

Christ Church

The Episcopal Church in Gardiner
Parish News

Sunday, November 1, 2020

Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost



Weekly Parish Calendar

Sunday, November 1

- 7:30 AM Holy Communion Service in the Church
- 10:00 AM Holy Communion Service in the Church and streamed on Facebook Live
- 5:00 to 5:30 PM - Community Supper To-Go hosted by First Baptist Church

Tuesday, November 3

- 11:00 AM: Study of 2 Kings and Noontime Prayer

Here's the link to sign up for worship on Sunday. Please sign up every week!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054EABA728A13-110120> or call the office.

Indoor Worship--Assessing Risks

The leadership of Christ Church continues to assess the risks of worshipping in person. The feedback that we received after the service on Sunday was that folks felt safe and that the necessary precautions were taken. People were seated more than six feet from one another, everyone masked, and there was good ventilation. As we have stated before, our goal is to minimize risk as much as possible when we worship in person, but also to act quickly to cease indoor worship when that risk grows.

The Vestry decided at Sunday's Zoom meeting that we will abide by the Maine CDC and DHHS green, yellow, and red designations for counties. These designations determine if it is safe for in-person instruction at the schools. They will also determine for us if it is safe to worship in person. We will let the congregation know if Kennebec County goes to yellow, indicating a greater risk for gathering. We will definitely suspend in-person worship if our county goes to red. We may choose to suspend worship sooner than a red designation, based on our assessment of the community spread and the risk to our congregation.

Please know that we are doing our very best to make sound decisions for the safety of all. And please know that if you decide to continue to worship from home, protecting yourself and others, we absolutely respect that decision.

As of the morning of October 28, Kennebec County is designated green. However, as you have likely heard, there are now two positive cases of COVID-19 at Gardiner Area High School and four probable positive cases. Your church leaders are watching this situation closely. We want to be transparent about the fact that our church community and our school communities overlap as we have students, teachers, and school staff who attend Christ Church. If we should decide that it is not safe to worship in-person on Sunday, we will put that information on our website, Facebook page, a churchwide email, and the office voicemail.

If you would like to sign up to attend indoor worship, the link is here, on our Facebook page, and on the website.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054EABA728A13-110120>

You may also call the office at 582-3354 to make a reservation. Please do this by the Friday before worship.

Services will be capped at 50 people. If you are looking for a service with fewer people, 7:30 is for you.

When you arrive for worship on Sunday mornings, please enter through the main double doors, and please maintain a safe distance from others while you wait to be seated. A greeter will meet you and direct you toward your seat.

If you need the ramp to enter the church, please enter through the other double doors. Once entering there, please wait for a greeter to help you find a seat.

In an effort to keep our space well-ventilated, we will warm up the sanctuary before worship, and then run fans throughout worship. This means it will likely be chilly! Please dress accordingly. You might even want to bring a blanket.

If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to email Kerry or call the office.

Community Supper To-Go Volunteers Needed



We at Christ Church oversee the weekly Sunday Community Suppers at our Church and are responsible to provide the suppers on the second and third Sundays of each month. At this time we are providing 40-50 suppers a week.

We have coverage for the November 15 supper, but volunteers are needed to prepare and give out the community supper on Sunday, November 8. Please e-mail or call the office at 582-3354 if you are willing to volunteer.

A big thank you to those who have been keeping this needed service going in these tough times!

Celebration of All Saints' Day

This Sunday, November 1, we celebrate All Saints' Day which is a major feast of the Church. It is a day to remember our connection to the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, to be inspired by their lives, and to recommit ourselves to doing God's work in the world. We remember, in particular, those we have lost in the past year from Christ Church and all those in our own lives that we have loved and lost over the years.

We traditionally have read the names of our loved ones that have died at the All Saint's service. Because of all that has been going on over the past month here at the church--the Bicentennial and transitioning to indoor worship--we did not leave enough time to receive the names of your loved ones to be read. Instead, I encourage you to bring with you to worship on Sunday, either in-person or online, pictures or mementos of the loved ones that you would like to remember. Or just bring their memories with you as you make yourself present for worship on Sunday!

Local Saints in the History of Christ Church

<https://www.forever.com/app/users/christ-church-episcopal/files/1830e6e3-fa62-4fff-b482-7e881c9de618/4msczt2zl9esgsdxryas3bpnn>

We shared this a couple of months ago, but it's worth sharing again as we celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday! The link above will take you to an address presented to Christ Church on All Saints' Day in 1974 by Mrs. Charles Wiggins, daughter of Laura E. Richards, granddaughter of Julia Ward Howe, and devoted member of Christ Church. Mrs. Wiggins shared lovely remembrances of some of the Gardiner community saints.

Greeters Needed for Indoor Worship

A critical need for safely worshipping indoors will be finding Greeters who are able to direct parishioners to their physically distanced seating areas, check off the list of those registered for worship, remind people of our safety protocols, disinfect surfaces after the service, and more. If you would like to be on our team of Greeters, please email Kerry soon. kerry@christchurchgardiner.org

Everyday Basic Essentials Needed!

Basic Essentials, a program of Bridging the Gap, a ministry of our sisters and brothers at Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church in Augusta, which provides services and support for over 2600 people a year in our communities.

The program provides items important to health but not covered by other programs. Right now this is what is most needed:

- Bar soap
- Tampons (regular size)
- Waterproof winter gloves
- Winter jackets and boots

We will collect these items at church, or they may be dropped off at our office on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays, or we will be happy to pick them up if needed – just call the office at 582-3354.

We will also accept donations (made out to Christ Church with a notation for Basic Essentials). These are a great help as the program can buy in bulk often at better prices.

We will continue to collect through November. Many thanks!

United Thank Offering Collection

Early this year, before everything changed, we distributed the blue UTO boxes with the plan to collect them on Easter. We are now ready to collect them over the next few weeks. You may bring them to a service, or drop them off during office hours (9-2 Monday through Thursday), or give us a call and we will pick them up.

For those who do not know about this great ministry, here is some information from their website:

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Morning Prayer and Study of Kings, Tuesdays at 11am

On the Tuesdays leading up to Advent, we'll gather through Zoom at 11am for a discussion of First and Second Kings and Noontime Prayer.

Upcoming Assignments (Psst...you don't have to read ahead to participate!)

11/03: 2 Kings 9-12

Same link each week!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87295570348>

Meeting ID: 872 9557 0348

Vestry Minutes Online

You can now find Christ Church vestry meeting minutes online. The link for the minutes from the last meeting is:

<https://www.forever.com/app/users/christ-church-episcopal/files/b421097a-a179-4e73-9228-55bcf2d3bd77/3l7iit7rw7pqgj5ee2r67c55h>

Healing Prayers and Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee is available to offer healing prayers upon request through phone calls or Zoom. If you would like to arrange healing prayers or a pastoral care visit in this way, please contact Ellen Ellis, ellenbobellis@aol.com, or Kerry, kerrymansir@christchurchgardiner.org, and they will schedule a convenient time with one of the Committee members.

Christ Church - A Community of Prayer

Parish Prayer List: Please pray for Liz Hall, Dan Stevens, Millie Foster, Carrie Stevens, Pam Proctor, Carol Hedgpeth, Ashley, Shasta Beane, Patty Harvey, Norma Layne, Charles Hicks, Jeannie and Millie, Natalie Stillings, Jane Robertson.

Church Family and Friends on the Long-Term Parish Prayer List: Edie Weymouth, Jody & Ralph Clark, Marge Alexander, Joan Lane, Dorna Tracy, Jen Lagasse, Mary Fowler, Betty Walls, Vicky, Barbara Lamphire, Jeannie and David Douglass, Edna Brown, Jim and Anne Schmidt, Jack White, Christine Landes, Sarah, Jeff, Bob, George, Father Luckner, Lyndon Morgan, Kim Dunn (Rohinnie's daughter), Jim Gill, Mary Vasquez, Diana Lathrop, Shane and Angie.

For Those Who Have Died: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

For Those Who Mourn: *Most merciful God, surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come.*

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the priests of the Diocese of Maine and for civil discourse during a time of election.

Oh God of all comfort, we pray for those who have been, who are, and who will be affected by Covid-19.

We pray for those in the Gardiner community: especially our students, teachers, and school staff.

Be present with those who are experiencing the emotional, physical and spiritual burdens of dealing with this virus. May they find strength and confidence in your loving care.

Comfort and relieve those who are sick. Protect and assist those who risk their lives to care for others.

Fill us with love for our neighbors so that our behaviors may reflect our care for the vulnerable.
Amen.

Scripture Readings

The Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The First Reading Revelation 7:9-17

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Response

Psalm 34:1-10,22

1 I will bless the Lord at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 I will glory in the Lord; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; *
let us exalt his Name together.

4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.

5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

9 Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.

10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.
22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

The Epistle

1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son

of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Contact Information

Rector: Kerry R. Mansir: (207) 624-1841 or kerry@christchurchgardiner.org

Senior Warden: Hank McIntyre (207) 240-3264

Junior Warden: Ward Boudreau (207) 592-2869

Treasurer: Nate Rudy

Parish Administrator: Becky Colwell parish@christchurchgardiner.org **Parish Office:** (207) 582-3354

Like us on Facebook! And check out our website at www.christchurchgardiner.org