

The


 E R G E R

May, 2020

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VOLUME NINE, ISSUE 5

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"THE LORD SAYS," I WILL **rescue** THOSE WHO *love* ME. I WILL **protect** THOSE WHO *trust* IN MY NAME. WHEN THEY CALL ON ME, *I will answer*; I WILL BE WITH THEM IN TROUBLE. I WILL **rescue** AND *honor* THEM. I WILL REWARD THEM WITH A LONG LIFE AND GIVE THEM MY *salvation*."

Psalm 91:14-16



Ascension Day May 21st

Beloved in Christ,

There is no doubt we live in a difficult time, the likes of which we have never experienced before. With the coronavirus outbreak, has come a tremendous level of anxiety and fear. People are losing their jobs, others are having trouble paying their bills, and we are all compelled to stay home. After a couple of months of this experience, many people are tired and ready to go back to work.

In the middle of this confusion, with the civil authorities trying to find the best approach, strategies, or simple message to appease their constituents, the promise of Jesus to his disciple—and to us all—reminds us that God is still in control.

In this month of May, we are reminded of when that promise was made and when it was fulfilled.

Eastertide ends with Ascension. When Christ had completed his work in this world he returned to the spiritual world – the world of eternity. When we use the word "ascended", we do not mean that Christ was wafted by magic into the sky like some people think and paint him. The world of eter-

nity is the highest life which is held to have neither beginning nor end. It is a life that is not limited by time or space. God lives in eternity. We live in time. For Christ's work of redemption to have real meaning for us, he had to carry it into the world of eternity and so he ascended. It was at this event and at this moment that Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit to his disciples (John 14: 26).

Ten days after, this promise was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit came. Many people call this event Pentecost. But we Anglicans usually call it Whitsunday. This originated from the white garments worn by the newly baptized on this day. Baptisms were popular and frequent on this day, more so than on Easter, because the climate in England and other northern countries made it a more suitable time for baptism than the earlier and colder Easter Day.

Pentecost had long been a Jewish festival, a time of Thanksgiving for the wheat harvest. Appropriately enough, it had also commemorated the giving of the Law to Moses, and thus was in effect the birthday of the Jewish Church. This made it easy to transform it into a kind of birthday of the Christian Church.

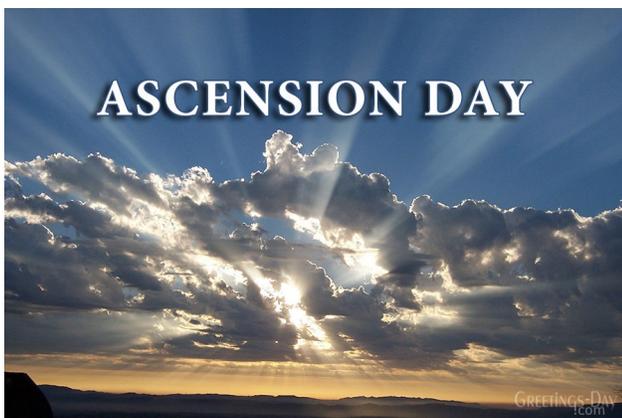
On Pentecost, as the followers of Jesus gathered for worship, they were startled by a “Mighty Rushing Wind” and looked up to see “tongues” of fire resting above each head. Filled with the Holy Ghost, those present began to tell the Gospel story in a great diversity of languages, emphasizing the universal character of the Christian Gospel.

Recently, I was asked by a nurse to talk to a patient’s family members who requested a chaplain. I called and listened to a couple of them. As I listen, one of them asked me a question about coronavirus that I have heard from many people recently: “where is God in all this?” Since I do not believe that there is one right answer to that question, I replied: “I understand your concern. In my judgment, I do not see the virus as something that is made or sent by God. But I do know that God shows up when people are trying to save their life which is precious to him, or others, like the medical professionals, are working hard to save and bring hope to people. God is right here, crying with us.

We remember what Jesus said: “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14: 18).

Peace and Blessings!

Fr. Mannes Thierry Hakpon, O.P.
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Ascension Day is observed in the United States on the 40th day of Easter. It commemorates Jesus Christ’s ascension into heaven. This year it is the 21st of May. Ascension is a day of obligation: Mass is at 6: 30 pm.

Senior Wardens Moment

Do you feel like you are living continually in "Ground Hog Day"? This is a movie where Bill Murray wakes up everyday and the exact same things happen over and over again. The only change is how he deals with the same people, circumstances, and duties each day. Can you relate? I wake up every day thinking what day is this? All the days are the same except Sunday.

Just six weeks ago I stayed busy with my family, friends, clubs, church, and taking care of my aging, visually-impaired, and deaf dog, Scruffy. Then the life I knew just stopped. My friends were anchored in their homes, some really afraid to come out; many others were wishing they could. All social functions stopped with no plan in sight to start again. My poor little dog became ill and had to be put down. Another loss to deal with. Everything I was looking forward to, like so many other people, had evaporated.

The good news was that Easter was on the way. Although we thought it would be another time of separation, it turned out to be so uplifting. Those who could come to church, in fact, did! We just kept adding more and more scheduled times Easter Week to worship, reflect, and pray. We maintained the Governor's regulations...just had more services to fit everyone in who wanted to come. The news kept telling everyone to stay at home and Facebook posts were saying that the church isn't the building...it's the people. I agree. But for me, I look forward to coming to church, not because of the building, but to be with my brothers and sisters in Christ, to worship together, to pray together, to receive the Sacraments together as long as I'm able. For our family that couldn't safely be with us, we prayed each time we were together, that they remained safe and healthy during this uncertain time.

We will continue to have our four services each Sunday with the 10 people limit until regulations loos-

en up a bit. You will be kept informed of any changes. We will continue to make plans for upcoming events so when we are allowed to go back to our normal routine, we will be ready to go.

We are still anxious to have Fr. Thierry formally instituted as Rector and look forward to Bishop Lerow's visit. We have some sprucing up and a few repairs to do, once the weather cooperates. Sarah Walls and Lynn Snively continue to work on live web streaming...working out the kinks! The St. Alban's Facebook posts are always uplifting...thanks Mike Mitchell! Plans are still in the works for the men's group (MOSA), and also the ladies group (LOSA) will be starting to firm up their events. The Food Bank continues every week, so keep saving your paper bags. Food items and money donations are always

welcomed.

A special Thank you to Bernard Riley and David Wheeler for smoothing out the sounds of our joyful noises at three of our Sunday services. Thanks to Eunice Green and Terry Smelly for all their extra help on Altar Guild duty. Thanks to John Bugg, Jeff Barlow, Craig Smelly and Lynn Snively for ushering each week faithfully.

In these difficult times, we have to remain hopeful. Try to make the best of each day that God gives us. Reach out to those who are staying at home, if only to say "Hi, we miss you". We look forward to being together again....soon!

Faithfully,

Rosalind Snively,, Senior Warden



DMAS Youth Summer Camp June 23 –29, 2019

DMAS SUMMER CAMP CANCELLED FOR 2020

In an email announcement Michael C. Weaver commented about DMAS Youth Summer Camp "Due to the uncertainty surrounding things in regards to the virus. Camp has been canceled for 2020.

We are tentatively on the schedule for June 20-26, 2021.

We will look into possibly doing something that the kids can attend later in the year."

For those members of our congregation who are not able to attend Service/Mass on Sunday, the 8:30 service will be live-streamed to our website: <https://www.saintalbansanglican.org>.

To watch the livestream from your laptop, go to the website and click on the **Sermons** above the picture of the church. It will take you to the page and video channel for Sermons. There is a placeholder for Sunday's service, and you will see a countdown clock until the video starts. Once it is 8:30, the video will start. You should not have to do anything to watch the video.

To watch the livestream from your phone, go to the website and click on the drop-down menu at the top right. Choose **Sermons**. It will take you to the page and video channel for Sermons. There is a placeholder for Sunday's service called Easter 2020. Once it is 8:30, the video will start. You should not have to do anything to watch the video.

MEMORIAL DAY 2020

MAY 25

WHY IS THE POPPY A SYMBOL OF MEMORIAL DAY?

In the war-torn battlefields of Europe, the common red field poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) was one of the first plants to reappear. Its seeds scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground, only germinating when the ground was disturbed—as it was by the very brutal fighting of World War 1.

John McCrae, a Canadian soldier and physician, witnessed the war first hand and was inspired to write the now-famous poem “In Flanders Fields” in 1915. (See below for the poem.) He saw the poppies scattered throughout the battlefield surrounding his artillery position in Belgium.

The Poppy Lady

In November 1918, days before the official end of the war, an American professor named Moina Michael wrote her own poem, “We Shall Keep the Faith,” which was inspired by McCrae’s “In Flanders Fields.” In her poem (also shown below), she mentioned wearing the “poppy red” to honor the dead, and with that, the tradition of adorning one’s clothing with a single red poppy in remembrance of those killed in the Great War was born. Moina herself came to be known—and honored—as “The Poppy Lady.”

The Symbol Spreads Abroad

The wearing of the poppy was traditionally done on Memorial Day in the United States, but the symbolism has evolved to encompass all veterans living and deceased, so poppies may be worn on [Veterans Day](#) as well. Not long after the custom began, it was adopted by other Allied nations, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, where it is still popular today. In these countries, the poppy is worn on Remembrance Day (November 11).

Today, poppies are not only a symbol of loss of life, but also of recovery and new life, especially in support of the servicemen who survived the war but suffered from physical and psychological injuries long after it ended.

“In Flanders Fields”

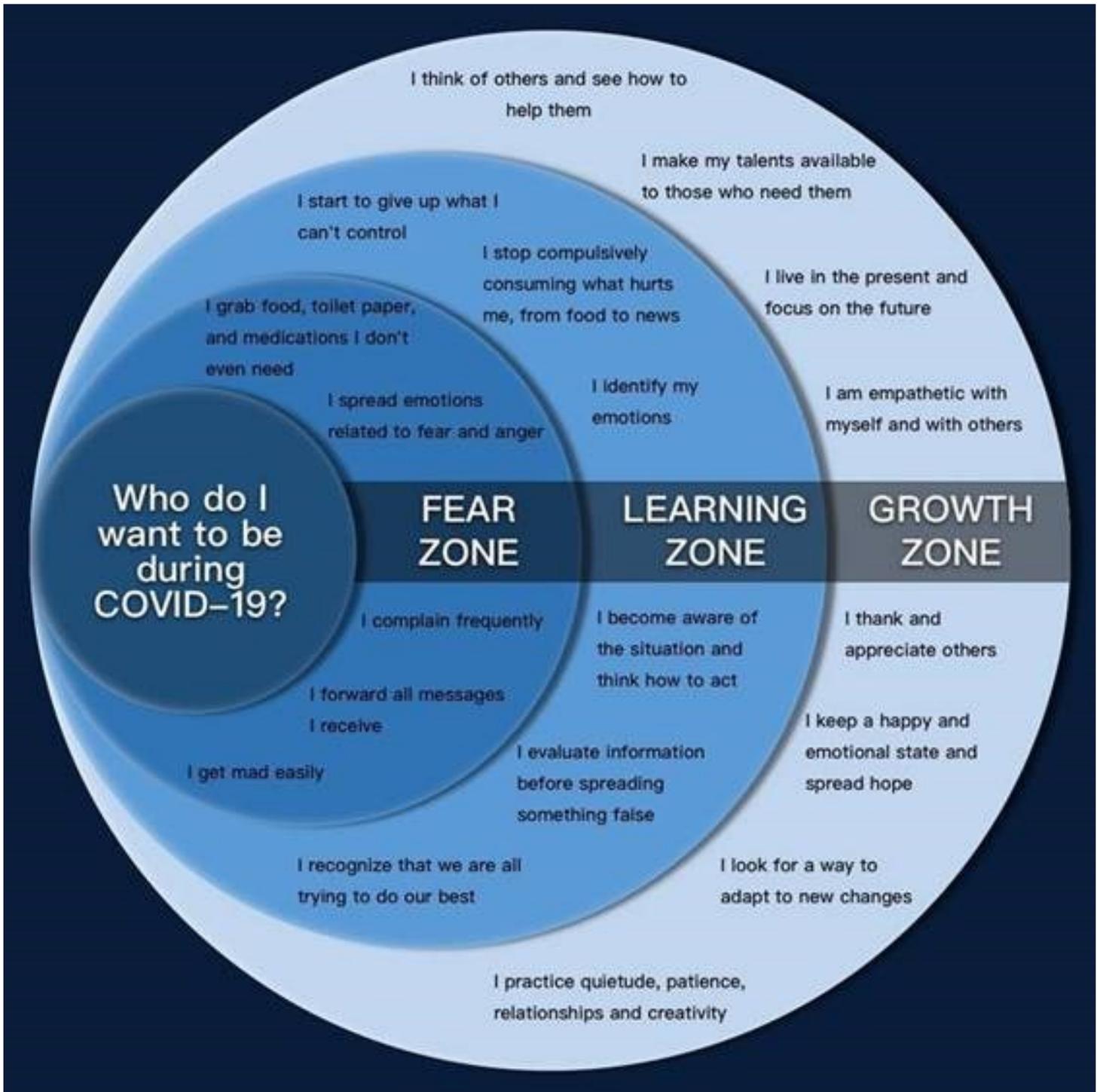
by John McCrae, May 1915

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*





Phases of the Pandemic

We must recognize things will be different for a while.

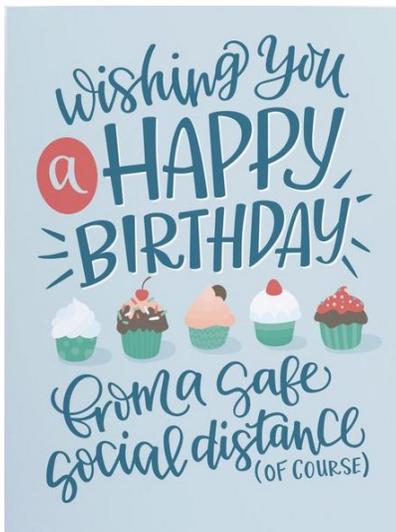
1. Social distancing will be practiced, but it helps us to get out and about which builds our resilience, immune system, confidence, and promotes positive moods and calms stress. Let's remember to be graceful if someone slips up with social distancing. Be more tolerant especially during these next few months.
2. This tragedy has given us time to be more focused and appreciative for what we have in life and recognize what is truly important. Likely we will all need to do more with less in these future recovery months.
3. Be courageous and brave. Do something good for others, it is the right thing to do and it will make you feel good that you are helping.

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 WHITSUNDAY	Worship Schedule Subject to change this month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •• <u>Sundays</u> Sunday 8:30am - 10 person limit Sunday 10:00am—10 person limit Sunday 11:30 am—10 person limit Sunday 1:15 pm—10 person limit Sunday 5:45pm - 7:00pm Choral Evensong •• <u>Wednesdays</u> Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 am •• <u>Daily</u> Monday-Saturday 8:00am-9:00am Matins (Chanted Morning Prayer) 			Contact Rosalind: (804) 339-7675; email: RoSnively@AOL.com to reserve your time.	1 SS. PHILIP AND JAMES Morning Prayer 8am	2 Morning Prayer 8am
3 EASTER III	4 Morning Prayer 8am	5 Morning Prayer 8am	6 Morning Prayer 8am 10:00 am Bible Study 1-3 Food Pantry	7 Morning Prayer 8am	8 Morning Prayer 8am	9 Morning Prayer 8am
10 EASTER IV 	11 Morning Prayer 8am	12 Morning Prayer 8am	13 Morning Prayer 8am 10:00 am Bible Study 1-3 Food Pantry	14 Morning Prayer 8am	15 Morning Prayer 8am	16 Morning Prayer 8am
17 EASTER V	18 ROGATION MONDAY Morning Prayer 8am	19 Morning Prayer 8am	20 Morning Prayer 8am 10:00 am Bible Study 1-3 Food Pantry	21 ASCENSION DAY Mass 6:30pm	22 Morning Prayer 8am	23 Morning Prayer 8am
24 SUNDAY after ASCENSION	25 Memorial Day Morning Prayer 8am	26 Morning Prayer 8am	27 Morning Prayer 8am 10:00 am Bible Study 1-3 Food Pantry	28 Morning Prayer 8am	29 Morning Prayer 8am	30



"It feels like God has sent us all to our rooms to think about what we've done."



Birthdays in MAY

- Betty Anderson 08
- Lyddall Bugg 06
- Alexandra Unger 12
- Chuck Bingley 12
- Lynn Snively 13
- John Walls 20
- Ernie Haufe 21J
- John Hoover 30

St. Alban's is a traditional Anglican parish located Richmond, Virginia. St. Alban's is committed to Christianity as a way of life. Faithfulness to the ancient faith, reverence in worship, love for God and each other and holiness in life are the hallmarks of the parish. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to become a part of our growing parish family! We will embrace you, pray for you, and encourage you as we strive together to attain the kingdom of heaven.

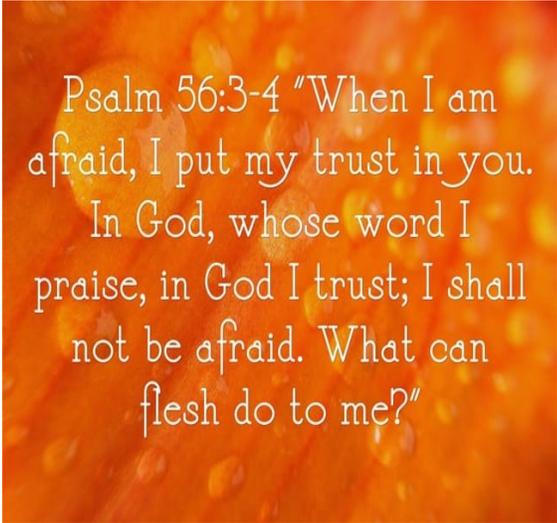


Founded in Richmond, 1984. on St Alban's Day.

A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus

Lord, give Your people Your peace that we may shine brightly in a dark world. Grant us the courage to live faithfully even in the midst of hard times. Let our fear of You be the beginning of wisdom rather than allowing the fear of the world to drive our actions. Help us to embrace our heavenly citizenship and live strangely in the midst of a world that needs to know You.

Show Your mercy and heal those who are suffering in Your fallen creation. Most of all Lord, come. Restore the world You have made and make all things new. We pray that Your will would be done. Amen.



Psalm 56:3-4 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"

Given the difficulty of people being able to attend church services during this time of the pandemic, Bishop Lerow would like to let you know that his parish of St. Barbara's is live streaming their services on Sunday as well as Tuesday Evening Prayer (6:00 pm) and Friday morning Prayer (9:30 am). The Bishop invites everyone to participate via ZOOM conference call. The link to the ZOOM call is found on their website: <https://www.stbarbaraacc.com/>

St. Alban's Anglican Parish

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PASTORAL EMERGENCIES (703) 986-8906



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