

Update from All Saints'

Email to the Parish from The Venerable Christopher Dunn

21 March 2020

Welcome to the first day of spring. As someone said recently, imagine if this self-quarantining and self-isolation happened in the dead of winter. At least we have the signs of spring around us to keep us ever hopeful.

So, today was the first day that I did not actually venture down to the Church. We continue to have everything shut down, and a note from the Bishop today reminded the clergy that for our "long-range planning, unless something rather miraculous happens, Holy Week and Easter liturgies will not unfold in our Church buildings with the community gathering around table and pulpit." I must say that I am not completely surprised by that possibility, and I am sure you are not, but I will keep you up to date as I hear things.

So as of this evening you can go to our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintswestboro/> and check in on the Service of the Word that Adam and I taped for the Fourth Sunday in Lent:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintswestboro/videos/3061103420586533/>. I am not tech savvy enough to figure out live streaming, but then again, the quality is probably better doing it this way. I did send you the liturgy in my email on Thursday if you want to follow along.

As many of you have now told me, the Puppet Story that I sent out last night was interesting. My biggest challenge was trying to do puppets in a room by myself. I know that I often feel like I am talking to myself, but this goes to a whole new level!

Finally, we have been asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and our Metropolitan, to join other Anglicans in lighting a Candle and placing it in the window of our home at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, March 22nd. This is a reminder to the world that the Light of Christ still shines through the darkness.

So, another prayer for this evening:

*Holy and compassionate God, you send to us in our need those who care for us and look out for our lives. Bless them in their love for us. Bless the hands of those who work for our health. Bless the minds of those who search for our healing. Bless the feet of those who come to us in our need. Bless the eyes of those who look after us. Bless the hearts of those who serve; fill them with compassion and patience; and work through all of them for the betterment and well-being of all your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

May the hope of spring, and the increasing light of the day, be signs to us of God's continuing and ever abiding presence with us through this period of uncertainty.

Chris