



Trinity Episcopal Church

The Messenger

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

By the Vestry

Because the Covid-19 pandemic was an unforeseen event that dramatically impacted the worship services at Trinity, the vestry would like to thank all who worked diligently to maintain and restore the church's operations. When the cessation of in-house worship services was imposed, all of a sudden everything that was normal had turned upside down and required everyone to redirect their lives in unusual ways. The church has been in existence for over 135 years and has served the congregation and the community all that time. It was a staggering blow that all services were discontinued at the church and people were shut out.

Despite the pandemic, it was always the intent to continue worship service at Trinity in some form; so the YouTube format was quickly adopted for the Sunday service and the Zoom format was used for other services. The manner in which the services were created had to be designed from scratch, never knowing if, and when, there would be an opportunity to return to "normalcy".

After the shut-down, there was an empty building with no attendees. There was no sound inside. There were no participants. There was deafening silence. There was stillness. There was quietness. There was emptiness. The lights were turned out. The pews were empty and were stripped of the prayer books and hymnals. The church was absent of humanity and it was as if the sanctuary had died.

A new worship routine had to be adopted originating outside of the church until restrictions were lifted and in-house worship was allowed to return. When worship was allowed to return to the church, it was gradual and measured. There were numerous things that had to be done to restore the in-house worship services to the pre-pandemic routine. But luckily there were many volunteers who assisted in getting the church back in shape to make worship possible.

At first, when worship service could be conducted from inside the church, the use of the church was limited. The initial service was Holy Eucharist which subsequently grew with the addition of organ music, a soloist, readers and acolytes to assist. Services were streamed via YouTube and Zoom.

In order for things to fall into place and work properly, volunteers eagerly pitched in to make sure things were done correctly. Volunteers were a vital part of maintaining the worship experience for the congregation. Weeks went by before parishioners were allowed to enter the church for in-house worship.

Initially, Fr. Paul and his wife Cheryl were responsible for streaming the services, but he gradually added volunteers who were critical in keeping the church services streaming. The parishioners were unaware of all of the work that was being done behind the scenes by those volunteers because they did it without demanding recognition for their work.

The fact that the church is now able to hold Sunday worship services did not happen in a vacuum and it did not happen by accident. Real live people diligently stepped up and made a big contribution by devoting their time, their talent and their treasure to bring life to the church and into the viewers' homes.

The vestry recognizes the extraordinary efforts that these individuals put in to make the worship service what it is today and would like to thank and recognize them for the extra effort that they did to make the worship service meaningful again. In order to do that the vestry decided that a special worship service was needed to show support and appreciation. The special Thank You service will be held on Sunday, July 25, 2021, followed by an ice cream social. Please show your appreciation by attending the Thank You worship service and, following the service, thanking the volunteers in person.

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My twin sister and I were the youngest of six children, born into a Roman Catholic, working-class family from Maine. A brutal winter convinced my parents to move to California with the three older siblings. My dad worked at Kaiser Steel for 25 years and we grew up in the sleepy college town of La Verne, in eastern Los Angeles County.

I met my first husband, Mark, through mutual friends, while attending community college. Mark and I married and two years later our son, Matt, was born. Mark and I were married for eight years before ending our marriage.

Upon leaving my childhood home, I stopped going to church, but during this time I never stopped believing in God. The birth of my son was the first time when I felt the hand of God directly in my life. I then realized that God has a calling for everyone and I was being called to something.

Eventually, I moved to the High Desert and found employment at Costco Wholesale where I worked for seventeen years. I was a part-time cake decorator and worked my way up to Bakery Manager.

I met Mark, my current husband (yes, both my husbands were/are named Mark) in 1994, married in 1996, and we eventually relocated to our current home in Apple Valley. After a time, I decided that I wanted to go back to church and found St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

in 2006. Upon walking into the church, I felt at home. Here was a church with tradition, rituals, and hymns that were similar to those of my upbringing but was so much more welcoming than any church experience I had ever encountered. I immediately knew I wanted to join The Episcopal Church.

I was part of many ministries during my years at St. Tim's, with two of those years serving as the Senior Warden through a transition period. It was during this time that I discerned a calling to the priesthood. I had earned an Associate of Arts degree in 2003 and return to school at California State University at San Bernardino. I graduated in June 2015, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and a concentration in Human Communications. I earned a Master of Divinity degree from Claremont School of Theology and graduated from Bloy House Seminary in 2020. I was ordained to the Holy Order of Deacons in June 2020, and the Holy Order of Priests in January 2021.

I am thrilled to be starting my ministry at Trinity Episcopal Church in beautiful Redlands. I look forward to falling in love with the good people of Trinity, serving your needs the best I can, and journeying with you as we grow in our relationships with God. ✠

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Do you remember March of 2020? Some of it is fuzzy for me. It wasn't March so much as it was February. I remember hearing and reading about this new virus that started in China that was tremendously virulent. It was so bad that it was putting people in the hospital almost as soon as they had symptoms. I was a little scared about it but I knew that it was on mainland China and it wouldn't make it over here to the U.S.

It was close to March that we heard about the first cases here on United States soil. They were up north, as I recall, in Washington State. How could we get this virus? We now had a name for it, the Coronavirus, AKA Covid-19. It we could name it; we could defeat it. About the second week of March, I remember that we were starting to hear that the world was facing a pandemic not unlike the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. We lost over 25 million people to the Spanish Flu. People started to get scared, and we were told that there would be limits on what we could do as a people.

It was March 15 that we held our last service at Trinity that year. It was Lent 3. Thomas Melton set his iPhone up to live stream the service on YouTube. We were thinking that we had some time to figure out how we would do this before we couldn't be together as a worshiping community. But we didn't. That week the bishop along with our government, told us that we had to shelter in place. We had to close the doors of the church. We had to quickly come up with a plan to continue worship online and the means to execute it.

Sunday, March 22, Thomas came to our house. Cheryl and I met him outside with social distancing and masks. He set up his laptop and I had set the liturgy. I had to figure out how to get the information to everyone quickly that we would be holding services online. Fortunately, the week prior I was able to get a few things done on our computer systems at the church so that Cheryl Desloge and I could work from home. I set up remote access to Cheryl's computer and told her how to get to it from home. I also set up our phone systems to ring our cell-phones. Cheryl has been monitoring mail and the calls from home 24/7 since then.

Since we had the access, we could get to the e-Blast that we send out weekly. This e-Blast would be one of the most important since we couldn't get to our office to write letters and we couldn't get to the post office to deliver them if we could. We set up a regular email that went out

twice a week to keep everyone informed about what was happening at the church. Our services would be live streamed through YouTube, just as we did on March 15th.

Back to that Sunday, March the 22nd: Thomas and I held our first off campus Morning Prayer service with my wife Cheryl as our first lector. The liturgy and the pdf of the service were posted on our website. The next service we held online was our healing service on March 25. While I don't have the video of our first service, I do of that one. We had 91 people join or watch that healing service. The next Sunday we had 140 computers joining or viewing the service. I say computers because we don't know how many people were watching with their families.

Since then, we have been continuing to stream our worship services through YouTube and posting our liturgies for the services on our website. At the beginning of all this we had no clue how we would be able to continue worship without being together as a community. The bishop told the congregations of the Diocese that if we were to hold online worship, be prepared to continue to do so after the pandemic.

We have had to learn to do this while presenting worship online. The first challenge was just figuring out what we needed to get this done. The second challenge came when YouTube changed it's software and we had to as well. Through these challenges, we have been able to bring better video and sound to our viewers. We have been able to expand what we do to include music and our soloist. While there is still much to do and opportunities for improvement, over all we have been able to provide a worship experience to people locally and from Hawaii to Juneau and to Cape Cod. ✂

Thank You

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The vestry also recognizes that each and every parishioner who supported the church during the lockdown should also be thanked for showing their support by submitting their pledge and by tuning into Zoom and YouTube to listen to the services that were being streamed. It is not an accident that the church is able to reopen and begin in-house worship again. It is because of the extraordinary devotion that the congregation and

EVENTS AT TRINITY

Jul 7	9:30AM	Bereavement Group, Library
	9:00AM	YouthHope, Lounge
	6:00PM	AA, Lounge
Jul 12	6:00PM	TEPS Board Meeting, Lounge
Jul 13	6:00PM	Boy Scouts
Jul 18	9:00AM	Sunday Service
	9:00AM	Sunday School, Lounge
Jul 19	6:00PM	Vestry
Jul 20	6:00PM	Boy Scouts
Jul 25	9:00AM	Thank You Eucharist, Church
Jul 27	6:00PM	Boy Scouts
Jul 28	9:30AM	Bereavement Group, Lounge
Aug 1	9:00AM	Sunday Service
	9:00AM	School, Lounge
Aug 3	6:00PM	Boy Scouts
Aug 4	9:00AM	YouthHope, Lounge
Aug 10	6:00PM	Boy Scouts
Aug 11	9:30PM	Bereavement Group, Lounge
Aug 12	6:00PM	Boy Scouts Roundhouse, Lounge-Rm12

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday

9:00 AM Choral Eucharist

Monday

6:00 PM Centering Prayer
in the Church

Wednesday

11:00 AM Healing Service
with Eucharist
in the Church

4:00 PM Bible Study
on Zoom

Friday

Sabbath at Trinity
we are Closed

Monday—Saturday

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
on Zoom

5:00 PM Evening Prayer
on Zoom

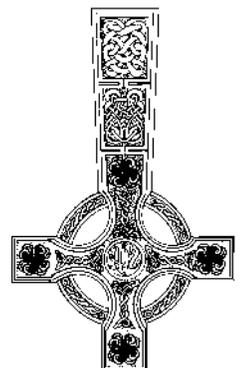
*“To bear witness of God’s reconciling love, to proclaim by word and example
the Good News of God in Christ, and to seek and serve Christ in all persons.”*

Trinity’s Mission Statement

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