes en los próximos días.

Que te agrade apoyar, ayudar y consolar a todos los que están en peligro, necesidad y tribulación. Te suplicamos que

–La Gran Letanía, LOC página 151.

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

Escribo para dar instrucciones a las congregaciones en la Diócesis de Arizona en las próximas semanas a la luz de las recomendaciones del Centro para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC) para las reuniones de grupos durante esta pandemia de COVID-19.

Estoy ordenando a todas nuestras congregaciones que cancelen todo el culto público en persona hasta al menos el 20 de abril, y espero que sea probable que continúe por más tiempo, ya que los (CDC) recomiendan cancelar 8 semanas de reuniones públicas. También instruyo a nuestras congregaciones a cancelar todos los eventos públicos que involucren a más de 10 personas durante este tiempo, incluidas las clases, ensayos y reuniones. Todos los eventos diocesanos en persona durante este tiempo también se cancelan o se trasladan a plataformas en línea.

No tomo esta decisión a la ligera. Pero está hecha de amor. En esta temporada en particular, amar a nuestro prójimo significa estar separados de ellos.

OFICINAS DE IGLESIA

En este momento, no veo la necesidad de ordenar a las congregaciones que cierren sus oficinas por completo. Siga las pautas de los (CDC) sobre cómo mantenerse a salvo, use el buen juicio sobre qué personal y voluntarios están en riesgo y deberían quedarse en casa y trabajar de forma remota si puede. Pero los teléfonos deben ser respondidos si es posible, y se deben dar instrucciones sobre cómo conectarse si lo necesita. Una función esencial de la vida de la iglesia en este momento es la comunicación: sigue hablando con tu gente a través de los árboles telefónicos, las reuniones de Zoom, tu sitio web y el buen correo tradicional. Actualice su señalización para que las personas que visitan su propiedad sepan cómo ponerse en contacto con un ser humano.

PARA LOS QUE SE ENFERMEN

Me parece, por lo que he leído, que incluso con todas estas precauciones, es probable que muchos de nosotros terminemos adquiriendo COVID-19. No hay vergüenza en hacerlo. Busque ayuda, de acuerdo con las recomendaciones de los (CDC) y otros, e infórmele a su clero para que puedan ayudarlo a asegurarse de que reciba la atención que necesita y tenga acceso a los suministros que necesita.

Canon Nicole Krug, nuestra Coordinadora Diocesana de Desastres, está desarrollando un protocolo para congregaciones que tienen miembros con COVID-19 y están preocupadas de que la enfermedad se haya propagado dentro de las congregaciones.

FINANZAS

Cancelar la adoración pública tendrá efectos económicos para nuestras congregaciones y nuestra diócesis. Como comienzo de un plan, tenemos tres pautas:

- Le pido a todas las congregaciones que continúen pagando a todo su personal, incluso al personal que puede no estar trabajando debido a la suspensión de la adoración.
- Les pido a todos los miembros de la iglesia que mantengan sus promesas, como puedan.

Estoy en el proceso de pedirle al Comité Permanente que apruebe un Fondo de Ayuda Diocesana para ayudar a las congregaciones a mantener su nómina, pagos de seguros, etc. si es necesario.

¿QUÉ HARÁ LA DIÓCESIS?

En este momento, veo a la Oficina Diocesana como un centro de intercambio de preguntas y una fuente de conexión para las congregaciones necesitadas. Algunos miembros del personal trabajarán de forma remota; otros vendrán a la oficina.

Hemos creado una página de recursos en nuestro sitio web para incluir enlaces para la oración, información confiable sobre COVID-19 y apoyo para el clero y la salud mental laica .

ADORACIÓN

Varias de nuestras congregaciones en Arizona experimentaron ayer una transmisión de adoración en vivo. Todos están permitidos y animados a hacerlo; la Diócesis intentará ofrecer un servicio específico cada semana para recordarnos que estamos todos juntos en esto, y que podemos reunirnos colectivamente en oración y alabanza.

Noto que no estamos cancelando la oración, si es que estamos llamados a orar más, no menos, durante este tiempo de prueba. Estaremos ofreciendo recursos adicionales de oración en línea a medida que transcurran los días. Pero en casa, usa tu Libro de Oración Común. Si no tiene uno, vaya a su Iglesia Episcopal local y pida prestado uno. Si no sabe cómo usarlo para la oración de la mañana u otros servicios, le enseñaremos. Estoy planeando hacer un tutorial de YouTube mañana sobre cómo orar la oración de la mañana por tu cuenta. Nada puede separarnos del amor de Dios, y nada puede obligar a nuestras oraciones a cesar.

CUIDADO PASTORAL Y COMUNICACIÓN

Estamos llamados a amarnos unos a otros, y ahora estamos llamados a hacerlo de maneras más creativas. Trabaje con su congregación para establecer un árbol telefónico y comuníquese particularmente con aquellos que son ancianos o están aislados. Haga que los niños escriban cartas y hagan dibujos para los que están refugiados en su hogar.

Sé que muchos en nuestras congregaciones extrañarán la hora del café tanto como la adoración. Tiffany Cramer, nuestra Coordinadora de Eventos, se ofreció a ser un enlace para ayudarlo a enseñarle cómo organizar un evento en línea para su congregación para que puedan ver las caras de los demás y hablar con amigos. Incluso cuando está refugiado en su hogar, no está solo. Cristo nos une unos a otros en la vida e incluso en la muerte.

ALCANZAR

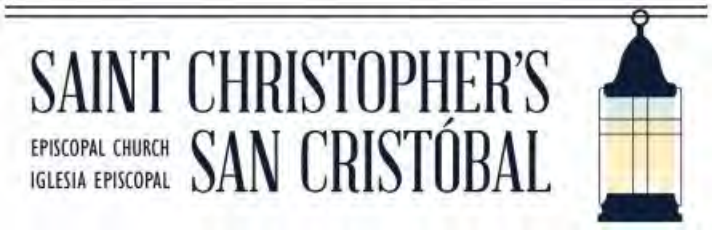
Si hay un área donde debemos continuar poniéndonos en riesgo, es en el cuidado de los más vulnerables económicamente en nuestras comunidades. Animo a todas las congregaciones a ver cómo pueden mantener sus despensas de alimentos, programas de comidas, pequeñas reuniones de 12 pasos y otros ministerios que serán absolutamente esenciales durante el tiempo en que los empleados por hora no pueden trabajar, y cada vez más personas se encuentran inseguras de los alimentos. Hágalo sabiamente: mantenga la distancia social, desinfecte todo y ofrezca comidas para llevar, o suba a las despensas de alimentos en lugar de en sus edificios. Pero no dejes de servir a los vulnerables. Y ánimo a aquellos que pueden donar a los fondos discrecionales de su clero, para que nuestro clero tenga la capacidad de ayudar a aquellos que necesitan ayuda cuando llegan a nuestras puertas.

¿PERO QUÉ HAY DE PASCUA?

La palabra "cuarentena" proviene de *quaresima*, la palabra italiana para la Cuaresma. Los barcos fueron "puestos en cuarentena" durante 40 días en el puerto antes de que pudieran atracar y descargar personas y suministros. Entonces, de todas las estaciones del año para experimentar cuarentenas, esto es muy apropiado. Así como la Cuaresma termina con Pascua, esta temporada de cuarentena terminará con una fe renovada en nuestro Señor resucitado, aunque probablemente no sucederá antes del 12 de abril de 2020. Durante las próximas semanas, a medida que se desarrolle la situación, discerniremos qué forma correcta de observar el calendario es Pascua; y cuál es la manera correcta de observar nuestro eventual regreso a la vida congregacional, proclamando "Aleluya" con gritos de alegría. Ese día será un día de Pascua, celebrando la restauración de una nueva vida, habiendo pasado por el valle de la sombra de la muerte.

Estaré en contacto con usted a medida que las cosas cambien y se desarrollen; están en mis oraciones: congregaciones, clérigos, laicos y todos aquellos a quienes sirves.

Que la paz de Dios esté con ustedes en los próximos días.



The Rev. Peter Fabre, Priest-in-Charge

10233 W. Peoria Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351

Phone: (623) 972-1100 Fax: (623) 974-4903

Office@stchristophers-az.org Frpeter@stchristophers-az.org

March 17, 2020 The Feast Day of St. Patrick

To all God's beloved at St. Christopher's, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you an important and difficult decision. Due to the corona-virus pandemic and the increasingly stringent restrictions recommended at all levels, we decided yesterday to suspend all church gatherings, including Sunday worship, at least through the end of March. By the end of the day, Bishop Reddall subsequently issued a directive that all Episcopal Churches in the diocese would suspend services and gatherings through April 20. Her letter will be shared with all of you as well.

I've spent considerable time learning about this situation, conferring with colleagues, and pondering the best course of action in my prayers.

I realize this will be a deep loss for all of us, including me. Scripture reminds us that Jesus came not as the God who spares us from suffering, but as the God who joins us in our suffering. Not easy words to accept – but oh, so true!

We are making what we believe to be a wise choice to endure short-term loss for the sake of the greater good. Many of us are among the groups that are most vulnerable to this virus – and medical professionals seem to be lowering the age for "vulnerability" on a weekly basis. As I mentioned in my extended sermon last Sunday, those things we have already done to mitigate the spread of this virus can be looked at as ways to express the love for one another as Jesus commanded us, rather than treat it as a personal inconvenience. We care for and love one another, each wanting to keep our brothers and sisters in Christ as healthy and strong as possible. None of us wants to be the one to spread the virus to others. Yes, it will certainly be the ultimate in "social distancing" to not congregate as family as we so love to do – but it is the prudent thing to do under the circumstances.

May we not be discouraged or afraid. It is so easy to be ruled by fear – "fear begets fear" as I said on Sunday. Remember that we are not a people without hope. As one of my colleagues aptly put it: "Our faith and our hope are in eternity. Even now, in the midst of uncertainty and loss and fear, we are a people who dwell in eternity."

Please encourage one another and be an encouraging presence in our world as we undergo this trial together. This will require some patience on all our parts, as this has spun up so quickly that

English Cont.

Our office will be open for limited business hours yet to be finalized. You can reach the office or me by phone or email – leaving a voicemail message if you don't reach us right away. But we ask that you please, do not stop by the office unless you have an urgent need. Thank you in advance for respecting our staff's health and safety.

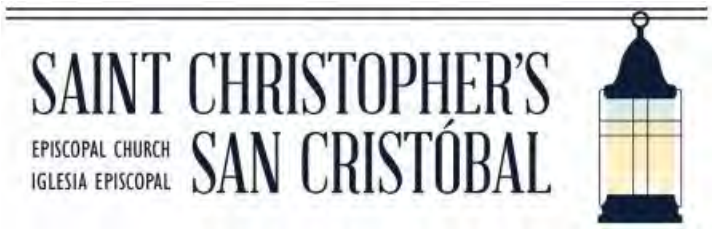
During this time, pastoral visits will not be made in-person except in critical situations. Look for more frequent communications as we expand our means of getting in touch with you.

In closing for now, two passages come to mind:

• "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another – and make us to know that we are one in Spirit" [Mizpah]

• O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold and bless whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by thy love in the communion of thy Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen*** [BCP p 831 – Prayers for the Absent]

In Christ's Peace, Fr. Peter+



Padre Pedro Fabre, Sacerdote-a-Cargo

10233 W. Peoria Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351

Teléfono: (623) 972-1100 Fax: (623) 974-4903

Office@stchristophers-az.org Frpeter@stchristophers-az.org

17 de Marzo, 2020 La Festividad de San Patricio

A todos los seres amados de Dios en San Cristóbal, llamados a ser santos: Gracia a ustedes y la paz de Dios nuestro Padre y del Señor Jesucristo.

Es con gran pesar que comparto con ustedes una decisión importante y difícil. Debido a la pandemia de coronavirus y las restricciones cada vez más estrictas recomendadas en todos los niveles, decidimos ayer suspender todas las reuniones de la iglesia, incluyendo la adoración dominical, al menos hasta finales de marzo. Mas tarde en el día, la Obispa Reddall posteriormente promulgó una directiva de que todas las Iglesias Episcopales en la diócesis suspenderían los servicios y las reuniones hasta el 20 de abril. Su carta también será compartida con todos ustedes.

He pasado un tiempo considerable aprendiendo sobre esta situación, consultando con colegas y reflexionando sobre el mejor curso de acción en mis oraciones.

Me doy cuenta de que esto será una pérdida profunda para todos nosotros, incluso para mí. La Escritura nos recuerda que Jesús no vino como el Dios que nos salva del sufrimiento, sino como el Dios que nos acompaña en el sufrimiento. No son palabras fáciles de aceptar - pero, son tan ciertas!

Estamos haciendo lo que creemos que es una sabia elección para soportar la pérdida a corto plazo por el bien común. Muchos de nosotros estamos en los grupos que son más vulnerables a este virus, y los profesionales médicos parecen estar reduciendo la edad de “vulnerabilidad” semanalmente. Como mencioné en mi sermón el domingo pasado, esas cosas que ya hemos hecho para mitigar la propagación de este virus pueden considerarse como formas de expresar el amor mutuo como Jesús nos ordenó, en lugar de tratarlo como un inconveniente personal. Nos cuidamos y amamos unos a otros, cada uno deseando mantener a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo lo más sanos y fuertes posible. Ninguno de nosotros quiere ser quien transmita el virus a otros. Sí, sin duda será lo último en “distanciamiento social” no congregarse como una familia como nos encanta hacer, pero es lo más prudente en estas circunstancias.

Que no nos desanimemos o tengamos miedo. Es tan fácil ser gobernado por el miedo: “el miedo engendra miedo”, como dije el domingo. Recordemos que no somos un pueblo sin esperanza. Como dijo uno de mis colegas acertadamente: “Nuestra fe y nuestra esperanza están en la eternidad. Incluso ahora, en medio de la incertidumbre, la pérdida y el miedo, somos un pueblo que habita en la eternidad.”

Aliéntense unos a otros y sean una presencia alentadora en nuestro mundo mientras nos sometemos a esta prueba juntos. Esto requerirá que todos seamos pacientes, ya que esto se ha acelerado tan rápidamente que estamos trabajando para resolver la logística de la mejor manera de comunicarle las actualizaciones y mantenerlo informado sobre cualquier cambio adicional y cuándo podemos comenzar a devolver las cosas a normal.

Tenemos la intención de mantener un contacto cercano con ustedes a través de las redes sociales, correos electrónicos y nuestro sitio web; pero también somos muy conscientes de que muchos de nosotros no somos tan expertos en tecnología como nuestros hijos y nietos.

Los líderes de nuestros equipos ministeriales trabajarán para mantener el contacto, ayudarnos a mantenernos alentados y mantener a nuestro clero y al personal informados sobre cualquier necesidad.

Nuestra oficina estará abierta por horas limitadas aún por finalizar. Puede comunicarse con la oficina o conmigo por teléfono o correo electrónico, dejando un mensaje de correo de voz si no nos contacta de inmediato. Pero le pedimos que por favor, no pase por la oficina a menos que tenga una necesidad urgente. Gracias de antemano por respetar la salud y la seguridad de nuestro personal.

Durante este tiempo, las visitas pastorales no se harán en persona, excepto en situaciones críticas. Busque comunicaciones más frecuentes a medida que ampliamos nuestros medios para comunicarnos con ustedes.

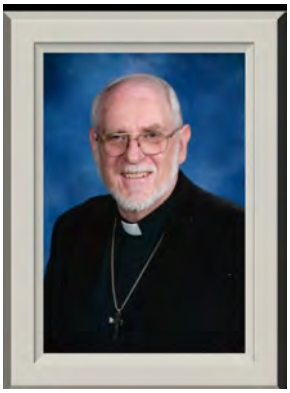
Para terminar, me vienen a la mente dos pasajes:

• “Que el Señor nos vigile entre tú y yo, cuando estamos ausentes uno del otro, y nos haga saber que somos uno en Espíritu” [Mizpah]

• Oh Dios, cuyo cuidado paternal se extiende hasta los confines de la tierra: Humildemente te suplicamos veas y bendigas con bondad a cuantos amamos, ahora ausentes de nosotros. Defiéndeles en todo peligro de cuerpo y alma; concede que ellos y nosotros, acercándonos más a ti, seamos unidos por tu amor en la comunión de tu Santo Espíritu, con todos tus santos; por Jesucristo nuestro Señor. ***Amén***. [LOC p 721 – Oraciones para los ausentes]

En la Paz de Cristo, Padre Pedro+

The Rev. Peter Fabre, Priest-in-Charge



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March 24, 2020

To all God's beloved at St. Christopher's, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to provide a brief update on actions taken at St. Christopher's in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the guidance received from both the diocese and governmental agencies. While we are all feeling very isolated from one another as we "hunker down", we've done the following:

- Established an Emergency Call List to get word out quickly when needed - this was essential in notifying parishioners who may not have email or internet access of the sudden suspension of services last week. Making that list more complete is a work in progress. If you know of anyone who did not get the word and should have been contacted, please let the us know. abled the office
  to function remotely:
- Doreen is working from home, with access to church email and checking the office phone number for voicemail messages, to which she can then respond or relay to others as needed. If you call the church office, be prepared to leave a voicemail message.
- I am working from home thanks to our technology, with full access to 90% of what I need on a day-to-day basis. I can be reached by cell phone (602) 359-4128, just as if I were physically in the
  office, or at any time in case of a pastoral emergency.
- Most finance-related activities are now "cloud based" and can be handled away from the office. Don't forget that during this difficult time, automatic giving is still functioning and can be made available for those not already using it - and we can still deposit checks and are paying bills.
- There will be an intermittent physical presence in the office, but only for short periods of time each day on Tuesday-Thursday, and with only one or two people present at a time.
- Installed a mail slot in the side door to the chapel, for delivery of regular US Mail, which will be checked daily, and for anything parishioners need to drop off that they would normally deliver to the office - provided of course it is small enough to fit!

Fr. Peter's letter continued;

- Held our first-ever "Virtual" Vestry Meeting last evening using a conference call program that enabled us all to phone in to "gather" from different locations, check in with one another, and discuss progress and plans as we move through these challenging times.
- We will be using that same technology to "gather" to celebrate Morning Prayer together tomorrow morning with as many of you as can phone in. More on that will follow.
- Moving forward, better and more frequent means of communicating and staying in touch are receiving heightened
  priority.

As I indicated in my letter last week, during this time, pastoral visits will not be made in-person except in critical situations. This past week focused on initial notification and making arrangements to "keep on keeping on" as safely as possible as we sort this all out.

Stay tuned and keep the faith!

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. Peter+

Palm Sunday
Blessed is He who comes
in the name of
the Lord !
Matthew 21:9
moonwhiskers

Happy Easter
May the Lord Jesus Christ
bless you and protect you,
as he guides you through life.
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