



# Trinity Topics

MAY 2023

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**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”—Proverbs 9:10**

One of the great joys of parenthood is watching my children develop their own interests. Abraham spends every minute of his screen time building his own worlds in a video game called *Minecraft*. Jude is devoted to a card game called *Pokémon*. Lucy, the youngest, is passionate about Spiderman and dashes around the house in her diaper and a Spiderman mask. They could all talk all day about their knowledge of these subjects. I think this shows how deeply connected passion and knowledge are—in the happiness they find in their interests they want to know more and more. This isn't true only of hobbies. What kind of relationship between two loving people doesn't want to know more and more of the other, from their favorite movie to their experiences growing up? We might well doubt the passion and devotion of a person that no longer shows any curiosity in his friend or partner. Such a relationship could possibly be renewed with a phone call and a simple conversation about what is going on in their lives.

The connection between curiosity and love is clear from our services here at Trinity Church. Every Sunday we are reminded that we must love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind. Love requires all three. Our faith demands that we be passionate about God, that we sacrifice ourselves for His Commandments, and that we devote our intellects to understanding God and his Word more and more. If it seems that the practice of our faith has become a matter of dry habit, perhaps this is pointing us to the need for renewed interest in the content of our faith.

Summer is a time to take on new projects. Alongside putting a fresh coat of paint on the walls of the kitchen or building a new deck, might I suggest a renewed dedication to Christian education? This is an all-too-often neglected part of Christian life. It is something we promised to do in our baptisms, and it's a promise we make again in the renewal of our baptismal vows. Of course, lifelong study of Scripture is a central part of learning the Christian faith. I have enjoined this habit in my newsletters and preaching many times. Be assured that the frequency of this reminder is needed by myself as much as anyone. Know that we are not left to reinvent the wheel every time we open the Bible. If we read the Bible and do not understand what it means, this is an invitation to study what the Church had taught—learned professors and scholars throughout history have their own insights to offer. A good place to start in understanding the Christian faith is in the Catechism, which starts on page 843 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. The Catechism is formatted as questions about the Christian faith, and answers from the Episcopal tradition. In ages past, a young Christian was expected to study the Catechism carefully and be able to recite its answers from memory before being confirmed by the bishop. Once one is armed with knowledge of the Catechism, one is ready to learn anything from Biblical Greek to even the most erudite treatise on the Christian faith.

In an age when fewer and fewer people know what Christianity teaches, all of us must become learned experts of Christian theology. We must all know what we believe and be ready to testify to the faith that is in us. I assure you that people will be interested in what you believe when they see your passion and devotion to Jesus and the changes Jesus works in your life. We do have in our faith answers to the most urgent moral, philosophical, and spiritual questions of our age. Your own faith is dry kindling ready to be set ablaze by the spark of learning.

*Father Zachary Brooks +*

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

William III and Mary II brought different things to their roles as co-monarchs of Great Britain. Mary was the eldest Protestant child of James II (whom Parliament had basically fired because he was a Catholic), which gave their co-reign over Britain an air of legitimacy her husband William of Orange (ruler of the Netherlands) could not provide. William was known across Europe as the greatest champion of Protestantism against the Catholic superpowers of France and Spain. It was during their reign that Catholics were excluded from the British succession, a rule that remains in place to this day. Soon to be crowned Charles III has recently had to stand before Parliament, Bible in hand, to solemnly swear, “I do faithfully promise and swear that I shall inviolably maintain and preserve the settlement of the true Protestant religion.” It is during the reign of William and Mary that the American Colonies really started taking off, which the number of places and institutions names after them shows. William and Mary College in Virginia was first endowed by William, as was the city of Williamsburg where it is located. Nassau County, New York is named after William’s royal house, Orange-Nassau. He is widely believed to be the prince Princeton, New Jersey and its college are named after. One of the more consequential religious incidents of his reign came near its end, originating in France. France had concluded its horrific religious wars with the Edict of Nantes in 1598, which gave Protestants freedom to practice their faith in certain cities. By the reign of Louis XIV Catholics had gained sufficient power to crush Protestantism, and in 1685 Protestantism was declared illegal. Tens of thousands of Protestants, called Huguenots, poured out of France, establishing new churches in England, Germany, and the American colonies. They brought with them strongly Calvinist beliefs, which made a marked difference in the religious makeup in many places, especially the American Colonies and Prussia (congregations called “The French Church” or “The Huguenot Church” still exist in Germany and east coast cities). They also brought with them strong feelings against the use of state power to enforce religious ideas.

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

### *Parish Bible Study*

Our parish bible study meets online on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7pm. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark. Sessions last for 40 minutes and require no outside reading. To join our Bible study, contact Fr. Zach to be put on the email list. An email with an internet link will be sent to you before the meeting allowing you to join the session. The program is called Zoom, and if Fr. Zach can figure out how to use it, anyone can! Contact **brooksz@gmail.com** for more information.

## News & Announcements

### *The Heifer Project International*

The Church School would like to announce that they raised **\$2,914.60** for *The Heifer Project International*. Thanks to all the members of the Parish who contributed throughout the Lenten season. Without your generous donations, this would not have been such a great success and learning experience for the children. We need to especially thank our Church School teachers Gayle Clark and Hilda Radcliffe who provided the lunch. At the lunch, local honey and pimiento cheese were also sold to benefit the Project, thanks to Jim Herget and Gayle Clark.

### *Special Offerings*

The Good Friday Offering was \$250; the Easter Offering was \$560. This money will go toward the Outreach Programs of Trinity Church.

### *Food Needed*

Prairieland United Way is kicking off its **Live United Food Drive**, encouraging community members to donate food for Jacksonville area kids. The drive runs through May 26. Prairieland United Way director Karen Walker said the program **fills the gap after school is out** for the summer, to make sure all kids will have food.

Participants are asked to donate any nonperishable foods including: **Juice/Gatorade, Canned Chicken, Fruit, Jell-O or Pudding Cups, Canned Soups, Ramen Noodles, Canned Pasta & Meat, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Breakfast Cereal, Mac & Cheese Cups, and Oatmeal.**

Several drop-off locations are available, including CNB Bank & Trust at 1211 W Morton Ave., The Farmers State Bank and Trust Company at 200 West State & 1718 W. Morton Ave., First National Bank at 1904 S. Main & 1839 W. Morton Ave., and Petefish, Skiles & Co. Bank at 1342 S. Main St. **If you bring items to church, we will deliver them for you.**

The public is invited to help. Food will be collected, and distributed at Summerfest on June 14, from 4 to 6 pm in Community Park. Summerfest will include food distribution, summer clothes, footwear, a bounce house, food truck, and more.

### *Doorbell Dinners*

Trinity Church will deliver Doorbell Dinners the week of May 15-19. Please contact K-Lou Ashmore to let her know when you can help.

### *Death*

**Edith Hipkins** died on April 1, 2023. The Burial Office with Holy Communion was celebrated on Wednesday, April 12.

*May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.*

***\*If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.  
Spring time brings graduations and awards ceremonies. We'd love to share your news!***

**Trinity Fellowship**  
will end its study year with  
a potluck.  
**May 2, 6:00 pm**  
*Please sign up in the Parish Hall.*

**ECW**  
Build your own salad supper meeting  
Dessert and beverages are provided.  
**Thursday, May 11**  
**5:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Vestry**  
**Tuesday, May 16**  
  
7:00 pm.

**Sunday, May 28**  
Last day of regular Church School

**Lectors**

May 7 Alice Tracey  
May 14 Cathy Nelson  
May 18 Forrest Keaton  
May 21 Paula Woods  
May 28 Forrest Keaton

**Acolytes are needed for**

May 7, 14, 18 (evening), 21 & 28

*Please let Fr. Zach and Jo Ann know when you are available.*

**Ushers**

May 7 Chuck Crim  
May 14 John Clancy  
May 21 Chuck Crim  
May 28 John Clancy

**SERVICES IN MAY 2023**

**Monday, May 1:**  
St. Philip & St. James  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 3:**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 7: EASTER V**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 10:**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 14: EASTER VI**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 17:**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, May 18:**  
**ASCENSION DAY**  
6:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 21: EASTER VII**  
**The Sunday after Ascension Day**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 24:**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 28: PENTECOST**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 31:**  
**The Visitation of the BVM**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist