



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 25

April 2021



Dear Friends,

I saw an ad about Holy Week from another church that said, “A lot can happen in a week.” How true it is. This is the week where we walk with Jesus from triumph to tragedy and back to triumph again. This is the week where Jesus feels the full range of human emotions, all the warmth and love of human companionship, the hurt of betrayal, the physical pain of unfathomable torture, and the divine joy of resurrected life. Our church gives us the opportunity to join Jesus this week through remembering, praying, and hearing the stories that form us as God’s beloved people. I look forward to sharing this sacred and holy week with you, at one or all of the following services, all on Zoom.

Faithfully yours, -*Mary Anne*

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7639094733?pwd=WkR1ZHBNYTNKWmJqM2NvTkRjZ09hdz09>

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Drive through the church driveway to pick up blessed palms for Palm Sunday.

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist via Zoom - Bring your palms!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 6:30 p.m.

Liturgy for Maundy Thursday, Agape meal and Stripping of the altar

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 9:00 a.m.

Festival Holy Eucharist (spiritual communion)

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service via Zoom
March 28 Palm Sunday
April 4 EASTER

Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.,
Maundy Thursday Agape meal
via Zoom

Friday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.,
Good Friday Service via Zoom
Sunday, April 11, 8:00 a.m. -
noon, Junk in the Trunk
Wednesday, April 21, 7:00
p.m., *Caste* Book Study
Wednesday, April 28, 7:00
p.m., *Caste* Book Study

*(Zoom connection information
at end of newsletter.)*

Junk in the Trunk

We had so much fun last year, we're holding more Junk in the Trunk sales this season on the second Sunday from April through October, from 8:00 a.m. - noon (April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10). We'll be renting parking spaces in our lot for those wishing to sell tag sale type items. Parking spaces are \$20 for two or \$30 for three spaces for tents and sellers can enter at 7:00 a.m. Admission is free for shoppers. Masks must be worn and social distancing must be maintained. You may make your reservations by calling our office at 203 467-2310 or emailing Diane Villano at diane_v_spcpg@yahoo.com.

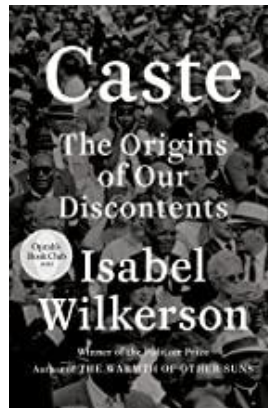
I'd like to thank parishioners in advance for their flexibility in possibly having to locate alternate parking spaces in the case of a "full house" of vendors.

Thrift Store Season Clothing Change

It is time to switch the Thrift Store clothing from winter to summer. Any and all help will be gratefully appreciated. We will meet at the Thrift Store on **Wed April 7** from 10:00 a.m. to noon and again on **Fri April 9** from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This year we are eagerly looking forward to our new storage room hangers so we can more easily shift the clothing but it will still be a big job. Do come and join us if you can.

April Book Study

As part of our ongoing work with Racial Justice, Healing and Reconciliation, Rev. Mary Anne will be leading an online study of the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson.



The study will take place via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. starting April 21 using the Sunday service Zoom link. (see *Zoom information at end of newsletter*).

The book was in Oprah's Book Club and is widely available but if getting a copy of the book is a financial hardship for

you please reach out to Rev. Mary Anne at the email priest.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com or call the church office at 203-467-2310.

For the first meeting we will discuss the first 32 pages of the book.



April 5 - Fred Herzman
April 16 - Brady Reynolds
April 28 - Kathy Dougherty

Returning To In-Person Worship Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

While we are definitely seeing light at the end of the tunnel of this horrible COVID-19 virus, we are not there yet, as we keep hearing from the CDC and other officials. I know that we all miss being together physically, even though Zoom has brought us closer in unexpected ways that we do not want to lose. For now, we will continue to follow the pastoral direction of our bishops, which is to refrain from in-person worship while we are in a red zone according to the CT State COVID data tracker (link here: <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-data-tracker>).

Our worship committee has tentatively planned the date of Pentecost, May 23rd for returning to the church for in-person worship. However, we will continue to include all of

our church family, as we have on Zoom. Therefore, our worship will be what we call "hybrid," a mixture of Zoom and in person. Anyone who chooses can still be present over Zoom and see and hear all of the service, and anyone who chooses can be in the sanctuary. We are currently working on the technical aspects of this to make it possible.

Meanwhile, we are blessed by the opportunities of the sometimes-frustrating technology that Zoom brings us to gather and worship God as one people. Thanks be to God!



April 18 - Fred & Judy Herzman
April 27 - Leland & Madeline Hubbard

March Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, April 18th via Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Worship - Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter will all be Zoom only, which is what ECCT recommends while we are still in the COVID-19 red zone. The Vestry felt it was important not to further segregate our small congregation so Zoom only services will continue until we can do full in-person hybrid services. Susan, Wendy and Rev. Mary Anne continue

to work on hybrid service logistics.

ECCT COVID-19 Protocols:
<https://files.constantcontact.com/b23ccc17be/8077eb0e-1685-4b4b-85c6-2a7d19c96055.pdf>

Building & Grounds - The kitchen floor is finished being cleaned and is now in the process of getting waxed. (Thank you Astrid!) The Gas company moved the meter from the sump room to outside the church. Lastly, we are still waiting on some contract proposals for some exterior building painting.

Communications - The popular Junk in the Trunk events will restart in April on the second Sunday of each month.

Bishop Visit - A donation of \$200 will be made to the Bishop's discretionary fund. Also an edible arrangement will be sent to Bishop Ian Douglas.

Spring Training - All Vestry members are encouraged to sign up for one (or two!) virtual ECCT Spring Training events. This info will also be sent to all parishioners.

Vaccine Reminder

Remember that if you need any help signing up for the vaccine or getting to an appointment please reach out to Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or via email at christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. We have volunteers ready and want to help you get your vaccine!

Around the Church

Palm Sunday Altar



Easter Altar



Bishop Ian Douglas



Vestry Meets with Bishop Ian





Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT)

SPRING TRAINING

This year ECCT's annual "Spring Training" set of workshops will all be held virtually on Zoom between Tuesday April 6 and Saturday April 17. All 90 minute workshops are free and open to all parishioners. We strongly encourage you to see if any of these discussions speak to you.

There is no limit to the number of workshops you may register for (but you must register for each one individually). Registration for each workshop will close 24 hours prior to the workshop or when it reaches capacity, whichever comes first.

As ECCT says - Gather with Episcopalians from across Connecticut for learning, prayer and fellowship. All are welcome - from people in the pews and vestry members to parish leaders and staff. The closing session will take place on Saturday, April 17, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Even if you aren't able to attend any of the workshops, join us for this program, "Parish Life After COVID: Psychological and theological reflections as we gather in new ways."

Some workshops are:

- Spiritual Practices & Spiritual Direction: Why It's Important and Why It's for Me
- Morning Prayer 101
- Effective Leadership in Challenging Times
- Vestry 101: What is a vestry/what does it do?

- Vestry 201: Business Practices

Click here for the full list of workshops and registration: <https://www.episcopalct.org/spring-training/>



Yale Divinity Summer School

Diane Villano

Summer Study 2021 will take place June 7-11 in an online format. We will continue to offer a small, but high-quality program of varied seminars by renowned faculty. Courses will meet Monday - Friday, either 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. -4:00 p.m. via Zoom. All courses are capped at 19 participants unless otherwise noted in the course description. The fee for each one-week course is \$375, with a discount if you register for two courses.

I've enrolled in *Act of the Apostles* and *The Bible in Art and Artifact*. This is my third year attending. If you have any questions, please let me know.



Education for Ministry Diane Villano

This is the enrollment period for registering for the next academic year for this four-year program which focuses on discovering your unique ministry and deepening your faith. Efm groups are still mostly online, and I'm currently attending a New Jersey-based group with

members from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Georgia. The flexibility of this program allows you to stay with the same group for all years or transition to another. Full details are available at: Education for Ministry - Home (sewanee.edu).



Season of Racial Healing, and Reconciliation

When we discuss racism, we often think about things that cause a disadvantage to people of color. But there are also unearned advantages that are assumed for white people which also create an unequal playing field. This is what is meant by "white privilege" - something a white person you can take for granted without even realizing it.

Here is a wonderful article recommended by Bishop Douglas that talks about what white privilege is - *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Backpack* by Peggy McIntosh.

<https://uucsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/White-Privilege-Unpacking-the-Invisible-Knapsack.pdf>

As we believe that all people are created in God's image, so should we strive to be part of a fair and equitable world for all. Educating ourselves to the ways that the world or we ourselves are unfair and have unearned advantages or implicit biases is crucial work to improve the world we live in. We encourage you to take a moment to read this article.

Bishop Visit Recap

We had a lovely service with Bishop Ian Douglas on Sunday March 21. His sermon on "Covenant" is available on our YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3PMvGt7kl4&t=11s>

He was also very grateful for the "coffee hour" Edible Arrangement we sent him (which no other parish has done!).

The Vestry also had a great discussion with him after the service on the topic of racism and white supremacy and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from the Birmingham Jail". Click here to hear Rev. King read his letter: <http://okra.stanford.edu/transcription/audio/630416001.mp3>

Easter Pandemic Reflection

Tony Lamberti

It seems like a lifetime that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of our lives. In my opinion the saddest of all of the hardships we have faced is the closure of our churches during the most highest of holidays - both Christmas, the birth of our lord Jesus Christ, and the resurrection of Jesus in the celebration of Easter. It seems years away since we last sat in the pews, listened to the priest preach a sermon, and received the blessed sacrament of communion instead of participating from a phone or computer screen.

Fast forward to Easter 2021... Some churches are beginning to open and with ongoing vaccinations and warmer weather there is the hope of new found Joy and Peace and a slow but steady return to ordinary life.

We must pray for our family, friends, and neighbors that were so sadly taken away from us as a direct result of this tragic pandemic. As we get ready to celebrate Easter, practice being kind, pray each day that we all can see the light at the end of this tunnel, and hopefully get back to some sort of normalcy in our daily lives. Jesus wants us to take some time to renew our faith during the next few weeks leading up to Easter and think about all the hardships he endured during his lifetime.

Have a Holy and Blessed Easter!



Next issue

The deadline for the May issue is **April 21**. Email newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.

Intercessory Prayers

Andrew, Barbara R., Brandon, Barbuschak Family, Bill Hodge, Carol Ude, Clearwater Family, Courtney, David, David C., David Coulombe, David & Edward, David & Irene, Devin K., Diane, Diane Link, Dot Tate, Doug, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Eleanor N., Faith, Father Eddie, Fran Zella, Francesca, Frank P., Frank, Fred & Judy Herzman, Gale, Geneva, Goodfellow Family, Greg T., Heather, Holly & Family, Ian, J.D., Jack K., Jen & Tyler W., Jeremy Maldonado, Jessica & baby Olive Estelle, Jesse, Jim C., Jim R. & Family, Joe Riccitelli, John A., John M., John U., John & Vera DePalma, Joseph, Judy DeFeo, Julia, June W., Karen Dattilo & Family, Karl, Kathrine Burdick, Kate W., Katrina R., Ken, Kristina Langlan, Leah S., Lila Day, Lisa H., Lois, Lucas Sundwall, Madeline, Mark Conti, Marjorie Cowles, Marty, Matt, Matt R., Melissa D., Michael, Michelle C., Mitzi Parisi, Nancy S., Patty R., Rachael, Ray C., Ron C., Sallie Alexander, Shari, Stan R., Turiano Family, Wendy, Zach Schatz

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

Parishioner Spotlight - Hal Levi

Editors note: The answers to the spotlight questions are exactly as Hal provided them. Enjoy!

Tell us about you and your family

I have two daughters named Lendme and Giveme (Debbie and Diane). My pets are a tiger and giraffe (I don't keep them in my house anymore. The giraffe put a hole thru my roof!).

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

My car.

In what ways do you serve your church family or community?

I serve the church by stealing from the rich and giving to Hal Levi.

What is your occupation?

My occupation is, I'm an environmental engineer (I clean bird poop out of cuckoo clocks!)

What's your favorite pastime?

My pastime is in the past and at this time I don't remember.

What brightens your day?

The sun! And when the mailman delivers no bills!

What's one thing about you that no one knows?

One detail no one knows about me is (and don't tell my children), I was once a female. But I had to change because my bra gave me an infection - braitis of the chestitis.

What is your fondest childhood memory?

The excitement when I graduated from elementary school at the age of 24.

Do you have any favorite psalms, Bible passages, or inspirational sources?

My favorite psalm is, Don't do to others if the others don't do what we did if we didn't do it 'cause the didn'ts caused the do's to begin with!

Would you please provide a recent photo of yourself?

I'll have to get my photo off the post office wall...



Stay Safe Online Too!

We have learned of some recent attempts made by scammers to solicit information, including church directories, from parishioners and parishes. Scammers use email or text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information by making the message appear as though it is from someone you know and trust. Here are some tips to help you stay safe online.

1. Remember that Rev. Mary Anne will **NEVER** ask for money via email. Her only financial requests may be mailed letters about normal pledging.
2. Don't click on links that might be suspicious.
3. Verify, using a method other than email, if a request for information is legitimate.
4. Never send money or personal information (names, addresses, social security numbers, etc.) without confirmation.

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	FEB	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$3,047.72	(\$1,889.78)	\$8,723.99	(\$3,781.01)
EXPENSES	\$13,548.83	\$2,576.80	\$17,595.47	(\$2,025.18)
NET	(\$10,501.11)	\$4,466.58	(\$8,871.48)	\$1,755.83

Notes: Income is down primarily due to a late February deposit being made in March and some pledgers still gearing up for 2021. Expenses were over budget due to some late January bill payments. Year-to-date is closer to our actuals. Overall we still expect to be fairly on track in March.

Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m. via Zoom)

	<u>April 4</u>	<u>April 11</u>	<u>April 18</u>	<u>April 25</u>
Lay Reader	Richard Mead	Ray Clearwater	George Coulombe	Diane Villano
Voice of the People	Barbara Parsons	Susan Shultz	Carol Link-Ude	Audrey Sundwall
Officiant	n/a	Wendy Bellmore	n/a	n/a

Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7639094733?pwd=WkR1ZHBNYTNKWmJqM2NvTkRjZ09hdz09>

To join by phone call:

929-436-2866

Meeting ID = 763 909 4733

Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Past sermons are available on the *Christ and The Epiphany* YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkGs9WC8ug7syl9n0kHkRaA>.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin please contact Diane in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or sbshultz@gmail.com.