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Subject: News and Notes from Durham Church for March 19

*News and Notes from
'Old Durham' Church
March 19, 2020
'Feeding Souls Since 1661'*



*We are the Episcopal Church in Nanjemoy, Maryland.
Our historic church building at 8700 Ironsides Road, Nanjemoy, is
currently closed.*

We'd love to have you join us for worship over Zoom.

Learn more at OldDurham.org

Continuing to be Church

*The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved . . . Psalm 46:1-2*

Dear Durham Parish Family,

We have received further directions from our Bishop about the closure of our buildings. The closure has been extended through May 16. This obviously means we will need to creatively re-think Holy Week and Easter, as well as our regular patterns of worship. At the moment we are holding regular Compline on Wednesdays and Sundays at 8pm, and I plan to extend our noon Wednesday study group session for the duration. All this will be a challenge, but one to which we will rise.

Starting this Sunday we will resume worshiping at 10:30 on Sunday mornings, conducting Morning Prayer over the internet and telephone.

God of healing and hope, in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new virus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger. Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best, not the worst in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other and the strength that comes from being one body in your. Through Christ, our wounded healer. Amen.

written by Rev. Dr. Sam Wells from St. Martin-in-the-Field in London

/Catharine+

From Bishop Mariann's letter:

I give thanks to God for each of you and for your courage and creativity as we all adjust to the constraints required of us. Your entire diocesan staff is praying for you, that you may feel Christ's abiding presence as you tend to your loved ones and all within your sphere of pastoral concern. We are here to support you in any way we can.

In keeping with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's most recent recommendations, and in consultation with the Presiding Bishop, I am instructing all public services and other church gatherings be suspended until May 16th.

Rest assured that if these recommendations are lifted--and we all pray that this crisis passes sooner--I will re-open our churches gladly. For now, I want us all to have sufficient clarity to prepare for what lies ahead, most notably, Holy Week and Easter Sunday without physically gathering in church.

The spiritual, pastoral and financial implications of this pandemic are beyond what any of us can fully grasp or predict. But you belong to a diocesan community and we are in this together. The diocesan staff are working to address financial hardships, coordinate resources, and ensure needed care, doing all we can to ease the load for you and your people.

Remember that Jesus is in the boat with us.

This Week's Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All of our meetings are either cancelled or being moved online.

Joe's Place Food Pantry will be going ahead on March 26 under special conditions and with limited staffing. No extra volunteers are requested.

Finance Committee Meeting TBA

Vestry Meeting: March 25 at 7:00pm over Zoom.

Easter Baskets and Dinners for the Mt Hope/Nanjemoy families: Please could anyone who already has supplies or items for this collection contact Deacon Susan ASAP to make arrangements with her. She is in contact with the organizers and we will be making a financial contribution to cover the items that we cannot supply physically.

Paying your pledges. Yes, you can still pay your pledge! In fact, the parish budget is counting on it!

You can either mail a check to the church's regular address or use [this link](#), which is also on the church website. Please note that these payment arrangements may be adjusted over the next few weeks as we try to mesh the current situation with financial best practices.

Worship next Sunday

To join any of our worship services (Morning Prayer and Compline on Sunday, Compline on Wednesday) [click here](#) or on the link on our website.



March 22, 2020 is the Fourth Sunday in Lent
We will read Morning Prayer over Zoom at 10:30AM. In our morning gospel reading, we hear the story of the Man Born Blind who is re-born in relationship with Jesus. We will also be offering Compline at 8pm over Zoom.

Check out this handy [calendar](#) to see what the readings will be in the Episcopal Church this Sunday or any Sunday. The [Revised Common Lectionary](#) site has additional resources for exploring each week's scriptures.

If you're looking for the Daily Office (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer), you can visit [Forward Movement](#). You will also find Forward Day by Day at this site.

Observing a Holy Lent



Lent Madness has entered the round of the Sainly Sixteen. Check out www.lentmadness.org . Living Well Through Lent, an offering of Living Compass, is once again offering a daily devotional for Lent. This year's focus is on courage, and our own Bishop Mariann is one of the contributors this year. You can learn more about LivingCompass [here](#) . Signs of Life: Join us Wednesdays at noon ([sign up here](#)), or sign up to follow along on your own schedule at www.signsoflife.org

In the Wider Church



Keep abreast of goings-on in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, of which we are a parish. [Sign up](#) for the newsletter or check out previous issues [here](#) .

In Our Prayers

Let us pray...

...in thanksgiving for the members of our congregation: Roy, Bernie, Melinda, and Rick.

...for support and protection for those who serve our country at home and abroad: Alex, Mike, Wes, Thomas, Steven, and Megan.

...for members of our congregation who are away: Cindy.

...for those in need of God's healing grace: Mabel, James (*parish cleaner and neighbor of Rick and Mary*), Ronda (*daughter of Marie*), Jane (*sister of Bill*), Barbara, Rick, Buddy, Tom; *Our continuing prayers are offered for: Vivian (mother of Barbara), Sam, Thelma (Deacon Susan's mother), Butch, Livvy (mother of Kathy), Buddy, Rhonda, Jeanne, Jean, Rose (friend of Gloria), Roy, and Luci (aunt of Barbara).*

The Diocese of Washington cycle of prayer: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; Chapel of the Annunciation, Church House;

The Annunciation (March 25).

The Anglican Communion cycle of prayer: Pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; The Most Revd Paul Kwong - Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island. To learn more about the church, and its prayer concerns, read the [Anglican Communion New Service's blog post](#).

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 



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