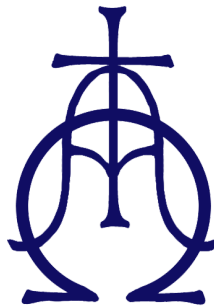

Christ Church News Note

2 messages

Christ Episcopal Church

Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 7:19 PM

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH XENIA****NewsNote Vol. 1, No. 1***A note from Reverend Jennifer*

Every three years near July 4, when we are reading the Gospel according to Matthew, we have a gospel reading in which Jesus invites us to be yoked to his Way--to take on his burdens. In other words, near Independence Day, Jesus invites us to be Dependent.

I hope that you will think about what it takes to be free, and about different kinds of freedom. Usually we think about *freedom from*--that is, freedom that allows us to have no restrictions. But Jesus invites us to *freedom to*--taking on limitations and being dependent so that we can grow more fully and completely. No matter what you've taken care of--an animal, a child, an elder, a garden--you know that being a caregiver limits your time, energy and pocketbook. But being in a loving relationship that takes and gives care opens a whole new world of rich relationship, one that demands that you give up having *all* possibilities so that you can have a beautiful, true, reality.

One person I know described it like this:

Freedom is not the ability to do whatever you want, whenever you want to do it. In reality, that is just slavery to one's own passions. True freedom, as espoused throughout tradition and scripture, is the ability to do what's good, *easily*.

This week we'll hear the beautiful words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30. I hope that as we celebrate our nation, we consider the beauty of dependence--of the yoke of Jesus.

--J+

WORSHIP JULY 5th 2020

July 5 and 12, we will worship on line via YouTube link sent by email and on FaceBook.

Scripture Readings for July 5

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145

Romans 7:15-25

Matthew 11:16-30

On July 19th, Fr. Elaine will offer a real-time Zoom service at 9.30. It's easy! Please consider participating--we will need lectionary readers and an intercessor for the Prayers of the People

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Returning to worship at 63 East Church Street

We're getting all the information about who would attend when—thank you! We will have limited gatherings when we can. *Our guidelines read that we must have two weeks of flat or decreasing COVID-19 cases before we can gather. We are hoping the current spike in cases will flatten soon!* In the meantime, we're thinking through HOW we will gather.

When we have our plans in place and good news about the spread of COVID we will make a concerted effort to let you know that there is the opportunity for in-person worship.

When can we celebrate the Eucharist again?

The bishop has tentatively designated October 18th as the day that we can return to celebrating Eucharist. Until then we will use Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Table, and Spiritual Communion liturgies. It's a good time to experiment!

Bible Study

Some of you were inspired by the articles "How to Read Romans." We will start a Zoom Bible study when Rev. Jennifer gets back from vacation in August.

Prayer List

We will have a prayer list each week that you will receive by email or snail mail. The names that will be spoken at Prayers of the People are posted for one month, and then moved to the devotional prayer list. If you have a person or need or thanksgiving for community prayers, please let Becky know.

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