



# EMMANUEL CHURCH, NEWPORT, RI†

*We are a dynamic faith community committed to sharing God's love.  
Our mission is to equip people to live as disciples of Jesus.*



## The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: August 30, 2020

PRELUDE

Andante con espressione from *Sonata No. 8 in D Major, KV. 311*

W A. Mozart

HYMN 401

The God of Abraham praise, vs. 1-3

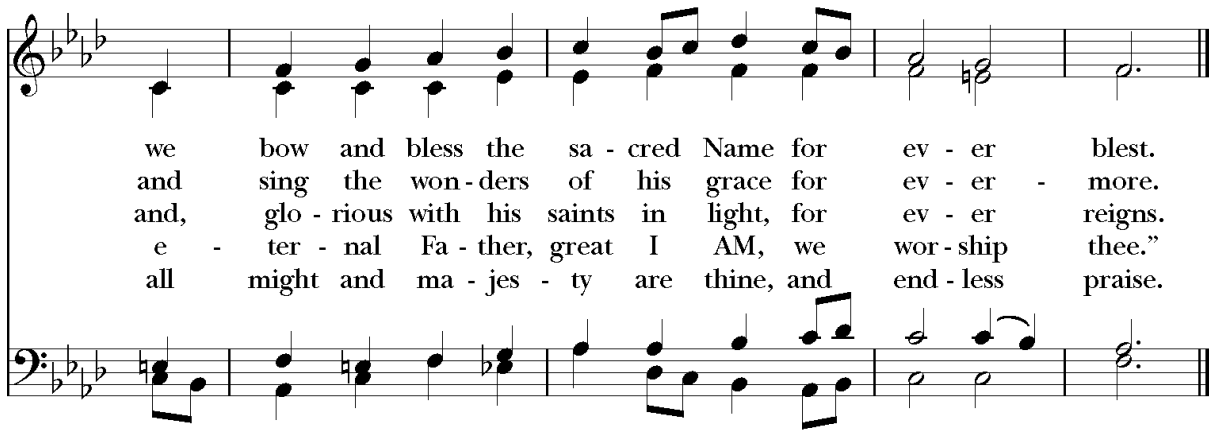
Leoni

1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;  
2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;  
3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,  
4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,  
5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;  
2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:  
3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;  
4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!  
5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;

1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:  
2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,  
3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,  
4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:  
5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;

†Emmanuel Church was added to the national register of historic places in 1996.



we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.  
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.  
 and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.  
 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."  
 all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,  
 and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

*Psalms 43:3*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together*

Most merciful God,  
 we confess that we have sinned against you  
 in thought, word, and deed,  
 by what we have done,  
 and by what we have left undone.  
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
 have mercy on us and forgive us;  
 that we may delight in your will,  
 and walk in your ways,  
 to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

*The Priest alone says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins  
 through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all  
 goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in  
 eternal life. *Amen.*

### INVITATORY

Lord, open our lips.

*And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!*

**ANTIPHON:** The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: *Come let us adore him.*

**Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**ANTIPHON:** The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: *Come let us adore him.*

**PSALM 26:1-8** *Judica me, Domine*

- 1 Give judgment for me, O LORD,  
for I have lived with integrity; \*  
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- 2 Test me, O LORD, and try me; \*  
examine my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your love is before my eyes; \*  
I have walked faithfully with you.
- 4 I have not sat with the worthless, \*  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, \*  
that I may go in procession round your altar,
- 7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- 8 LORD, I love the house in which you dwell \*  
and the place where your glory abides.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 15:15-21

O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Canticle 12: A Song of Creation**

*Hymn 398 I sing the almighty power of God  
Forest Green*

1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,  
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;  
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known;

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.  
 he formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good.  
 and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;  
 Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,  
 while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
 and ev - ery-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

**THE EPISTLE: Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**The Word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God*

CANTICLE: The Song of Mary, *the Magnificat*

Hymn 437 *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*  
vs. 1, 2, 4 *Birmingham*

1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.  
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary* Copyright ©1962 by Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.  
Used with permission. Music: *Birmingham*, from *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF Matthew 16:21-28**

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

### **The Word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God*

## **SERMON**

**The Rev. Della Wager Wells**

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.



## THE PRAYERS

Officiant     The Lord be with you.  
People        *And also with you.*  
Officiant     Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
    hallowed be thy Name,  
    thy kingdom come,  
    thy will be done,  
        on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those  
        who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power, and the glory,  
    for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## SUFFRAGES A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Nicholas, our Presiding Bishop, Michael; for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; and for our community of Emmanuel; and for all ministers and people.  
Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; for our President, Donald, our Governor, Gina, our Mayor, Jamie and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers Walker; Dennis and Connie; Heidi; Mandy; Evelyn; Donald; Mike; Lorine and Harry; and for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed,  
Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.  
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **PRAYER FOR MISSION**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;  
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.  
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt. Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

## GENERAL THANKSGIVING

### *Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

## DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

*The Officiant may then conclude*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus  
for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

## FAMILY MEETING

### POSTLUDE

Allegro from *Sonata in B-Flat Major, HWV 434* G. F. Handel

Thank you, also, to our readers: Brian Routhier (Old Testament); Psalm said in unison; Susan Barnes (Epistle); Deb Venancio (Gospel) and Vickie Hicks (Intercessions).

**Thank you for participating in our service time poll! In response to your preferences, in-person Morning Prayer on the church lawn is every Sunday at 9:00 am, weather permitting.** Thank you for speaking up and letting us know what works for you. The RPG has worked hard to get ready for in-person services, including signage, check in procedures, and socially distanced spacing. One entrance to the parking lot will be blocked off by cone so that traffic is directed one way. Please *bring a folding chair, wear your mask, and stay 6 feet from other people* who did not arrive in your car. A greeter will meet you at your car and direct you to the marked socially distant spots on the sidewalk to enter the main church gate (not the office gate). The greeter will have extra masks if you forgot yours.

**We know that some of us have conflicts on some Sundays, are not ready to come to in person worship yet, or may need or want to worship online from time to time.** We will do our best to stream our in-person service on Facebook Live each week at 9:00 am, if you would like to join us that way, and will also continue online Morning Prayer at 10:00 am — both on the Emmanuel web site and the Emmanuel Facebook page. The in-person service will be live, and there is always the potential for technical glitches, but the recorded service will be available both on the Emmanuel web site and the Emmanuel Facebook page if there is any issue with the streamed service.

**We have disappointing news** for those who were not able to read the Emmanuel Constant Contact from Wednesday of this week. **Due to COVID-driven declining enrollment, the vestry voted at its regular meeting on Tuesday to suspend Emmanuel Day School's operations.** We share this news with very heavy hearts, as providing a high quality, nurturing educational environment for our EDS children has been Emmanuel's treasured privilege for decades.

COVID time has affected all of our lives and institutions, and families all over the country are making the difficult decision to homeschool their children or keep them in small neighborhood "pods." These understandable decisions have affected the enrollment at EDS, which is now at less than half capacity. The vestry recognized that we cannot sustain the EDS program at those levels, and voted to suspend EDS operations.

We bring this sad news on behalf of the vestry, sharing your disappointment and regret. We are grateful beyond words for the devotion and professionalism of the EDS staff — Carissa, Kate, Terri, and Sarah. Please reach out to Della+ or to Deb Venancio or Maggie Martin, your wardens, with any questions. We pray for all of our Emmanuel community's health and safety, especially for our EDS teachers and families, and for an effective vaccine that can control this virus that has affected all of our lives.

At the gate, you will have a quick health screening and temperature check, receive a bulletin, and be guided to your socially distanced spot for worship. As glad as we are to see each other, we won't make physical contact — no handshaking or hugging. And (really sadly for me) we can't sing. But this will be fun. It's louder outdoors, and there may be emergency traffic or trucks on Spring Street, gulls or planes overhead, or even boat horns in the harbor — those of you who are veterans of outdoor services at Emmanuel know that. Dennis Bristow will be helping us with a sound system so that you will be able to hear. We'll keep a weather eye out, and let you know by Constant Contact, the web site, and Facebook post if we need to cancel outdoor services due to rain. In addition to your mask and a folding chair, *you may want to wear a hat, or bring an umbrella to protect you from the sun.* We have scheduled the service early — 9:00 am — to avoid the hottest part of the day when the sun is directly overhead. We will continue our 10:00 am Sunday Facebook Live Morning Prayer for those who prefer to worship indoors, or who are not able to or comfortable coming to the church. Remember that the virtual services are recorded. You can worship with those services at any time after they are initially posted at 10:00 on Sundays.

**Remember that we will wear masks and maintain social distance at all church meetings** that are held in person (not on Zoom), whether they are held indoors or outdoors, or at the church or another location.

**HERE IS A VIDEO** that will show you what to expect when you arrive at church: [https://youtu.be/E4IOFRpec\\_o](https://youtu.be/E4IOFRpec_o).

**Technology:** WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE OUR ONLINE WORSHIP. Each Sunday, we will post the week's Morning Prayer service at 10:00 am both on the Emmanuel web site ([https://emmanuelnewport.org/worship/virtual\\_emmanuel/](https://emmanuelnewport.org/worship/virtual_emmanuel/)) and on Facebook. If you are a regular user of Facebook, please "like" and "follow" Emmanuel Church, Newport's page. This will give you notifications of Events, Watch Parties, or Video Premier. If you are not a regular user of Facebook and you want to watch through Facebook, you can click on the Facebook link on Emmanuel's webpage: (<https://emmanuelnewport.org>). This link will take you to Emmanuel Church Newport's Facebook page, where you can click on "Posts" in the left-hand column. The Watch Party will be the top post. You can click on the video to make it larger. When you go to Emmanuel's pages, you will see a menu on the left, where you can click on Video, which will have a red 'live' tag for a Video Premier. You are encouraged to comment during the service and talk with each other, so please enter your comments, or click on the emoticons during the service.

Let's remember our friends who may not be able to join us in person or by computer or tablet. If you can, check in and see if they might like to "go to church" virtually with you, listening to the live cast by telephone as you participate on your computer or tablet at home. Susan Barnes has good advice on this approach. Contact her with any questions.

**The Church office is OPEN!** We are excited to be getting back together. The office will be open Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30-12:00. If you are coming to the office, you will have a temperature check and health screening (cough or respiratory symptoms, muscle aches, travel to other states, etc.) and will enter your name and other details on the contact tracing log on the large table in the reception area of the office. A contact-free digital thermometer, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes are on the table. When entering the office, please WEAR A MASK, and sanitize your hands upon entry. Annie will guide you in the health screening.

**Please let us know any announcements or prayer requests** you have for the congregation! Call Annie Sherman, Parish Administrator, at 401-847-0675, or email her at [admin@emmanuelnewport.org](mailto:admin@emmanuelnewport.org) by Monday each week.

**Did you know** that, especially in these COVID-19 times when many of us are worshipping remotely, you may still *pay your pledge* in all the same ways? There are easy ways to do this! **First**, you can mail in a check, **or** use your bank's online bill pay option (you send a check through your bank online), **or** go to our website - [www.emmanuelnewport.org](http://www.emmanuelnewport.org) - and click on "Donate" to make a secure on-line payment through VANCO using your checking or savings account to pay your pledge. At present we do not use credit cards. It is because of your generosity Emmanuel continues to be with you and with our neighbors through our remote Morning Prayer service on Sundays, as well as at a Bible Study, and Coffee Hour fellowship. Join us live every Sunday at 10am on our Facebook page <https://facebook.com/emmanuelnewport> and click on Video and at the 9am Bible Study and 11am Coffee Hour by clicking on the Zoom links on the next page.

### **From August 27, 2020 Diocesan Update:**

The Rhode Island Department of Health [reports](#) 108 new positive cases of COVID-19 today, with 82 people in the hospital, 10 in the ICU, and 3 requiring a ventilator. Three more Rhode Island residents have died due to the virus. The total number of [coronavirus related deaths](#) in the U.S. reached 183,959 as of noon Thursday.

Time magazine [published an article](#) on the evidence for COVID19 transmission by aerosol and the importance of responding to this new information. The author, Jose-Luis Jimenez is a Professor of Chemistry and a Fellow of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado-Boulder and a Fellow of the American Association for Aerosol Research and the American Geophysical Union. Jimenez compares aerosolized virus to cigarette or vaping smoke – the closer you are to the source and the longer you are exposed to it, the more likely you are to inhale large amounts of it. Also, "in a poorly ventilated room, the smoke will accumulate, and people in the room may end up inhaling a lot of smoke over time. Talking, and especially singing and shouting increase aerosol exhalation by factors of 10 and 50, respectively. Indeed, we are finding that outbreaks often occur when people gather in crowded, insufficiently ventilated indoor spaces, such as singing at karaoke parties, cheering at clubs,

having conversations in bars, and exercising in gyms. Superspreading events, where one person infects many, occur almost exclusively in indoor locations and are driving the pandemic...Contact tracing shows that, when it comes to COVID-19, being outdoors is 20 times safer than being indoors, which argues that aerosol transmission is much more important than droplets; outdoors, there's plenty of air in which aerosols can become diluted; not so indoors."

According to [The Providence Journal](#) the Governor of Massachusetts cited a Rhode Island wedding as an event that infected nearly everyone who attended, including several Massachusetts residents, and has reinstated a 14-day quarantine requirement for Massachusetts residents who visit Rhode Island. "There was a wedding that we figured out through our contact tracing program that took place in Rhode Island where a number of people from Massachusetts went to it," Baker said. "Everybody who went to that wedding except one person tested positive for COVID."

The House of Bishops met last week with Dr. Anthony Fauci, and Bishop Knisely discussed some of the information that emerged from the meeting in the clergy town hall on Thursday, August 20. One point the bishop made is that science is now demonstrating that the virus is aerosolized by speech and breath, and can remain in the air for hours, rather than being carried by larger droplets that fall to the ground in minutes. We have also learned that 2/3 of the people who have COVID — that's 66% — are asymptomatic. Further, testing is notoriously slow, so that many who have COVID have recovered or are hospitalized by the time the test results are available. ***Masks make a huge difference, and social distancing is really important.*** Also, we are safer outdoors than indoors. Governor Raimondo has shared the statistic that we are 19x more likely to share the virus inside than outside. ***As a result of the positive effect of wearing a mask, the Bishop has updated the guidance in the diocesan Journeying by Stages document to require universal wearing of masks by those leading worship, including when preaching and celebrating.*** The exception is when the clergy or lay leader is recording or streaming a service where only their family and a limited circle of those with whom they regularly interact are present.

Dr. Fauci reiterated in the meeting that "outdoors is always better than indoors, indoors with windows open is always better than closed, and that moisture and heat are better than cold and dry" to discourage spread of the virus. He stated that there has been no documentation of outdoor super spreader events. This information is especially important to note as fall and winter approach and churches consider whether to move services inside and use heat or if it would be better to offer online worship only. Dr. Fauci clarified that when experts say, 'crowds,' it means people congregating close together. Large groups outdoors and spaced out properly is safer than small groups gathering in close quarters. Singing is worse than speaking for spreading the virus. Singing sends out more particles according to test done by scientists, so try not to sing. Face shields allow aerosolized particles to emerge underneath, therefore a mask is preferable.

**The mask you choose is important!** New data regarding masks is reported in [The Washington Post](#), which cited a study on the effectiveness of 14 differing kinds of masks. The study found that "some easily accessible cotton cloth masks are about as effective as standard surgical masks, while popular alternatives such as neck gaiters made of thin, stretchy material may be worse than not wearing a mask at all." The neck gaiters are comfortable but "don't restrict air, is the reason why they're not doing much of a job helping people." Some masks are more of a detriment than a good, including bandanas and knitted masks. Finally, masks with a relief valve do not protect others from the air you exhale.

St. Francis Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas posted an [outstanding video](#) on Facebook titled "What Does It Mean to be an Episcopalian?"

**Raymond's ZOOM concerts are Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays at 3pm at**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85408440033?pwd=KzZPQ1hTd05yOXZqN0huSWRHVU50dz09>  
**Meeting ID: 854 0844 0033 Password: 44006**

## **Covenant for Regathering**

I promise, to the best of my ability with God's help, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Rhode Island for participation in church as we regather during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*In faithfulness to the Baptismal Covenant (BCP p. 304-305), I will strive to:*

### **Love my neighbor as myself, by...**

- Wearing a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship by an assigned speaking part, and following public health guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting.
- Only attending worship if I am non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another person also attending.
- Abstaining from attending worship if I am concerned that doing so would be too great a risk due to my own health status.

### **Respect the dignity of every human being, by...**

- Making no physical contact while at church with people beyond the members of my own household.
- Maintaining a six foot or more distance from other members of the congregation.
- Respecting any requests for distance, masking, cleaning, and disinfecting to ensure the safety and comfort level of others.

### **Seek and serve Christ in all people by...**

- Supporting the decisions of my diocesan and congregational leaders.
- Staying connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat, mail, or other means.

This is our expectation for all those who wish to worship with us in person. By participating in our worship, you assume responsibility for following the above, and acknowledge the risks of participation in an in-person gathering.

July 2020