



# Trinity Topics

July 2019

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***“Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.”—Psalm 84:4***

Summer is a busy season, so it's a good time, in the spirit of gentle, pastoral admonition, to write about the importance of making time every week to attend church, even if it means having to carefully plan around other activities. Christian worship is a high calling, one we must actively prioritize. The first reason I'd like to offer is spiritual health. By offering the first part of our week to God, we show God and our own souls that our whole week is a gift from heaven, and this place of gratitude and trust is faith. Just like exercise has its best benefits for our physical health with a little discipline and routine, making a habit of observing the Lord's Day, even when we're busy or aren't "feeling it," can provide a firm foundation for Christian life by giving us strength in difficult times and a sense of joyful gratitude in the good times, too.

Christian worship is designed to engender this faith. In the reading of Sacred Scripture and the preaching of the Word of God we hear the good news of God's work for us in history and in our own lives. In the sacraments we are filled with the saving presence of Jesus, who has promised never to abandon us. In our fellowship, we are surrounded by fellow travelers who seek to know us and support us, and we them. In our common song together we find common meaning, and the Lord dismisses us from the service with a common mission to offer his grace to the world. Life is hard. Worship is God's gift us to sustain is in that life.

Not unconnected to the consolation of the Gospel is worship's place in Christian morality. Of course, we are morally obliged to attend worship because God has commanded it, but it is far more than a mere duty. Hearing the Word of God is our calling in life. Moral instruction is also an important part of the Church, and that moral instruction is a matter of life-long discernment. Indeed, the moral discernment of the Church has been going on two thousand years, and we all have our voice to offer the dialogue of centuries. Even more important, though, is worship as the activity that provides coherence and motivation to Christian living. Spirituality and morality are not isolated spheres of existence, any more than our inner lives are unconnected from our interactions with other people. Christians are not "people of the book," as some have described us, rather we are the people of a person—Jesus Christ, whom we receive in the Holy Eucharist week by week. Christian living is not merely following a set of rules. It is acting out of that sense of consolation and gratitude that I described as the spiritual benefit of Church attendance in how we think, speak, and act. It is Jesus alive in us, as we are alive in Him.

People today have no idea what their lives mean. People today are lonely and feel like strangers. People today find moral discernment so painful that they avoid serious moral questions as much as possible, either distracting themselves with trivialities or by reading only ideologies they already agree with. People today are bored to death! Church, I believe, is the place where all people can find in Jesus the answer to these difficult quandaries. Church is the space where it is possible to be truly alive in the light of God's grace.

I am happy that Trinity Church is committed to offering a full worship schedule in the summer months, when many congregations pare back their services. With three Sunday services and a morning service from Tuesday to Friday, we have many options for fulfilling our obligation to worship God every week as we attempt to plan summer activities. Come, cultivate a habit of gratitude in worship. Come, encounter Jesus.

*Fr. Zach Brooks*

### *A Course in Anglican History: Part XIII*

Edward VI came to the English throne in 1547 at the age of 9. He was surrounded by staunchly Protestant regents and advisors, who loudly compared him to the Biblical boy king Josiah that purified the Temple of idolatry and restored true worship of the Lord in the land of Judah. Protestantism happened all at once. Henry's traditionalism was immediately thrown to the wayside. Processions were banned; the few remaining chantries for the souls of the dead were disbanded and their monies seized for the Crown, including the money Henry had set aside for his own soul. Homilies that condemned every part of popular Catholic piety were ordered to be read in all churches. The first major wave of iconoclasm washed over the land—Protestant terror of idolatry led them to break the faces of statues, chop down crucifixes, smash stained-glass windows, and slather over paintings with whitewash. An unfathomable amount of precious art was lost forever. It was only the first phase of the utter ruination of the Church in England that went well beyond Protestant enthusiasm for purity of Christian worship. By the end of Edward's short reign, the poverty and decrepitude of the Church of England would be a byword in all of Europe.

*This column is the thirteenth in the monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.*

### *Very Special Thank You's!*

Trinity Sunday is always the last day before summer break for the choir to participate as a whole in the 10 o'clock Sunday services so this is a great time to extend our thanks to the faithful members. Having service music and a choral anthem bring our Sunday Eucharist to a higher level of worship. This past school year the choir welcomed our Illinois College Choral Scholar Abby Garrett. Choir members became her second family while in Jacksonville, and Abby was a great asset to the Choir.

Thank you, Choir Members, for all the extra time you dedicate to Trinity Church. The Thursday night and early Sunday morning rehearsals are time you give up to prepare for Sunday's service. (Notice I said "for the choir to participate as a whole." It is also great to have their voices blend in with the rest of the congregation as they sit in the pews during summer.)

There's never a proper time to thank our organist and choirmaster Mary Wilson since she "works" all year – with only a Sunday or two off. So let's just add our thanks to the person who coordinates the choir (or should I say corrals the choir?! ) and plays preludes, anthems, postludes, and hymns every Sunday. None of us can imagine all the hours she spends in church rehearsing. And, if you read your service booklet closely, she provides us with a high level and variety of selections. Thank you, Mary, for your service to Trinity Church. We are blessed to have you with us.

## News & Announcements

### ***Outreach***

#### ***Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches (JACC)***

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is focusing on **College Welcome Packets** this summer. Each packet will have information about the JACC and contact information for the specific churches participating. They need tissues, hot chocolate, gum, and granola bars. There is a box for your donations in the upper hallway. Items need to be brought in by **July 24** so that the packets can be assembled and distributed in August as the college freshmen arrive for the new year.

#### ***Take It To The Streets!***

This ministry to feed children of Jacksonville during the summer months is organized by members of our neighbor Grace United Methodist Church. They prepare the lunches each evening (on Sundays at 4; Monday through Thursday at 5:30). Volunteers can just show up to help on any day. You do not need to sign up. We also are accepting monetary donations for the program in a lunch bag on the table in the lobby.

### ***Summer Children's Church***

Children are meeting in the basement of the parish hall for a Bible story, an activity, and a light snack before joining the rest of the congregation in the church after the sermon. Of course, this will be provided as an option for children and their parents—children are always welcome to stay with their parents in our services.

Attendance has been very light, but those who attend have enjoyed the activities. All children are welcome, so if you have visiting friends and relatives, please bring them to church.

### ***Congratulations!***

**Rhea Welch** is proud of her son Alec, who is serving an internship in Springfield at Levi, Ray, and Shoup. Alec will be a senior Computer Science major at Illinois College in August.

**Levi Haley**, son of Rob and Lisa, received his Firearms Instructor Certificate from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. He has also been trained as a Field Training Officer for the Morgan County Sheriff's Office.

**Christopher Woodruff**, son of David and Ginda, received his Master of Health Informatics from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale.

After 46 years, **Dr. Allan Metcalf** is retiring from MacMurray College. In addition to being Professor of English, he served the college in many areas. He has been granted Professor Emeritus status. Congratulations, Allan, on a brilliant career! We look forward to your next book due to be published in September.

***\*If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

***Pledge Statements***

will be mailed the week after June 30.

Contact the Parish Office  
if you have any questions.

***Contributions***

If you did not make a pledge, but need a record of any contributions you have made, contact the Parish Office.



**Sundays during the Summer**

at 10 o'clock

***Bible Stories and Activities***

for children  
in the basement of the Parish Hall

Children will join their families in church  
after the sermon.

**SERVICES IN JULY 2019**

**Wednesday, July 3:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 7: THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**Wednesday, July 10:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 14: THE 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**Wednesday, July 17:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 21: THE 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**Monday, July 22: St. Mary Magdalene**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, July 24:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, July 25: St. James**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 28: THE 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**Wednesday, July 31:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist