



Trinity Topics

MAY 2021

Phone = (217) 245-5901

info@trinitychurchjax.org

Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org



“The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and the sensible will not despise them.” *Sirach 38:4*

On Wednesday, the twenty-first of April, I got my second COVID-19 shot. I did feel a little under the weather for the next day or so, which was my body producing an immune response that will protect me from COVID-19 in the future. I am writing about this because I want to encourage all members of the Trinity Church community to get the vaccine as soon as they are eligible. Of course, I am only a priest and no doctor; take my advice as you will. I can only offer my own reasons for getting the vaccine. I got the vaccine because I am tired of being afraid of a deadly disease. I long for the day when we can put these interminable pandemic protocols away and get back to normal living. We are going on two years of this business, which is quite long enough!

I do find the trend of vaccine denialism rather baffling. With the tragedy of 570,000 dead, the danger of COVID-19 is hardly in doubt. A three percent fatality rate (according to the WHO) is nothing to sniff at. I cannot imagine anyone being blithe about (for example) a roller coaster that had a 97% survival rate! While most people might be at a much lower risk of getting a serious case, they might well spread it to a person who has a higher risk of a serious case of the disease. As Christians, our obligation is to care for those around us, especially the weak and vulnerable. Getting the vaccine is a great way of ensuring that these vulnerable people are protected. This is all the more important considering how many people never develop serious symptoms—we can be sick without even realizing it and spread it to a person that could develop a life-threatening case.

While vulnerable people might get the vaccine themselves, it is also the case that no vaccine is one hundred percent effective. There was recently an outbreak caused by an unvaccinated worker at a nursing home, even though most residents of the nursing home were vaccinated. The goal of herd immunity requires all of us to lower our chances of getting COVID-19 as much as possible so that that small portion of the population that does not respond to the vaccine is unlikely to meet a person that is sick. This is also why it is important for all of us to continue observing pandemic protocols until the vaccination rate is much higher than it is. While the vaccine greatly reduces our chances of contracting COVID-19, there is still a small chance we can spread it to others. Despite the availability of the vaccine, the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing dramatically as people become lax with pandemic precautions. Continue avoiding large gatherings, wear a mask while in enclosed spaces, and observe social distancing in public. Fudging the rules at this point will only make the ordeal go on longer.

So get your COVID-19 vaccine. The more of us who get it, the sooner this will all be over. At the time of writing everyone over the age of 16 is eligible, and after the first rush, wait times are short. I walked in and out for my second vaccine shot in 15 minutes. In all this, remember that this will end, and in fact we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. We all look forward to a great thanksgiving celebration together here at Trinity Church when this is all over. Put your anticipation and hope into your prayers, and as always know that we are all in this together.

Father Zachary Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXVII

While most of the English people remained rather ambivalent about the Reformation project at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, it finally began to take strong root during the long stability of her rule. Generations were born that had never known the English Catholicism of earlier ages. English Protestantism went from being the goal of a monarch to an actual, lived faith. English liturgical music began to set its own course. Great Protestant thinkers like Lancelot Andrewes and Richard Hooker produced classics of Anglican theology that remain influential today. This trend was not uncontested, of course. In 1570, Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth and openly urged Catholics to overthrow their Protestant queen. He sent a continual stream of Catholic priests to the country to preach sedition. This strategy backfired spectacularly. Catholicism slowly became associated with treason in the English mind after repeated Catholic revolts and plots to overthrow Elizabeth. In 1585, Catholic priests were banned from the country. Any priest that entered the country, as well as anyone who aided him, was executed for treason. Without access to priests, popular Catholicism slowly withered and practically vanished among commoners. By the end of Elizabeth's reign, lived Catholicism was all but unknown in England outside of a few gentry households with the resources to hide a priest. When Elizabeth died in 1603, England was deeply, truly and zealously Protestant.

This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

The Readings for the Sundays in May and Ascension Day

	<i>First Lesson</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Second Lesson</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
May 2	Acts 8:26-40	22:24-30	I John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May 9	Acts 10:44-48	98	I John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 13	Acts 1:1-11	47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 16	Acts 1:15-17,21-26	1	I John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 23	Genesis 11:1-9	33:12-22	Acts 2:1-11	John 7:37-39a
May 30	Isaiah 6:1-8	29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17



Ascension Window at Trinity Church

News & Announcements

Reopening Update

Starting in May we will resume the 8 AM Sunday Eucharist and Wednesday 10 AM Eucharist. Congregational hymn-singing at the 10 AM Sunday Service will resume as well. We will be resuming many lay roles at the 10 AM service that went into hiatus during the shut-down. We will need volunteers to be **Acolytes, Readers, and Ushers**. Please let the parish office know if you can serve. We've had a shortage of volunteers in these roles several years running so be assured that God IS calling you to serve if you are able!

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church will deliver Doorbell Dinners the week of May 17-21. Please contact K-Lou Ashmore if you are available to help.

Outreach Committee

During the month of May, we will collect the following household items for the Jacksonville Area Food Center: toiletries, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, dish detergent, laundry detergent, etc.

Three ways to donate: boxes in the upper hallway of the parish hall; a box on the porch of 1302 W State St; or Abby Radcliffe will pick up items from your home. You may call her at 217-320-1811.

Thank You

I would like to thank the many people who made our Easter services possible despite the sudden quarantine my family was placed under. Thank you to Father Christopher Ashmore for agreeing to lead Holy Week liturgies just hours before the Maundy Thursday service! Thank you to Jo Ann Nelson for producing all the bulletins, decorating the church, and so much more. Thank you to Mary Wilson and our Choral Intern Abby Garrett who provided such beautiful music. Thank you as well to the many hands that participated in our Easter Vigil. My family and I would also like to thank everyone for the kind words, check ins, and gifts to see us through our quarantine! —Fr. Zach

Basement Renovation

Work has been progressing well in the Choir Room, Library, Nursery, and Church School. All painting has been completed; the new flooring will be completed in the next few days; and windows in the classroom doors will be installed in May. The Vestry has been very proactive in overseeing these projects. Special thanks needs to be extended to Rector's Warden Bob Hardwick and Interim Parish Warden Alice Tracy.

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

Lectors:

May 2	Alice Tracey
May 9	Alice Tracey
May 13	Forrest Keaton
May 16	Alice Tracey
May 23	Forrest Keaton
May 30	Forrest Keaton

Acolytes:

May 2	Clayton Robb
May 9	Bruce Evans & Cail Lang
May 13	volunteer
May 16	Clayton Robb
May 23	Bruce Evans & Cail Lang
May 30	Clayton Robb

Ushers:

May 2	Chuck Crim
May 9	volunteer
May 13	volunteer
May 16	Chuck Crim
May 23	volunteer
May 30	volunteer

Vestry

Tuesday, May 18

7:00 pm.

Bible Study

via Zoom

2nd & 4th Tuesdays

7:00 pm

We are reading the
Gospel of St. Matthew.

Contact Fr. Zach for more information,
and he will send you
an invitation to the Zoom meeting.

SERVICES IN MAY 2021

Saturday, May 1:

St. Philip & St. James

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 2: EASTER V

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 5:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 9: EASTER VI

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 12:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, May 13:

ASCENSION DAY

6:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 16: EASTER VII

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 19:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 23: DAY of PENTECOST

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 26:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 30: TRINITY SUNDAY

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Monday, May 31:

The Visitation of the BVM

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

*Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.*