

November 1, 2020

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE
302.368.4644 StThomasParish.org

weekly newsletter

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week..we are preparing our hearts and minds to #VoteFaithfully



AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF PRAYER
BEFORE THE ELECTION

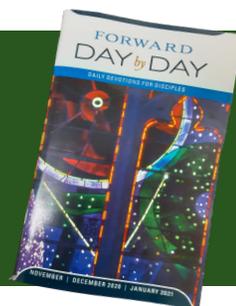
LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2020 7PM

via Zoom:

<https://delaware.church/ecumenical-worship-service/>

November is here!?!
And with it comes a **NEW Forward Day by Day** for November through January.
They are on pamphlet the rack in the lobby (next to the donation box).
I also have envelopes ready- if you'd like a copy mailed, please contact the office.
Regular and LARGE PRINT available



Thank you for wearing a mask in the church building. It protects those who are worshipping, and communing. Your mask protects the clergy, staff, faith family members, and community. Let's keep our church building safe, healthy, open, and a respectful place for all.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Thomas's is alive and well.
We are worshipping via live streaming on YouTube (See our YouTube Channel and hit Subscribe!). The full-text bulletins for our services can be found on our website, and by email request.
We also continue to respond to the needs of the Newark ommunity through our collaboration with the Newark Empowerment Center and others. Those who would like to support our work may do so by going to our "Giving to St Thomas's" page.
Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them, and all who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times. May God bless you and keep you, now and always. For more, see the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware COVID-19 site.



**WE LISTEN
WE PRAY
WE VOTE FAITHFULLY
ON ELECTION DAY
#VOTEFAITHFULLY**

Hello, beloved of God in Delaware,

Here we are, less than a week until election day and the noise and energy is all ratcheting up, probably as loud as it has been. And it's at times like this when we feel that we are just surrounded by chaos in our country; times that we must ground ourselves in prayer. Because when we pray, we focus on God — on God who is true, God who is good, God who is steadfast. And boy, isn't that what we need right now — to remember what is good and true and what lasts. So we pray.

I remind you that this Sunday night there is a prayer service offered by Christians from across many different churches. I, joining with bishops and other Christian leaders from the Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania area, will come together and pray for our country. We'll pray for peace. We'll pray for the election. We'll pray for each other. It's an important symbol of unity of people who worship in different places on Sunday, but who are united in a common love for this country — in a common love, even more importantly, of God and of Jesus Christ and for each other. Join us in prayer my brothers and sisters.

I also want to draw your attention to wonderful, rich prayers of our tradition. In our own Book of Common Prayer are two prayers that you may find very helpful right now. Pray these daily as you move towards election day and through. The first is a prayer for an election and the second is called a prayer for social justice, which simply calls for us to be united. So together, my brothers and sisters, let us pray:

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Grant, oh God, that your holy and life-giving spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers, which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep praying my sisters and brothers. Center your lives on God, and may the peace of Christ stay with you always.

Faithfully,
Bishop Brown