



# Trinity Topics

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Phone = (217) 245-5901

info@trinitychurchjax.org

Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org



**“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.” *Romans 8:18***

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Hallelujah! Jesus has trampled down death with death, giving life to those in the tomb. Covid-19 cannot take away the joyful hope of Easter. “Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (*Romans 5:5*) Sadly, as I write this, it looks very unlikely that we will be able to celebrate Holy Week or the Day of Resurrection together in church. God only knows when we will be able to resume normal life. That moment in the Vigil when Lent becomes Easter, the organ booms forth, and the lights are thrown on, takes my breath away every year. I never imagined having to miss it. Nevertheless, now more than ever the world needs the Easter faith. Not even a pandemic can stop the loving work of God in our lives. It is our responsibility as Christians to proclaim the resurrection life of Jesus to the world with joyful worship.

During this pandemic we will not have weekly public worship in church to give structure to our lives of prayer, which will demand actively finding our own structure and motivation for our private worship and prayers with our families. This will serve us well even when this crisis ends (and it will end!). We must also remember that Jesus never once calls for admirers—he only ever calls for followers who will actively take up their own cross. “Be doers of the word, and not hearers only.” (*James 1:22*) It is not enough to experience the liturgy, however effected we are by what happens in the liturgy. We are all the active agents in worship, not passive recipients of preaching and singing. The priest and choir are not performing for the congregation. On the one hand, the liturgy of the Church is God’s work for all people. On the hand, worship is the activity of all individuals—your prayers during the service are just as essential to the task as my ability to confect the Eucharist. Even when we must sadly be apart, we continue to have that common mission of worship, and it can still unite us as a community.

In our isolation, we are also reminded of our need to always cultivate our own inner lives and deepen our personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus didn’t die only for a community—Jesus died for you. God is working in our own life, and you have your own relationship with Him. In the early Church, hermits withdrew to the wilderness in order to pursue this inner life of the Spirit, but of course it was within the context of a Church that supported them as they prayed for the community. Trinity Church needs your prayers—and I do believe those prayers do something! Your relationship with Jesus contains grace that Trinity Church needs. When this pandemic is over, I hope that our prayers can be the basis for renewal of not only Trinity Church, but all of Jacksonville.

Remember, during this time, to read the Bible. Remember to pray. Share your faith with your family and friends. No pandemic can take these things away from us, and so long as we have these things we have hope.

Finally, on a different note, I hope all of us take precautions like hand-washing and social distancing as religious duties before God. They might not only save our own lives, they might save the lives of other people who have weaker immune systems than us. The Bible says, “Give the physician his place, for the Lord created him.” (*Ecclesiasticus 38:12*) Namely, God wants us to take the experts seriously when they recommend avoiding large gatherings of people. Even, alas, on Easter. Let us celebrate the great victory of life by doing our best to preserve life in the here and now.

*Fr. Zach Brooks +*

## News & Announcements

### *The Heifer Project International*

Let us not forget what the HPI is:

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, we empower them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope. With gifts of livestock and training, Heifer projects help families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways. The Children appreciate your support of HPI, their Lenten project. They have already raised \$530 from the lunch and game day. Keep filling your mite boxes; they will be collected when regular services resume.

### *Pledges and Special Offerings*

Trinity Church continues to need your support while services are suspended. While services are suspended, please send offerings to the parish office. There will also be special offerings received on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday which will support the outreach of the parish.

### *Resources for Prayer, Study and Worship:*

**Bible Project:** Free videos that examine the meaning of the books of the Bible and connect them together into a unified story of Jesus.

<https://bibleproject.com/>

**Daily Prayer: A Resource of Forward Movement:** Daily meditations, and a daily order of worship for Compline, the prayers to be said in the Evening:

<https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/>

**The Lectionary Page:** The appointed readings for Sundays and Holy Days:

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/>

**The Online Book of Common Prayer:**

<https://www.bcponline.org/>

**Oremus Bible Browser:** The Bible in an easy to search format. Includes the King James and NRSV.

<https://bible.oremus.org/>

### *Shoeman Water Project*

The Jacksonville Area Council of Churches has collected shoes in the past for this project. They did not have it this year as one of its three outreach programs. However, Diann Brechbuhl, who has been the local coordinator for ten years, has announced that she would like to accept shoes through April 30 and that she is then retiring from this project. She has a box on her porch at 80 Alice Drive, if you would like to donate shoes.

Please remember that she collects only **“clean, gently used or new shoes banned or laces ties together.”**

### *Congratulations!*

Jack Edward Farmer, son of Tom & Lexi Farmer, grandson of Susan Pratt & John Farmer, and the first great grandchild of **Joyce Pratt**, was born on February 8. Welcome to the world, Jack!

### *Death*

We have just learned of the death of Benson Rhew Mangum, a former parishioner of Trinity Church. Ben died in Durham, North Carolina, on August 12, 2019. He was preceded in death by his wife Liz.

*May his soul and all the souls of the Faithful Departed rest in peace and rise in glory.*

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