



Christ Church
Sixth and Main Streets
Clarksburg, WV

The Good News Weekly

Christ Episcopal Church ~ St. Barnabas Chapel

January 17, 2021



St. Barnabas Chapel
721 Hall Street
Bridgeport, WV

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www.stbarnabaschapel.com

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Upcoming Events

Book Discussions

The Noticer, by Andy Andrews

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom

January 20 and 27

February 3, 10 and 24

March 3 and 10



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81664729648?pwd=S3dLNG9VZFRQai8yY3VhK09JL1dOZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 6472 9648

Passcode: 011821

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,81664729648#,,,,*011821# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81664729648#,,,,*011821# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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Ash Wednesday

February 17

Noonday Office Prayers with the Diocese of WV

Daily at 12:00 noon can be found on **Facebook Live**

at: <https://www.facebook.com/EpisDioWV/>

Compline with the Diocese of WV

Daily at 7:00 PM can be found on **Facebook Live**

at: <https://www.facebook.com/EpisDioWV/>

Prayers for Our Nation

In the two weeks leading up to the presidential inauguration on January 20, the Washington National Cathedral, together with interfaith and ecumenical colleagues, will offer prayers for our nation each day at 5:00 PM. They are inviting us to spend five minutes each day in prayer for safety, solace, and national unity.

This Week at Christ Church, Clarksburg and St. Barnabas Chapel, Bridgeport

Sunday, January 17, 2021

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Zoom Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/5245181878>

Meeting ID: 524 518 1878

Another option is to dial in: (646) 558-8656

No reservation needed for Zoom.

When we return to in-person services reservations are required.

Email Christ Church at: christchurch1853@aol.com

Give the following information: Your name and total number of family members planning to attend.

(Your reservation will be confirmed by a return email.)

Or phone in your reservation to the Church office at 304-622-3694, if necessary please leave a message.

(Your reservation will be confirmed by a return call.)

Reservations must be made by Friday morning.

If unable to keep a reservation, please cancel.

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Sunday, January 17, 2021

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Zoom Evening Prayer at 5:30 PM

Join Zoom by clicking on this link

<https://zoom.us/j/5245181878>

Meeting ID: 524 518 1878

Another option is to dial in: (646) 558-8656

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Backpack Schedule

Pack backpacks after church on January 17

Deliver backpacks January 21 Beth Sickles

Food to the church by January 21 Beth Sickles

Pack backpacks after church on January 24

Deliver backpacks January 28Beth Sickles

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**. . . to know, live, and share
The Good News Story of Jesus Christ.**

Presiding Bishop Curry's Word to the Church:

Who shall we be?

January 8, 2021

And now in the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

In another time of national crisis, another time of danger for our nation, in 1865 on March the fourth, Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with these words: *With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.*

Lincoln knew in that moment, in the moment of a national crisis, a moment of great danger, that such a moment was a moment of decision, when a nation, when a people must decide who shall we be? What kind of nation, what kind of people shall we be? A hundred years later, Martin Luther King faced the same reality. Who shall we be? The civil rights movement was waning. The great victories that had been won had been won. And yet now questions of poverty and economic despair and disparities raised an awesome specter on the nation. We were at war.

We were at war in another country, but there was war on our streets. The nation was deeply divided. Cities burned. There were riots. Riots at national conventions of political parties. The future of the nation was in question, and it was at that time that Dr. King realized that in moments of danger, a decision must be made. And he titled his last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. I believe as he believed, as Abraham Lincoln believed, as I believe you believe, that we must choose community. Chaos is not an option. Community is our only hope.

The truth is Dr. King spoke often of all that he did and labored for was for the purpose of realizing as much of the Beloved Community of God as it is possible on this earth. He spoke of Beloved Community, the Bible, the New Testament, Jesus spoke of the kingdom or the reign of God. Jesus taught us to pray, and to work, and to labor for that Beloved Community, that reign of God's love in our time and in our world, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth just as it is in heaven. Those are our marching orders from Jesus himself.

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The Good Book Club

Begin 2021 with the Gospel of Mark! The Good Book Club returns to read the earliest and shortest of the four gospels, starting Friday, January 1, 2021, through Shrove Tuesday, February 16.

Mark opens with words from the prophet Isaiah: "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you," and indeed the gospel itself serves as a messenger for the life and ministry of Jesus. Written around 65-75 CE, Mark proclaims the good news that Jesus is the messiah and Son of God.

We're excited for this journey through Mark. Make plans now to join Forward Movement and partner organizations from across the Episcopal Church to encounter the risen Lord through the Gospel of Mark. [Sign up to receive updates](#) on the Gospel of Mark. View and download [the readings](#).

Prayer for Bishop Coadjutor Search

Almighty God, you have created each person with many and varied gifts and joined our lives together as members of the Diocese of West Virginia. Look graciously upon us as we search for our eighth Bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Give us minds to discern your will, courage to follow where you lead, and hearts to love as you command, to the glory of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

E-Giving to Churches Without Fees

Parishioners are encouraged to use e-giving at: <http://www.wvdiocese.org/pages/aa-egiving.html>
Just scroll down and click on the donate button located by Bridgeport-St. Barnabas or Clarksburg – Christ Church.

**Checks can also be mailed directly to
Christ Episcopal Church
PO Box 1492, Clarksburg, WV 26302**

January Prayer

"O God of liberty and justice: we live in a nation in which the institution of human bondage was once a legal and accepted practice. We give thanks for those who worked and fought, at great personal sacrifice, to bring about an end to that cruel and oppressive system in our own land, and we pray that governments and authorities everywhere in the world might be led to make a quick end to the enslavement of any human being, throughout the Earth." **Amen**

I am a follower of Jesus of Nazareth because I believe that his way of love and his way of life is the way of life for us all. I believe that unselfish, sacrificial love, love that seeks the good and the welfare and the well-being of others, as well as the self, that this is the way that can lead us and guide us to do what is just, to do what is right, to do what is merciful. It is the way that can lead us beyond the chaos to community.

Now, I know full well that this may to some sound naive, to others, idealistic, and I understand that. And yet, I want to submit that the way of love that leads to beloved community is the only way of hope for humanity. Consider the alternative. The alternative is chaos, not community. The alternative is the abyss of anarchy, of chaos, of hatred, of bigotry, of violence, and that alternative is unthinkable. We have seen nightmarish visions of that alternative. We saw it in Charlottesville just a few years ago when neo-Nazis marched through the streets of an American city, chanting, "Jews will not replace us." That alternative is unthinkable. We saw it in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where a public safety officer knelt with his knee on the neck of another human being. A child of God, just like he was, and snuffed out the breath of life that God gave him. The alternative is unthinkable.

And we have seen it this past Wednesday, when a monument to democracy, the Capitol of the United States of America was desecrated and violated with violence by vandals. Lives were lost. A nation was wounded. Democracy itself was threatened. My brothers and sisters, this way of love that Jesus taught us when he said, "Love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself." This way of love that Moses taught even before Jesus. This way of unselfish, sacrificial love, it is the way to redeem a nation, to save a world. It is the way of hope for us all. But do not make the mistake of thinking that I speak of a sentimental and emotional love.

Jesus spoke of love most consistently the closer he got to the cross. This way of love is the way of sacrifice, the way of unselfishness, the way of selflessness, that seeks the good of the other as well as the self. And that is the way of the cross, which is the way of life. And if you don't believe me, ask another apostle of love. Not Dr. King, not Abraham Lincoln, ask Archbishop Tutu. Ask one who has given his life for the cause of God's love in the way of Jesus. Ask him; ask Nelson Mandela in your mind. Ask them what love looks like. They knew that the way of love was the only way that could guide South Africa from what could have become a bloody nightmare and civil war to the way that could build a nation.

And it was not sentimental. Remember truth and reconciliation. They had to face painful truths. They had to do what was just and what was merciful. They had to do what the prophet Micah said, that the motivation and the guide was love. Archbishop Tutu said this: Love, forgiving, and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved ones is not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back or turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness of the abuse, the hurt, the truth. It could even sometimes make things worse for a while. It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring forth real healing. Superficial reconciliation only brings superficial healing.

This is the way of love that can heal our hurts, that can heal our land, that can help us to become one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. So, I would ask you to do two things. I'm asking you to make a commitment, a renewed commitment, to live the way of love as Jesus has taught us and to do it by making a commitment to go out and bless somebody. Bless somebody you disagree with. Bless somebody you agree with. But to go out and bless somebody by helping somebody along the way. Go out and bless somebody by listening to their story and their life. To go out and be an instrument of God's peace, an agent of God's love.

And then I would ask you to pray. Pray for this nation but pray with some specificity. Pray that we may have the wisdom and the courage to love.

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy pow'r.
Crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour

- Harry Emerson Fosdick, God of Grace and God of Glory

With malice toward none, with charity toward all. With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. Let us strive to finish the work, the work that we are in. To bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan. To do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.