

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



“Christ shows himself to Thomas” by Rowan and Irene LeCompte

The Second Sunday of Easter

Rite I Holy Eucharist

April 7, 2024 at 8 AM

The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider

Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music

Casey Woodruff, Senior Warden & Thomas Kaercher, Junior Warden

*The Easter flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of all those we love but see no longer*

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

The bell is rung and the People stand.

Acclamation

BCP 323

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Presider There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Presider Let us pray.

People **Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyrie

BCP 324

Presider Kyrie eleison.

People **Christe eleison.**

Presider Kyrie eleison.

**Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in the Paschal mystery hast established
the new covenant of reconciliation:
Grant that all who have been reborn
into the fellowship of Christ's Body
may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

First Reading

Acts 4:32-35

Reader A reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133

Ecce, quam bonum!

BCP 620

1. Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
2. It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
3. Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
4. It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
5. For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1—2:2

Reader A reading from the First letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us —

we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Homily

Andrew Kruger

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

The people stand and the Presider moves to the Font.

Friends in Christ, Baptism is not the rite of a moment but the commitment of a lifetime. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with our Lord. Therefore let us reaffirm our Baptismal Vows together with all those who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this month.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread,
and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and
return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as your self?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of
every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Blessing the Water

Celebrating Common Prayer

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord:

People **God is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

The Presider pours water into the Font.

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be glory and praise for ever! You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph. Accept our sacrifice of praise, we pray, and sanctify these waters of your new creation, that we, with all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit, may be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **Blessèd be God for ever.**

The Presider sprinkles the people with the aspergillum.

Prayers of the People

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Sally our Bishop, and Andrew our Priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Joseph, our President, Philip, our governor, and Brian, the mayor of this town, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [*especially...*], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 331

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The People kneel.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Absolution

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Comfortable Words

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden,
and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that
believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

Peace

BCP 332

The People stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Offertory Sentence

BCP 344

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory,
and the victory, and the majesty.

For all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine.

Thine is the kingdom, O Lord,
and thou art exalted as head above all. *1 Chronicles 29:11*



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the People.
Alternatively, you may give to Trinity online:
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

The Presentation of Gifts

1 Chronicles 29:14b

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord:

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The People remain standing.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread;
and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body,
which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, saying,
"Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant,
which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with
these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath
commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious
death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming
again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy
Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they
may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our
souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy
Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son
Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that
we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in
us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor
and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

BCP 337

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed, then the Presider says

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table,
O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs
under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord
whose property is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.**

Invitation

BCP 338

Presider The Gifts of God:
People **For the People of God.**

Holy Communion

The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All who hunger for God, including children, are cordially invited to share the Gifts of God offered at this table. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. You may choose to receive only the host at this time. Gluten-free wafers are available by simple request to the priest.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

Presider Let us pray.

The People stand, and all pray together

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Blessing

BCP 339

And now may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The ministers recess.

Presider Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**



For Friends, Visitors and Newcomers

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey. Thank you for joining us in worship. The bulletin is designed to make you feel at home and includes everything you need for the service (liturgy, hymns, rubrics, etc.). Please connect with us; introduce yourself to the ushers so they can make you feel more comfortable. Father Andy is in the narthex (entrance) at the end of the service; it is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level. All are invited to Fellowship Hour in Sherlock Hall immediately after the service. An email blast is sent every Thursday by 2 PM with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information on events, etc. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

Lectionary & Liturgy

On this Sunday of Easter, we always have as the central reading the account of Jesus' appearance to the Apostles on Easter Day and on the following Sunday. In that second appearance, Thomas, who had not been with them the first time, comes to believe in the Lord's resurrection and acclaims Jesus as Lord and God.

The first reading on every Sunday in Eastertide is from the Acts of the Apostles. This book about the life of the early Church as it lived in the joy of the Lord's resurrection tells us of the character of the early Christians' corporate life.

This year the second reading comes from the First Epistle of John. This brief epistle is thought to have been written in the last decade of the first century in the author's old age. In it he reminds his people of the primary characteristic of our Lord, his self-giving love. Our life in the risen Christ is to live out that love for one another. John reminds us that our salvation came by means of Jesus' death and our baptism into his death.

Each Sunday of the Great Fifty Days is a time to explore the life we share in Jesus Christ dying and rising, a life which begins for each of us at our baptism and which is renewed in us each time we celebrate the Eucharist.

What you need to know today...

Fellowship Hour In Sherlock Hall, immediately after each service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided.

Sunday School Children (PreK-3 through Grade 4) gather in the church at the beginning of the 10 AM service. Children and teachers receive a blessing after the collect of the day, depart for class, then return in time for Holy Communion. Younger children, supervised by their parents, are welcome in the nursery section of the narthex.

Holy Communion Preparation Class Starts today, Sunday, April 7. After the blessing of the Sunday School, students should follow the teachers, Joyce Cielsak and Marion Nechuta. Depending on the day's lesson, students may return for communion or finish up in class.

Trinity Children's Choir Rehearsal today at 11:30 AM in the church.

Confirmation Class Cancelled today, Sunday, April 7; it will resume next month in May.

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle Both are individually available for personal attribution, to remember loved ones, to honor others, to celebrate lives. At the end of today's service, the congregation is invited to leave with the beautiful flowers that have adorned the sanctuary for the last week.

What you need to know this week...

Parish Office Hours Office Manager Marion Nechuta is available Tuesday (12 noon–2:30 PM), Wednesday (1 PM–3:30 PM) and Thursday (12 noon–2:30 PM). Please call before arriving; at other times she may still be contacted via parish email or phone.

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer Monday to Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM, respectively, online.

Trinity Women's Group would NORMALLY meet tomorrow, April 8 from 7 PM to 8 PM online, which is the second Monday of the month, but this month's meeting is cancelled due to Carol Beier being out of town.

TEDS Chapel Wednesday mornings from 10 AM to 10:30 AM in the church.

Trinity's Music Ministry This Wednesday, April 10 there is rehearsal for Handbell Choir (6:45–7:45 PM) and the Adult Choir (8–9 PM) in the church. Contact Music Director Anthony Rafaniello (anthonyrafaniello@gmail.com).

Women's Bible Study This Thursday from 10 AM to 11 AM online. Nancy Miller – 1988 magna cum laude graduate of the Theological School of Drew University – has been leading this dedicated group of women since the year 2000.

Thursday Compline This Thursday at 8 PM online.

12 Step Programs Trinity is host to 3 recovery groups: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Open Speaker Meeting every Tuesday night at 7 PM (since 1956); DAA (Drug Addicts Anonymous), Thursday nights at 8 PM; & AA Women's Open Step Meeting, Fridays at 12 noon.

What you need to know in the future...

April Fellowship Luncheon Thursday, April 18 from 12:30 to 2 PM in Witherington Hall. All parishioners are encouraged to attend; an \$8 donation is requested. Contact Susan Olszewski (908-757-9561) for questions or to sign up to bring food.

Bowl for Scholarships Thursday, April 18 from 6 PM to 8 PM at Jersey Lanes for \$20. Proceeds to benefit the Rev. Servio R. Moscoso Foundation which is dedicated to raising funds to help Hispanic high school seniors continue their education.. Contact the office manager, Marion Nechuta, to sign up and for more information.

Intergenerational Eucharist April 21 is the third Sunday of the month, and at the 10 AM service the younger baptized members of our parish remain in church rather than going to Sunday school and exercise their gifts by participating in various lay roles in the liturgy.

Sandwich Sunday In two weeks, April 21; contact Marion Nechuta (marionnechuta@yahoo.com or 908-451-4498) for more information. There are several ways to participate in this ministry (links to sign up are in the email blast):

- Sign up to supply food items for St. John's food pantry (please deliver to the parish by Saturday, April 20)
- Sign up to supply items needed for the bags and the sandwiches
- Saturday, April 20 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM – assemble food bags in Sherlock Hall
- Sunday, April 21 between services (9 AM-10 AM) and after the 10 AM service – assemble sandwiches
- Sunday, April 21 after Fellowship Hour – Transport the sandwiches and food packets to St John's

United Together Sunday, April 21 is the final day that Outreach is collecting for this organization which helps the people of Ukraine with humanitarian needs. The weekly email blast has the link to the list of items needed. Contact the parish office for more details.

Eucharistic Minister Training Sunday, April 21 after the 8 AM and 10 AM services for all current and aspirant LEM's.

Baptism on Pentecost Sunday, May 19 Baptismal candidates will be enrolled on Sunday, April 14. Contact the office for applications.

“Hymn Sing” ~ from the Music Director

For quite a while I wanted to host a hymn festival. I have enjoyed attending hymn festivals and hymn sings over the years and have experienced the joy in singing our favorite hymns together. Our hymnal is full of beautiful poetic texts and tunes in praise of and in prayer to God, and our Episcopal tradition prides itself on its rich tradition and treasury of hymnody. The Hymnal 1982 contains works that span the past two millennia and range from introspective and devotional, to vigorous and regal. This is an opportunity to explore them together in an Easter Hymn Festival on May 19 at 4 PM.

This is a fun musical event for everyone to participate in singing some of our favorite hymns and enjoy making music together. This is a fundraiser which benefits both Trinity Episcopal Church and the James Lenney Memorial Choral Scholarship, which is awarded to a Cranford High School senior each year. A beloved resident of Cranford, Jim Lenney was Trinity’s Choirmaster and Organist for 30 years, as well as the Choral Director at Cranford High School.

There are two ways to participate in the Easter Hymn Festival and donate:

- Beforehand, an entire hymn can be sponsored for the Easter Hymn Festival. Any hymn from the Hymnal 1982 can be requested at the cost of its hymn number. For example, hymn #460 (*Hyfrydol*) can be sponsored for \$460 and all verses will be sung, with a short improvisation at the introduction or conclusion. (Please choose only hymns from #174 onward, as this is an Easter Hymn Festival. It is far too early for Christmas Carols.) It is simple to sponsor an entire hymn, whether as an individual, a family, or a group of parishioners joining together. Please email the church office at trinitycranford@gmail.com. These sponsored selections will be due by Sunday, May 5.
- Admission to the Easter Hymn Festival is a suggested donation of \$15 and tickets will go on sale beginning Sunday, April 21. Each ticket will include a slip to request a hymn from the Hymnal 1982. These hymns will be pulled at random during the hymn festival. Whatever hymn is listed on the slip that is drawn will be sung. However, only the first and last verses of these hymns will be sung, so that we can get to as many of the hymns as time will allow.

A light reception will follow the hymn festival. This is going to be an enjoyable event for those who enjoy hymn singing, so invite your friends to join us. Again, to sponsor an entire hymn, please email the parish office. Contact me with questions or to assist with the hymn festival. I hope you will join the whole parish on May 19 at 4 PM, as we raise our voices together in song.

Anthony J. Rafaniello, Music Director

Easter 2024 ~ Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Hello to my beloved family in Christ. I want to take this opportunity, first of all, on behalf of my wife, Sharon, and our family, to thank you. To thank you for your prayers, to thank you for your well wishes, your expressions of support and kindness. We are equally thankful for the blessing of remarkable medical care and pastoral support. As you may know, I've been working a bit from home—at a reduced level, to be sure, but I'm gradually increasing that.

Prayer matters, and it makes a difference. Over the last several months, I have not known how this would all work out. But I've been very aware, and in some particular moments, consciously aware of being upheld in prayer by you. Without consciously deciding to do it, I actually found myself praying some words from Psalm 31, which says, "Into your hands, I commend my spirit." These words are part of a prayer that is Psalm 31 in the Hebrew scriptures. The late-night service of Compline uses that psalm as a prayer before going to sleep at night.

Luke's Gospel records Jesus praying these very words, that psalm, on the cross, when he had a sense of what lay before him, but could not know the outcome. He didn't know with any certainty if and how God would act. He didn't know, as the old preachers used to say, Good Friday's always happened, but Sunday's always coming. He didn't know with any certainty that resurrection would become real and not a mere metaphor.

But as he died into the unknown, he did one thing: He threw himself completely into the hands of God. "Father, into thy hands, I commend my spirit." And in that moment, after saying that, Luke's Gospel says, he breathed his last. And though he died, death did not have the last word, though he did die. He died into the hands of God and slipped out of the grip of death. And as we now know, on the third day he rose again, and he lives. As William Cowper said in a poem that later became a hymn, "God moves in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform, he plants his footstep in the sea and rides upon the storm."

So God love you. God bless you. May the God who rides upon our storms and raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead hold us all, the entire human family and all of God's grand and glorious creation in those almighty hands of love. Have a blessed Easter.

Cover art

"Christ shows himself to Thomas" by Irene LeCompte (1915-1970) & Rowan LeCompte (1925-2014), located in the Resurrection Chapel of the Washington National Cathedral. Inspired at age 13 by the poetry and radiance of stained glass, he went on to design and install more than 45 windows for that church. Rowan mastered and then advanced techniques that date back to the 12th century. From "Art in the Christian Tradition" – a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Baptismal Anniversaries

When we think about birthdays, we immediately recall the date we were born and took our first breath in this world. But if we take a moment to reflect, we will realize that we have another “birthday” of even greater significance: the day we became members of the body of Christ – our Baptismal birthday. Through the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit anoints us and sets our inner compass, to walk in a path that is pleasing to God, to do all good works that God has planned for us, and to “seek God’s face” [Psalm 27:8]. This is the path that ultimately leads us into abundant life both in this earthly existence, and in the world to come. Whether baptized as a child or an adult, we prayerfully grow in our understanding and appreciation of our baptismal identity, as individuals and as a community.

Usually, on the first Sunday of every month, we acknowledge those who have a baptismal “birthday” during the month in question and share in their renewal of baptismal vows. This monthly recognition of our “birth from above” [John 3:3] allows us to develop a deeper appreciation for the essence of our baptism. Parishioners celebrating their Baptismal Anniversaries in January:

Elizabeth Broccoli	April 24	Richard Gregory	April 25	Jennifer Gardner	April 6
Sarah Burnett	April 19	Andrew Kowalski	April 20	William Gardner	April 24
Mary Dowling	April 16	Henry DeVelde	April 11	Aurora Isiolas	April 25
Kate Florio	April 10	Dave Roberts	April 4	Celeste Isiolas	April 17
Mary Lack	April	Anna Lack	April	Savannah Williams	April 26
		Kathleen Murray	April 22		



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Connect to Online Services and Meetings: us04web.zoom.us/j/595488321

Meeting ID: 595 488 3214

Password: 1872

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