



The Incarnation Word

April 2020



Happy Easter!! As Presiding Bishop Curry said in his Easter sermon, “It doesn’t look like it; it doesn’t smell like it; it doesn’t really feel like it; but it’s Easter anyway.”

(Watch his complete sermon [here.](#)) Signs of new life are budding all around us, proof that new life lies right around the corner for us. I pray this time of isolation is, for you, full of new life emerging out of the forced slowing and stillness. Because even now, while we can’t see it or hear it or even feel it, Jesus is alive and working in miraculous ways. Alleluia!

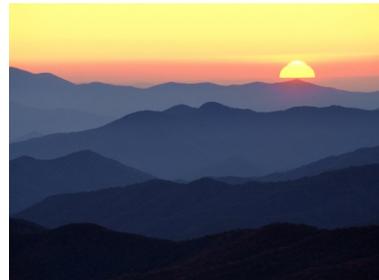
Bishop Waldo has decided that, out of an abundance of caution, our churches are closed for worship until at least the end of April. But that hasn’t stopped us from gathering on Facebook Live and worshipping together in unprecedented numbers! On Easter Sunday, 170 or more of us gathered around screens and rang bells as we shouted “Alleluia!” - that’s 70 more than will even fit in our church!

O your vestry have decided that for the remainder of our time in social distancing, we will worship as follows:

Morning Prayer Mondays through Fridays at 8:00am On our Facebook page

This service continues to meet a deep need for connection and praise as we strive to live in hope and peace during the chaos of this time. Want to join us? Go on Facebook and find the page for Episcopal Church of the Incarnation (like us, while you’re there). Each weekday morning at 8:00 watch for the live feed to start and join in. Let folks know you’re there by typing a greeting in the Comments. And be sure to list your prayer concerns so we can all pray them together.

All the materials for you to follow the service are on our [website](#). You can also download the [service booklet](#) and [lectionary readings](#) directly.



New Zealand Night Prayer M, T, Th, and F at 5:00pm On our Facebook page

The New Zealand service is rich with imagery from nature that is especially mean-

ingful as spring is bursting forth. You'll access the service as you did Morning Prayer above, and again let us know in the Comments that you're there so we can greet you.

All the materials for you to follow this service are also on our [website](#). Or just download the [service booklet](#).

Kid-Friendly Evening Services Wednesdays at 5:00 On our Facebook page

Our mid-week Evening Prayer services will be geared especially toward the younger ones, but will offer messages we all need to hear.

They'll focus on a set of Godly Play lessons for the Easter season called "Knowing Jesus in a New Way." Each lesson will present a time one of Jesus' friends had to meet him in a new way after his resurrection. Then we'll all be challenged to find an object around the house that tells more about the story. You'll have time to post pictures of your objects in the Comments and tell us what new insight they add. I can't wait to share these stories together as we explore how we can know Jesus today!



All the materials for you to follow these

services will be on our [website](#). You can download the service booklet on [this page](#) once it's ready and the page is updated.



Sunday Morning Services Sundays at 9:00 On our Facebook page

Based on your feedback and on attendance trends, vestry decided to go to one service on Sunday mornings at 9:00; those who aren't up and going by that time can always watch it later at their convenience. We'll alternate between a Rite I service (the language used at the normal 8:30 service) and a Rite II service (the language of 10:30). But each week we'll enjoy hymns put together by Bobbi and Hal through some complex technical wizardry. And each week's service will include a Children's Sermon as well as a regular homily. As we pass the peace, e sure to add your name to the Comments so everyone can greet you. We may not be in the same building, but we can still gather together and worship.

Would you like to record yourself reading one of the lessons or the Prayers of the People? Reply to this email and I'll put

you on the list! It's been fun to see and hear one another.

Each week the service booklet and children's bulletins will be available on [this page](#) of our [website](#).

Bread from Heaven

There just isn't a way to distribute food to our needy friends without risking making them sick as they handle groceries we've handled and as we pack them into their cars. So, it's with heavy hearts that we suspend Bread from Heaven for this month. We're following the example of St. Matthew's, whose team of advising physicians made the call for them; and Carla's personal team of physicians concur. We'll call all our regulars and let them know. And we'll tell them that, if they're in dire need, we will pack a bag for them and leave it on the steps for them to pick up at a designated time. The Soup Kitchen and the pantry at Encounter Church are still operating, so our shoppers will still have those options.

Do you have some time to help call some of our shoppers? Let me know right away and I'll send you some names and numbers. You'll enjoy talking with these very special people.



Last month we anticipated that we would still be distributing food this month, so we left cases and cases of food in the parish hall. Right now they're prohibiting Ree from putting another coat of wax on the parish hall floor, a perfect task for right now when no one's in the hall. Do you have a strong back? We could use your help moving the boxes. Reply to this email to let me know you're available; I'll schedule workers so you aren't sharing the space with anyone else—just remember to wash your hands!!

How Are You?

I hope you're all well and provided for. If you need anything at all, please call either



me or the member of the Pastoral Care team who has reached out to you. And the fact that you're scared or frustrated or just lonely is a need—we want to be there for you!

Are you able to go out and pick up groceries or run other errands for those who really need to stay out of infection's way? Reply to this email to let me know that, so we can pass needs along and get them met.

Finances and Administration

As you know from your own home, the bills don't stop coming just because we aren't holding in-person services. More importantly, though, our need to give back to God doesn't stop. Please, if you're able, continue to make your donations to the church. You can write a check and mail it to us:



Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
308 College Drive
Gaffney, SC 29340

We also now are set up for you to donate through a secure website. Do so by clicking on the Donate Now box on our [website](#) or by following [this link](#). The online option carries a small fee, but after you enter what you'd like to give there's a box to check if you'd like to cover that fee for us.

We've transferred our entire data base, which we use to keep track of our people, your contributions, and our other financials, to a web-based version which the

staff can access from our homes. As you can imagine, there've been a few bumps along the way, but we're up and running now.

We appreciate your prayers as we all



adjust to new ways of doing things.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 2	Cyndi Holmes
April 3	John Gelok
April 5	Noah Lindemann & Gena Poovey
April 12	Renée McFalls
April 13	Julia Johnson
April 17	Gena Poovey
April 17	Hal Tyson
April 23	Becky Vassy
April 24	Ellen Cubberley
April 24	Mike Johnson
April 25	Ben and Angharad Torres
April 27	Charlotte Hartman
April 27	Reuben Harding
April 29	Jamie and Hope Greene

Prayer List

Please remember all those whose jobs place them in harm's way:

Blair Dennis

Jamie Greene

Medical personnel, especially:

Steve Boggs

Niccie Dearing

Elizabeth Forbes

John Gelok

Steve and Kelly Lewis

Mimi McCully

Kyle and Ann Meade

Teresa Rhymer

And those who are ill, lonely, scared, or grieving

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The Rt. Rev. W. Andrew Waldo	Bishop of Upper S. C.
The Rev. Jenny Gettys	Rector
The Rev. Pat Gotautas	Deacon
Mrs. Ann Batchler	Parish Sec. / Bookkeeper
Mr. Hal Tyson	Choir Director and Organist

2020 Vestry

Michael Darnell	Sr. Warden and Christian Education	704-460-0301
Mike Johnson	Jr. Warden and Buildings / Grounds	864-838-6646
Niccie Dearing	Evangelism	803-280-0441
Ellie Bird	Worship	864-490-5641
Scott Glidden	Outreach	704-473-7318
Morgan Johnson	Administration	864-812-2399
Julie Taylor	Hospitality	864-838-5591
Carla Winter	Pastoral Care	864-489-2636

<i>ex officio</i> , David Taylor <i>ex officio</i> , Cynthia Glidden	Treasurer Clerk	864-838-5602 704-734-7226
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