



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

*The Service of Holy Eucharist on Zoom @ 9 am
The Visitation by The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher,
Bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts*

Ministers of the Liturgy
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher
Our Youth

Allison Kee, Emily Kee, Nathan Pirelli, Teagan Richards, Zoey Richards,
Anna Prevelige, Lauren Ruggiero, Landon Sweet

Musicians:

Randy Bloom, Mary Johnson, Jeff Lukas, Cathy Poch

*God our light, make your Church like a rainbow
shining and proclaiming to all the world that the storm is at an end,
there is peace for those who seek it and love for the forgiving.*

-from A New Zealand Prayer Book

Daylight Savings Time Begins: Spring ahead 1 hour on Saturday evening!

This Weekend at Trinity:

Sunday:

9am –Holy Eucharist on Zoom. The link will be sent on Saturday

Followed by Coffee Hour and a Vestry Meeting

4-5 pm – Lenten Book Discussion: *Ladder to the Light* by Steven Charleston (Chapters 6 & 7)

This Week at Trinity

The Parish office will be open Monday through Thursday: 10am – 2 pm.

Mother Judith is working remotely and can be reached by phone [716.949.8194] or email.

Monday 7 pm – Vestry Meeting

Wednesday 10 am – Morning Prayer on Zoom: the link will be sent by email on Wednesday morning

Wednesday 7:30- 8 pm – Zoom meditation. The link will be sent by email on Wednesday morning

Thursday 4 pm – Grab n Go meals at Trinity

Thursday 7 pm – Search Committee on Zoom

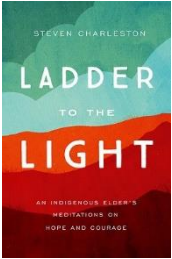
Friday Noon – Bible Study: The Psalms

GFS Scholarships are available!

Attention high school seniors and their families. It's time for the annual search for deserving recipients of the GFS Scholarships. Each year, Trinity gives monetary awards to qualified members who are entering an institution of higher education. These awards recognize attendance and service to Trinity Parish during the applicant's high school years. The application is available to download on the Trinity Church website at www.trinitychurchmilford.org. At the home page click Resources- Scholarship -Trinity Episcopal Church GFS to download the form. Applications must be received by **April 23rd** and the recipients will be notified shortly thereafter. Please direct all questions to GFS Scholarship Committee at dfs@trinitychurchmilford.org

Lent at Trinity

Lenten Book Study: Sundays 4-5 pm February 21st – March 21st on Zoom



Ladder to the Light by Steven Charleston.

Steven Charleston is an Episcopal priest, former Episcopal Bishop of Alaska, and a Choctaw elder. *Ladder to the Light* draws upon the traditional Christian and indigenous teachings to offer insights into seeking hope and courage "in the valley of the shadows." We discuss 2 chapters each week (about 25-30 pages). His daily meditations can also be found on his Facebook page.

Weekly Bible Study: Fridays @ Noon on Zoom: February 26 – March 26: The Psalms

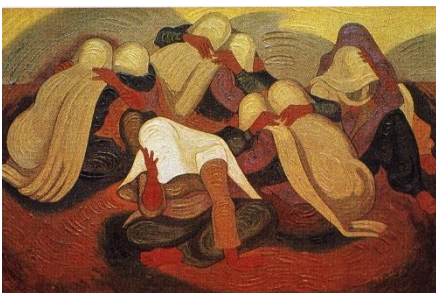
Based upon reading a Psalm each day, we will discuss the theological, spiritual, and emotional range of this profoundly beautiful anthology of prayers.

Lentopoly Lentopoly is a game that is meant to incorporate the 3 aspects of Lent: prayer, fasting & almsgiving. Based on the model of Monopoly, each square describes an act of fasting, prayer, or giving to be done by the players. By doing the charitable acts each day the child "earns" tokens (nails, pennies, beans, etc.). Game materials are available upon request or on our website.

Heifer International



Last week we mentioned honey bees, this week it is sheep. Sheep are able to graze in rocky and hilly pastures where other livestock cannot, which makes them perfect for families living in areas with this type of terrain. A sheep can provide milk to families, which means nutrition. A sheep also provides wool. Families are able to create hand-spun wool items to keep themselves warm in cold weather. Families are also able to sell their items and any extra wool they have to provide an income. Sheep can make such a difference to a family and the community they live in. Please remember during Lent to add a coin to your mite box/container for things you are thankful for! Thank you! Mission Committee



Psalms for the Week

We are invited to read one psalm each day during Lent.

The Psalms for the coming week will be Psalms of Lament. In their expression of profound anguish and desperation, these psalms are also passionate calls to a God who has promised to be abide with us always. The psalms this week are: **6, 13, 50, 60, 74, 79, 137**

Meditation for the Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. [Numbers 21.9]

The Book of Numbers tells the story of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years. The story of the bronze serpent that we read today presents a situation that occurs over and over again during the wandering and it crystallizes perfectly the pain of wandering that we all experience in the wilderness times of our lives: The people become impatient and frustrated, consumed with self-pity. When they complain, God sends hardship—in this case “poisonous” or “fiery” serpents who cause widespread suffering and death. In response, the people repent, Moses intercedes for them, and God provides the means of healing: Moses makes a bronze serpent, and when people look upon it they will be healed from the serpent’s bite.

Over and over again the Israelites are taught to depend upon God’s mercy. Therein lies their strength and their freedom. Freedom does not mean that life is easy: It means that life is larger and more complex than we had understood it to be. It means that awe may fear and hope may replace resentment. It allows us to say *Look up! Grace is everywhere!*

The serpents described in this story are not simply garden snakes, nor are they the larger poisonous snakes that we associate with northern climates. Scholars now believe that they are what we call the “Guinea worm,” a parasite that has persisted in Africa to the present day. The larvae of the worm are found in fleas that in turn are in stagnant water; they are ingested when people drink water, and within the body they mate; the male worm dies and is excreted, but the female grows to be about a yard long, the size and texture of a strand of spaghetti. After lying dormant in the body, the worm erupts from the feet or hands, sometimes from the breast or eye socket, breaking through the skin by exuding acid under the skin until it bubbles and bursts. The pain of the eruption is like fire shooting through the body. When the pain drives a person to plunge the blisters into a pool of water, the worm squirts out a milky cloud of larvae and the cycle begins again; hence, people can be infected with the worms over and over again throughout their lives. The only treatment once a person has been infected is to help with the excretion of the worm by carefully pulling it out, bit by bit, and bandaging the site to prevent infection.

So the Israelites were afflicted over and over again because of drinking polluted water. And yet God does not purify the water they drink or remove the poisonous serpents or fleas, nor does Moses offer a magic potion. Their healing requires telling each other *Look up! Grace is everywhere!* They will be healed when they trust in the abiding mercy of God: Letting go of self-sufficiency and guilt, enduring the pain of self-revelation without resorting to self-medication. We will be healed when we accept the vulnerability and strength comes with authentic relationships, when we trust in God’s ever-present grace, and most of all when we help each other overcome our suffering.

Steven Charleston puts it well:

I know a place where fear and uncertainty cannot come, where confidence and hope still shine brightly, where there is room for every person of every condition to gather in safety and strength. That place is in my heart. The princes of power who strut their moment upon the stage may rail against the others—the many others—they seek to shun from the embrace of freedom. But in my heart is sanctuary for each forgotten soul. No truth will be swept away; no justice lost, no mercy gone ungiven, for I keep them all here in my heart. There they are secure until once more they are released to join what I know is in your heart as well: an outpouring of love.

[*Ladder to the Light*, pp. 58-59]

Our Prayers Are Offered For:

Parish Members & Friends: the Sweet & Page Families; Sharon Manoogian; Sal & Vas Ferreira; Laura Uretsky; Evangeline Bushey; Michael Lambert; Brad Gustavesen; Eli Johnson & Family; the Rev. Libby Wade; Liz Pekkala; Charles Gustavesen; Karin Tourtellotte; Gloria Falcone; Clinton Clark, III; Marco Weiss; Al Price; Robert; Mary Torian, Beth & Terry; Esther McKenzie; Lisa Wilson; Sandra Arbogast; Len Baird; Judy Shea; Robin Rowe; Skye Bayleigh Plaisted; Alex; Alisha Starkis Weddeke; Chrissy & Mark; Thomas Scano; the Canali Family; Sherel & Lou Frere; Craig Silverman; Justin Perkin; Dr. Stephen Janko; Tom Childs; Nancy Sharoogian; Bob Mezzadri; all those serving in the military and the Peace Corps, especially Avary DeRagon; Dan Consigli; Drew Beauchamp; Charles; Laura; Elena; Brendan Wood; Danielle & Joel Marsh; Tom Bento; Joel Joudrey; Justin Woessner and their families.

Newborn: Lucille Eleanor Clinkman and her family

Homebound Parishioners: Verna Parente, and Wayne Morey.

The Deceased: The Rev. Marilyle Sweet-Page

Our Partner Dioceses: Kumasi and Asante-Mampong in Ghana

Those celebrating birthdays this week: Benjamin Uthoff; Skyler Flavin; Stephen Sullivan; Marina Cekani; April Hawkins; Callum Lanzillo; Aiden Carleton; Allison Kee; Ryan McCarthy; Alison Ward; Clinton Clark, Jr.; Nicholas Kenton; Hilda Johnson; & Andrew Yaroshefski.

**The Ministers of Trinity Episcopal Church
are
THE PEOPLE OF THIS PARISH**

led by

The Reverend Dr. Judith Lee, Interim Priest

Randy Bloom, Minister of Music, Rachel Carpenter, Sunday School Coordinator

Magee Lambert, Church Secretary, Paul Del Molino, Sexton

Beth Moeller, Senior Warden; Lisa Ruggiero, Junior Warden

and the Treasurers, Clerk and Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church.

We serve our Lord as a part of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

led by The Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher, Bishop of Western Massachusetts

Our Mission Statement:

*Sharing the Grace of God, the Light of Christ
and the Power of the Holy Spirit,
through worship, ministry and fellowship.*

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