



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 29

July 2025



Letter from our Bishops Silence = Death

Greetings beloved people of the Episcopal Church in CT,

Bishop Jeff and I have been in regular conversation about wanting to speak to you directly about some of the many challenges facing our world at this time. Our shared conversations have led Bishop Jeff to put down in words what it is we wish to say to you.

While the words are Bishop Jeff's, based on his own lived experience, the sentiment behind them is shared. We, as your Bishops, have come to the conviction that we do not wish to be silent on these critical matters.

Silence Equals Death.

As pictures of Pride celebrations have filled my social media feed with spirited and joy-filled pictures of joy from the LGBTQIA+ community claiming their place in this world as beloved children of God, I have been reflecting on the early years of attending those celebrations. It was a time when few churches or businesses would be seen aligning themselves publicly with this community of which I was a part.

It was also early in the years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic when the government would not speak the name of this insidious disease that was claiming the lives of those the government found expendable.

The chant that filled the streets was "Silence equals death."

Today, as the supports and assurances on which the LGBTQIA+ community have come to depend to live our lives are no longer certain, "Silence equals death" seems once again an appropriate rallying cry.

But silence equals death for everyone. Everywhere.

And so today, Bishop Ahrens and I wish to break any perceived silence by us as individuals, as your Bishops, or as the Church, and say that our silence as a nation has equaled the death of tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza. The Israeli government is bombing hospitals, creating mass starvation, blocking humanitarian aid, and shooting those seeking that critical aid. It must be condemned and it must be stopped.

Here in CT, our refugee and immigrant neighbors live in constant fear. Under the guise of ridding the United States of

Worship Services

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
in-person and via Zoom

*(Zoom connection information
at the end of newsletter.)*

"dangerous criminals," raids are carried out at local Home Depots, and a young man from Meriden is detained and sent to Texas the day before his high school graduation. Our continued silence equals death.

We recently celebrated the Feast of Pentecost. That day, the Holy Spirit shook the disciples out of their fear, locked in that upper room, and sent them into the world to spread the Good News of God's transformative love. The disciples' continued silence would have been their death.

The miracle of Pentecost was that each one listening could hear the Good News in their own language. The miracle was that the Good News of God in Christ was no longer silenced but spoken into a world in chaos.

There is so much at work to keep us silent;

The fear that our support of our Palestinian siblings could be interpreted as hatred of our

Jewish siblings - a false and dangerous dichotomy.

The fear that we will say the wrong or imperfect thing.

The fear that what we will say won't effect change, that it isn't enough, or that it won't change the hearts of those in positions of power.

But remaining silent is not an option. Silence is not an option if we take our baptismal vows to respect the dignity of every human being seriously. Our silence equals death: for members of the LGBTQIA+ community; for Palestinians; for immigrants and refugees here in the United States; and for us.

But if silence = death, then speaking the truth of the Gospel Love = life.

Jesus came that we might have life and have it in abundance. As with those first disciples, may God give us the words to speak into a world in chaos, that all might have life, and have it abundantly.

Yours in Christ,
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello
Bishop Diocesan

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
Bishop Suffragan

Happy July 4th!



Remembering Lorraine Pat Walters

The members that work in the Thrift Shop make many friends. One of our special friends was Lorraine.

She would be the first one at the door both Thursday and Saturday morning. Lorraine bought items for herself but mostly for her friends and sister. If they didn't like them, she would bring the items back but she wouldn't take any money back. She became such an important part of the Thrift Store that if we had to unload a car or go to the ladies room, we would say, "Lorraine you are in charge". She went on vacation and brought us back key chains with the most beautiful sayings. *"May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make."*

Recently Lorraine was not coming to the Thrift Store. Astrid called and Lorraine reassured her that she was fine and her husband, John, was watching over her - we shouldn't worry. Then John came in and informed us that Lorraine had passed away Saturday, June 7th. We were heart-broken. We are going

to miss her so much. Later John came back and made a generous donation in her name. That was just like Lorraine, always doing for others. We can see her in that big Thrift Store in heaven buying clothes for other friends. God Bless you Lorraine. We love you.



July 4 - Sallie Alexander
July 14 - Barbara Parsons
July 17 - George Coulombe
July 27 - Wendy Bellmore

June Vestry Meeting

Next Meeting - The Vestry will not be meeting in July or August so the next meeting will be Sunday, Sept 21st after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Building & Grounds - The East Haven library has been closed due to flooding. Vestry and Barbara Coulombe approved letting a choral group that used to meet at the library to temporarily meet in the Sanctuary and use the piano.

Ken and Kathy Dougherty have scattered seeds for the perennial garden outside the chapel door. It's fun to see what comes up.

Good Shepherd Thrift Store - We've had some good weeks of sales and continue to be praised for our cleanliness and how merchandise is well organized and displayed. Lots of donations keep coming in!

Around the Church

Carolann in shed



Pentecost



Picnic!



Communications - Books have been purchased for Anthony, Brad and Evelyn for their reception. Susan will inscribe the books.

Encouraging Words for Summer

Audrey Sundwall

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

-- *James 1:17*

As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

-- *Luke 21:30*

From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised.

-- *Psalms 113:3*

Then he spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig trees. When they are already budding, you see and know that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away.

-- *Luke 21:29-36*

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

-- *Psalms 118:24*



Episcopal Reception

On June 7th Anthony Reckart, Brad Conant and Evelyn Conant were received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Jeffrey W. Mello at Christ Church in Greenwich, CT with Fr. Charles also participating. Twelve C&E parishioners went along to lend support at this momentous occasion in our friends' lives. It was a lovely service with candidates from several churches in the diocese being Confirmed or Received.

At our Sunday service the next day, Anthony, Evelyn and Brad were presented with copies of the book *Welcome to the Episcopal Church*.





Ask Audrey! Audrey Sundwall

This month's question -
Who decides what scripture readings to use for Sunday Services and Holy Days?

In the Episcopal Church the readings for Sundays and Holy Days are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three year cycle of Scripture readings that follow the liturgical year. Each service includes passages from the Old Testament or Acts of the Apostles; a psalm; an Epistle or the Book of Revelations; and from one of the Gospels. The years are labelled A, B, and C and start with the first Sunday in Advent. Year A Gospel readings are from Matthew, year B from Mark, and Year C, from Luke, with some of John read where appropriate. We are currently in year C.

Historically, the Roman Catholic Church devised the Roman Lectionary in 1969 after Vatican II. The 1983 Common Lectionary came from an ecumenical project by several American and Canadian Protestant denominations. And in 1992 came the Revised Common Lectionary. It was intended to standardize the different Protestant approaches to the Scriptures. While the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church have their own lectionaries, most Protestant denominations world-wide use the Revised Common Lectionary so that on any given

Sunday or Holy Day, the same readings are experienced.

You may wonder what the Episcopal Church did for readings before the Common Lectionary. I have a 1953 Book of Common Prayer, and it has assigned reading for Sundays and Holy Days. The same readings were used every year. If you want to look ahead and find the readings for a given day, go to The Episcopal Church website > "Resources" and go to the Lectionary Calendar for your date.

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alexis, Amanda, Amy, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Beth Flynn, Bohdan & Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, Charlie & Kris Langlan, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Debbie, Donna Hodge & Family, Dot Logan, Doug, Ed, Elaine, Ellen McDonald, Faith, Francesca, Gail, Gail & Marnie, Geneva O'Donnell, Hal Levi, Holly Chickos, Holly, Jan McDonald, Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, Kathy Guida, Kira, Korey Mollor, Kris, Lauren, Lucas Sundwall, Rev. Lucy, Matt R., Maureen McPherson, Mike, Michael M., Mila, Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Regina Schwall, Richard Testa, Sallie Alexander, Sam W., Susan Diaz, Tim, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.



Summertime Blessing

May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do, wherever you go. Walking with God means walking with honesty and courage and walking with love, respect, and concern for the feelings of others. May you talk to God this summer - every day and in every situation. Talking with God means praying words of praise for the beauty of creation, saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times, asking God's help in all your decisions, and expressing sorrow when you have failed. May you walk and talk with God every day. Amen.

-- unknown

Did you leave an LL Bean raincoat at the picnic?



Reflections on being Prodigal

Jesse Osmun

On the Fourth Sunday in Lent, I had the opportunity to hear one of my favorite gospel readings from the gospel of Luke about the Prodigal Son who returns home. It's easy to read the story as just about the joy of repentance and reconciliation with God, and it's accurate to read it that way. But I think it asks us to go further and ask the uncomfortable questions about who we are comfortable reconciling ourselves with: Would I reconcile with someone who has done me or others harm? Would I reconcile with someone whose politics maybe disgust or upset me? Would I reconcile with the church if other Christians caused me emotional harm? Things get a bit more complicated when we have to stretch our imaginations around who we get to reconcile with.

Many of you know my story of reconciliation with the Episcopal Church started with coming out of incarceration. I wasn't sure if I wanted to be the Prodigal Son if the Episcopal Church was my father. There was a history between us that was painful and filled with shame and regret. As much as a part of me wanted that hug, the embrace, the welcome home - I wondered how many would act like the elder brother, unwilling to forgive. Still, Jesus was gnawing at my heart to come home, just return as you are. I imagine that the Prodigal Son was a sight for sore eyes-Ragged, Dirty, Smelling of Pig Manure. On top of that, he had to account for spending his inheritance on prostitutes and drinking. How would he ever live THAT down? Yet I find it striking that the first hugs I got after seeing my parents were from members of this parish, all of whom had never even met me. To this day I remember crying on the ride home, ever so slightly, because I had not been hugged like that in over a decade. Just a little gesture of reconciliation has healed so much.

In lieu of employment, I have been doing Community Service as a Volunteer at CCAR in New Haven, where we seek to connect people leaving addiction with resources for their ongoing recovery and sobriety. Many tell me the thing they still feel really guilty and ashamed of is stealing money or medications from their loved ones' pocketbooks and pill closets in order to feed their habits. Some took only \$10 here and there, others took as much as \$1,000 over a period of years, hoping their elderly loved ones wouldn't notice. All of them talk of the desire for healing and reconciliation. All of them seek to return home to someone who will forgive them. Sadly, there are many Prodigals and few Embracing Fathers.

Luke is showing us a way forward: First, stop the self-destruction within you and return. Turn around, leave the pigsty, and walk home. Secondly, own up to what you've "squandered" and have an accounting before God of where you went astray and sinned. Lastly, be aware that even as God the Father embraces you and celebrates your return, others may not. Luke doesn't tell us that the elder brother changed his attitude, only that his father implored him to come to the banquet and celebrate that his brother, "*This son of yours*" as the brother sneers, was "Dead" but is now "Alive". It's striking that the father uses the term "Dead" and not "Lost" or "Missing". I remember May 14th, 2024, when I popped out of a small brick building and into a processing area to be released into the arms of my parents, and hugging my own father. On the side of the road as we drove back were prison-issued sweatpants and jeans that had been happily discarded by former inmates. Quickly, Bring out the best robe! Celebrate! The Prodigal has returned to The Father! Amen!



Next Issue The deadline for the August issue is July 22nd. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

ECCT 2024-2025 Prayer Cycle



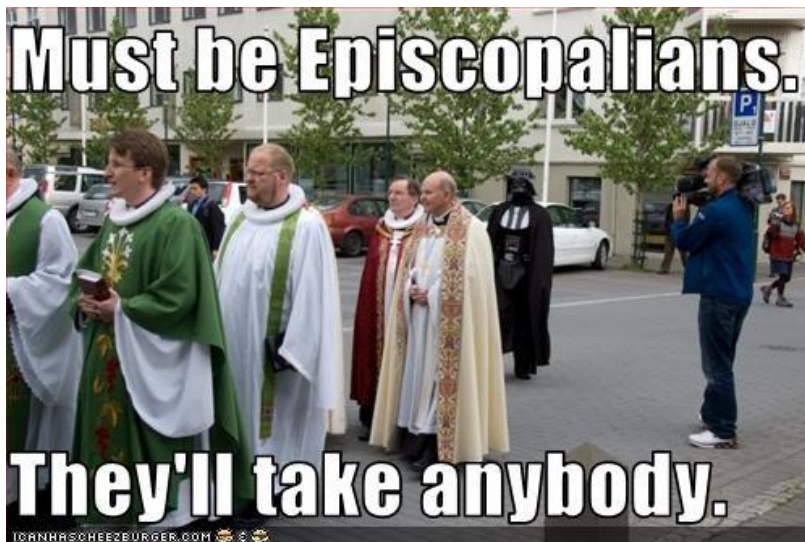
July 6	<p>Parishes: St. Paul's, Plainfield; Christ Church, Pomfret; Trinity, Portland</p> <p>Additionally: Military chaplains & all who serve this country</p> <p>Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)</p>
July 13	<p>Parishes: St. James', Poquetanuck; Christ Church, Redding; St. Stephen's, Ridgefield</p> <p>Additionally: ECCT & parish committees on investments, stewardship, planned giving, insurance & personnel policy</p> <p>Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India</p>
July 20	<p>Parishes: St. Paul's, Riverside; St. Andrew the Apostle, Rocky Hill; Christ Church, Roxbury</p> <p>Additionally: Wardens, treasurers, clerks & all vestry members; elected delegates</p> <p>Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Pakistan (United)</p>
July 27	<p>Parishes: St. John's, Salisbury; Trinity, Seymour; Christ Church, Sharon</p> <p>Additionally: Parish office volunteers, curates, seminary interns, parish assistants & associates. For missional curacies</p> <p>Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</p>

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	MAY	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$ 7,407.52	(\$ 871.31)	\$ 48,050.36	(\$ 388.79)
EXPENSES	\$ 9,133.38	\$ 1,027.19	\$ 61,190.07	\$ 4,749.14
NET	(\$ 1,725.86)	(\$ 1,898.50)	(\$ 13,139.71)	(\$ 5,137.93)

Notes: May was our worst month this year. Between an income deficit of about \$850 and expenses coming in about \$1,000 over budget we were off our target by close to \$2,000. Hopefully in June we can get back on track.



Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Service	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Eucharist
Presider/ Officiant	Pat Walters	Anthony Reckart	Rev. Charles Kamano	Rev. Charles Kamano
Crucifer			George Coulombe	Kristina Langlan
Acolyte			Audrey Sundwall	Audrey Sundwall
Lay Reader	Barbara Parsons	Brad Conant	Evelyn Conant	Ray Clearwater
Usher	George Coulombe	Barbara Parsons	Pat Walters	Kathy Dougherty Ken Dougherty
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Diane Villano
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe	Pat Walters
Asst Counter	Judy Herzman	Audrey Sundwall	Barbara Coulombe	Melanie Miller

Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Rev. Charles L. Kamano
Senior Warden	Diane Villano
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Kristina Langlan
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (& Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Pat Walters
Vestry Member	Brad Conant
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

ECCT continues to experience a shortage of supply clergy for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving at C&E, please contact the office at christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org

To join by phone call: 929-436-2866, Meeting ID = 763 909 4733, Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

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Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking