

July 18, 2021

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE
302.368.4644 StThomasNewarkde.church

weekly newsletter

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week, we pursue truth and reconciliation



Drive Through/Walk Up Communion and Prayers

continues every Sunday

10:30-11am

ALL are Welcome!

Summer Worship Schedule (June, July, August)

Wednesday, 12 noon

Intercessory Prayer

Thursday, 7 pm

Evening Compline

Sunday

8:00 am, Rite 1 spoken

9:30 am, Rite 2 with music



COVID policy update (6/8/21):

***face masks are optional
in the church building***

**You are welcome inside with or without a mask
if you are fully vaccinated.**

**Please respect the choices of others
should they choose to wear a mask or not.**

Please continue to

- stay home if you are sick
- wash hands often
- respect social distancing

THANK YOU



During the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Thomas's is alive and well.

We are worshiping 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 community 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.

Statement on Indigenous boarding schools

July 12, 2021

by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies Gay Clark Jennings

In Genesis, God conferred dignity on all people by creating them in God's own image—a belief that is shared by all Abrahamic faiths. We are grieved by recent discoveries of mass graves of Indigenous children on the grounds of former boarding schools, where Indigenous children experienced forced removal from their homes, assimilation and abuse. These acts of cultural genocide sought to erase these children's identities as God's beloved children.

We condemn these practices and we mourn the intergenerational trauma that cascades from them. We have heard with sorrow stories of how this history has harmed the families of many Indigenous Episcopalians.

While complete records are unavailable, we know that The Episcopal Church was associated with Indigenous schools during the 19th and 20th centuries. We must come to a full understanding of the legacies of these schools.

As chair and vice-chair of Executive Council, and in consultation with our church's Indigenous leaders, we pledge to make right relationships with our Indigenous siblings an important focus of the work of Executive Council and the 80th General Convention.

To that end, we commit to the work of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities in our church. We pledge to spend time with our Indigenous siblings, listening to their stories and history, and seeking their wisdom about how we can together come to terms with this part of our history. We call upon Executive Council to deliver a comprehensive proposal for addressing the legacy of Indigenous schools at the 80th General Convention, including earmarking resources for independent research in the archives of The Episcopal Church, options for developing culturally appropriate liturgical materials and plans for educating Episcopalians across the church about this history, among other initiatives.

We also commend Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on her establishment of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and the effort to "shed light on the traumas of the past." The Episcopal Church is also working to support legislation that will establish a truth and healing commission on Indian boarding school policy, which would complement the Department of the Interior's new initiative.

As followers of Jesus, we must pursue truth and reconciliation in every corner of our lives, embracing God's call to recognition of wrongdoing, genuine lamentation, authentic apology, true repentance, amendment of life and the nurture of right relationships. This is the Gospel path to becoming beloved community.

RECONCILIATION PRAYER

Holy Father, God of Love,
You are the Creator of all things.

We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history
and the sufferings of Our peoples,
and we ask your forgiveness.
We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures
Our hope is in you because you gave your Son Jesus
to reconcile the world to you.
We pray for your strength and grace to forgive,
accept and love one another, as you love us
and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son.

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history
so that we may build a better future for our Nation.
Teach us to respect all cultures.
Teach us to care for our land and waters.
Help us to share justly the resources of this land.
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change
to improve the quality of life for all groups
in our communities, especially the disadvantaged.
Help young people to find true dignity and self-esteem
by your Spirit.

May your power and love be the foundations
on which we build our families,
our communities and our Nation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.