



Being the Church during this time

The need to move to more electronic and virtual gatherings has been difficult in many ways. But God shows us that, even in circumstances we would not choose, we can find new life and new opportunities. One place where we believe we can grow stronger as the Church in Berkshire County is to use these electronic resources to share programs across our congregations. We are blessed with talented and faithful people in each of our parishes, and this time gives us a chance to share our gifts with each other in new ways.

Below we have included some of the ways we can grow as Christians and as Christian communities at this time. Over time we will be adding new programs and sharing them with you all.

Opportunities for Prayer

Centering Prayer

Even though some things have slowed down, there is still much business and noise in our hearts. Centering Prayer, a form of Christian meditation helps us slow down and focus on God's presence in our lives. Here in the Berkshires, there are two places where we can explore Centering Prayer.

[On Thursdays at 5pm, Centering Prayer is led by members of Grace Church.](#)

The dial in number is +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID is 203 314 800.

[Email based Centering Prayer led by members of St. John's Church, Williamstown](#)

Every Thursday morning an e-mail is sent with suggested directions for a 'mini-retreat' hour including 20 minutes of Centering Prayer. While the group covenants to gather individually at 4:00 p.m. each Thursday, the 'mini-retreat' instructions could be used at any convenient time. Please contact Mary Pierson (mdpierson@gmail.com) or Claudia Ellet (claudiaellett@msn.com) to be added to the e-mail list.

The Daily Office

[Monday through Friday at 7am, Rite II, led by members of Trinity Church, Lenox](#)

[Saturday at 8am, Rite II, led by members of Trinity Church, Lenox](#)

[Sunday at 5pm, Rite I, led by members of Trinity Church, Lenox](#)

Each morning throughout the week, we gather to begin day with prayer, praise, and reflection on the Psalms and the Scriptures. We use prayer books at home for much of the service, but we use Zoom to share the psalms and the Scripture for the day. On Sunday, we close our day with evening prayer. Our service lasts about 25 minutes.

Weekdays - dial in number is +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID is 156 184 719.

Password: episcopal

Saturday - dial in number is +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID is 890 986 142.

Sunday - dial in number is +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID is 827 1146 5879.

The Daily Office – Morning Prayers

[Wednesdays at 8:30am led by members of St. Paul's Church in Stockbridge](#)

A simple service of morning prayers helps us all start the day with our eyes focused on God. The dial in number is +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID 923 2506 4055.

The Daily Office – Compline

[Each evening at 8pm, led by Bishop Fisher and others from the diocese](#)

Each evening, Bishop Fisher and others around the diocese come together to pray the service of Compline. Compline helps bring each day to a close with praise and reflection.

The dial in number to join by phone is +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID is 714 336 095.

Opportunities for Study and Formation

Holy Conversation with Howard Thurman

Thursday May 7 & 14 from 10-11:30am

Local members of the Beloved Community Team of the Diocese of Western MA will be leading a discussion Howard Thurman's [Jesus and the Disinherited](#).

A mentor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Howard Thurman anticipated many of the themes of liberation theology, including Black Theology. But Thurman's focus was not direct activism so much as cultivating a liberated spirit. The result is a short, inspiring work of pastoral theology.

[Please see this announcement from the Beloved Community Team](#) or contact Lee Cheek at belovedcommunitywma@gmail.com for more information.

Weekly Bible Study

[Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm led by the members of Grace Church](#) The dial in number is +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID is 753 016 518.

Go more deeply into the Gospel of Matthew with the people of Grace Church in the Southern Berkshires. At this point, we are coming to the end of our exploration of Matthew and we are looking forward to a study of the Book of Revelation in June. Stay tuned for more information about the upcoming program.

Weekly Lectionary Study Group

[Friday at noon led by the members of St. John's Williamstown](#)

Get more out of Sunday morning by getting a sneak peek at the upcoming readings. Every Friday, we read through the upcoming readings and reflect on how God is speaking to us today. Please contact Mary Lovvorn at zrobi@hotmail.com to receive an invitation.

The End of the World or Heaven on Earth: An In-Depth Look at the Book of Revelation

Six Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm, beginning June 2.

How can we see the Book of Revelation, not as a road map to the end of time, but as a way of finding God in apocalyptic times? This six-week journey will focus on how we should understand this vivid account of Christ's second coming as a book of hope. Sessions will include a survey of works of visual art, music, and film-making that draw from this, the last book in our Biblical canon. Each session will be followed by a simple compline service. All are welcome to join us!

A direct link to Zoom will be provided soon.

Dial-in at 646-558-8656; Meeting ID 753 016 518