

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

VOL. XXXI, No. 27 A PARISH IN THE CLASSICAL ANGLICAN TRADITION JULY 2ND, 2020

FROM THE PARISH CLERGY

The Vestry debates how to handle the Corona Virus

The vestry met on June 17th – its first meeting since the Corona Virus restrictions were imposed in March this year. The item at the top of the agenda was the manner in which the church should reopen with the gradual lifting of the lock down.

Being Anglicans, there were at least two school of thought. One advocated an immediate return to normal. The other counsilled proceeding very much more cautiously.

In the end, the vestry decided the most considerate course for the elderly, and those most at risk from the virus, would be to proceed with caution.

It was pointed out that although infections appeared to be diminishing and the worst of the epidemic was believed to have passed, it still presented a serious threat to the elderly and those with underlying health issues.

Therefore in order to encourage those concerned about the possibility of infection to return to church the most kindly and considerate course would be for everybody when congregating in the Cadwalader Room and at the altar rail and to practice social distancing in the sanctuary.

It was also decided to that, while organ music would be permitted, there will be no singing in church until we receive an official go-ahead. Singing is believed to present a greater danger for the spread of the disease than speech as it expels a far greater volume of air from the lungs.

Our Sunday service schedule will resume (with or without singing) at 8.00 AM, 9.15 AM and 11.00 AM. We will celebrate the Eucharist at the first two services and resume the Morning Office at 11.00 AM. In view of restrictions on school attendance ,Sunday School will be informal.

For shut-ins and folks still in quarantine we will be continuing our video recordings of Feast Day and Sunday Eucharists. These are posted on the **parish website** (www.ststeve.com), **Youtube** and **Isaac the Eagle's Facebook** page.

You'll find them from 9.00 AM onwards every Sunday and Day of Obligation at **ststeve.com** at the bottom of the Home Page, under "Recent Blog Posts. A new midweek "broadcast" talk by the rector can also be found on the website every Wednesday or Thursday.

Meanwhile, please remember that in a bid to prevent the theft of checks mailed to the church, we have opened a Post Office Box for the exclusive use of the treasurer. Please mail your offerings to: **St Stephen's Anglican Church, P.O. Box 6161, Timonium, MD 21094**. All other mail should be sent to our street address. **GPH✠ & JPN✠**

MEDITATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

The world owes a debt to the American Revolution

Independence Day is one of the most important public holidays in the world. July the Fourth should not be regarded as solely an American celebration. America's independence should be celebrated by the entire free

world. For without a free and independent United States, the free world would not be free. The U.S. made it possible for the nations of Western Europe to shake off the Nazi yoke, the German people included. America's steadfast opposition to Communist totalitarianism not only kept Western Europe free, it enabled the people of Eastern Europe, ultimately, to gain their freedom from their Soviet masters.

But while the Fourth of July should be an international celebration, it is important to remember the people who made our celebrations possible – the people who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to define the principles that underpin this great nation and the people who gave their lives to translate the founding fathers' vision into reality.

The American Revolution is unique among revolutions in that it did not consume its authors or its children. This is

Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the prayer list, or visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office (410) 560 6776.

FOR RECOVERY: Bill, Pam, Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Richard✠, Janis, Daniel, Leona, Rachel, Elizabeth, Kim, Dorothy, Donna, Skip, Dan, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Heidi, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John Tom, Michell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, David, Wade, Sifa, Eileen, Ravi, Theresa, Larry Ricard, Judy & Scott

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Cameron, Caroline, Karen, Ardis, Mavis, Michael, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Chip, Elizabeth, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Colin & Christian.

IN MEMORIAM:

THOSE WHO MOURN:

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Col. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

because it is unique in a more fundamental way: it is the only revolution that was impelled by a genuine spirit of Christianity. Far from seeking to impose any particular political or religious vision on anybody, the purpose of the American Revolution was to enable individuals to exercise their God-given gift of free will.

This is what was meant when, in the Declaration of Independence, the signers affirmed that our Creator has endowed every single one of us with the unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Certainly, the founding fathers expected that our individual pursuit of happiness would, somehow or other, involve the practice of the Christian faith -- that's what they meant by the word "religion." But they did not seek to dictate what brand of Christianity people should espouse. Or, indeed, if the espousal and practice of Christianity should be involved at all, In fact, they left the question of religious belief up to the individual.

In other words, they were careful not to tamper with the fundamental qualities manifest in our humanity: our freedom to make our own decisions: right or wrong, wise

This is the critical difference between the American Revolution and that other great revolution of the 18th Century, the French Revolution. The revolutionaries in France claimed to have been inspired by the American example. But this is true only to a very superficial degree.

The French revolutionaries were not seeking to uphold the God-given rights of the individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Quite the opposite, in fact. Theirs was a collectivist vision. The motto by which they defined their enterprise was "liberty, equality and fraternity."

Their aim was to subordinate the individual to the common good – an entirely theoretical humanistic concept defined by a political elite.

But when one delves into the matter in greater depth, one comes to realize that the fundamental difference between the American and French revolutions lies not so much in the visions of the protagonists as in their respective religions.

The Americans were inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the belief that each one of us is equally beloved by the Creator and endowed with certain unalienable rights derived directly from God; not conferred by any human ruler, government or agency

The French revolutionaries, by contrast, worshipped an entirely different God: Human intelligence, the mind of man.

They acknowledged no higher authority than that of human reason. Indeed, they even instituted worship of the "Goddess of Reason" as France's official state religion.

They rededicated the great cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris to their new goddess in an obscene parody of the Eucharist. And they abandoned its worship of only when the horrifying consequences of the primary fruits of human reason – socialism – became impossible to ignore.

It is not accidental that the fruits of the American Revolution has been a degree of human intellectual achievement and material prosperity hitherto unrealized by the human race. History teaches us we'll continue to prosper so long as we uphold the rights endowed upon the individual by our creator.

Nor is it accidental that the fruits of French Revolution and others it has inspired – among them the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the Nazi revolution in Germany, the Fascist revolution in Italy, Mao's revolution in China, Pol Pot's revolution in Cambodia – has been a tidal wave of misery and death unprecedented in human history.

While God is a benevolent creator, human reason seems to be an insatiably blood-thirsty tyrant. There will always be those who worship the collectivist god of human reason -- striving to subordinate our God-given rights to some fashionable, frightening vision of the "common good." GPH✘

St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Office: 410 560 6776 · Rector: 443 425-2420

Vicar: 410 878-5275 · Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector

The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·

Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. C. Daniel Bursi,

The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers,

The Rev. M. Wiley Hawks & The Rev. Mark Newsome,

Mrs Happy Riley, Director of Pastoral Care

& Wedding Coordinator

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist

9.15am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

Choral Services (as announced) – evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer

Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

For Our Country.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT # 181