



MMXX: 9 : September : 2020

EVANGEL

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – NORMAN

Value and Significance of Mutual Ministry

Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Rite I
9:30 a.m. Rite II
in the courtyard

TUESDAY

Suspended until
further notice

Evening Prayer

Suspended until
further notice

Inside

Church Reopening
Youth Group
Sunday School
Online Bible Study

COVID-19: a blessing?

WHAT?! you say? How can that be?

Let me explain what I mean.

I was trained in seminary in the 1970s for ministry in the 1950s. It was very much the “Father Knows Best” model of ministry. The priest of a congregation was a benevolent ruler who not only led worship and provided pastoral care, but offered benevolent leadership in all matters. Father made every day-to-day decision. What style of worship? What Sunday School curriculum? What evening will be Bible study be on? Who will be a lay reader?

I was taught that this was both a privilege and a responsibility. Yes, the priest makes all the main decisions. Who knows what trouble lay people would get into without the wise guidance from their leader? I remember being told that washing coffee cups after a meeting as a priest was poor leadership. A good leader would find someone to do that job, and delegate.

In my over forty years in the ordained ministry, I have gradually learned about the value and significance of mutual ministry—of all of the members of the body of Christ offering what they can give to the life of the whole. I have never seen that lived out more than here at St. John's during these past strange months we have been journeying through.

Consider what ministries have emerged

among us, at the initiative of members of our community. Shannon Conley and the pastoral care group have been regularly calling members of the congregation to check in with them. Shannon and members of the choir on their own have initiated a Zoom Morning Prayer on their own. Deacon James Tyree has initiated a Wednesday evening video prayer service. Greg Taylor has built an impressive new website for St. John's. He also has built on my homilies on video, adding lay folk leading prayers and lessons. Olivia Burke has enriched our life together with glorious musical offerings. Steve Warren prepares sack meals to take to the homeless every weekend. Ben Odom and the search committee press forward with the vital task of selecting a new rector for St. John's. Members of our vestry and Resource Development Committee are stewards of our financial resources and our physical property, as well as taking counsel for the spiritual well-being of our congregation.

And then there's you. You join us in prayer. You look in on the various online offerings. You remember your friends in this church family. You long for the day when we will gather again and lift our hearts and voices together.

Really, I'm just kind of along for the ride. What an honor to be a part of this congregation at this time!

So—COVID-19. A blessing.

—Rev. John Borrego

REOPENING FOR WORSHIP SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

THE LESSONS

Lectionary Year A

SEPTEMBER 6
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

SEPTEMBER 13
Ffteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

SEPTEMBER 20
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

SEPTEMBER 27
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

The vestry has decided that we will once again offer public worship at St. John's, beginning Sunday, September 6. We will gather initially in the courtyard at 7:30 AM and at 9:30 AM for Holy Eucharist. Watch your email and postal mail for more detailed information.

The vestry made this decision in view of the fact that the number of COVID-19 cases in Norman has begun to decline in the past couple of weeks. We will, of course, take every possible safety precaution. If this works well, we will consider moving to indoor services in the near future.



A note from the Evangel editor

You wanna buy an ark? I noah guy!

Humor—even cheesy humor—can be a relief for stress and sadness, and I am so grateful for anything that makes me smile or laugh these days. Mostly, my heart is heavy, and I find myself trying to keep cheerful, to hide the worry and concern, as if it is a measure of my faith to be (or at least appear to be) happy all the time.

Recently, a very wise friend pointed out that the center of our faith is a man who suffered and died, who confessed to his disciples, “I am deeply grieved...” (Matt 26:38), who prayed to his Father, “...let this cup pass from me...” (Matt 26:38), who endured his dark night in the garden of Gethsemane. To quote my friend, “Jesus is okay with the dark stuff.” I find this thought tremendously helpful—in these days of anxiety and uncertainty and sadness, it is okay to be anxious and uncertain and sad. And through it all, Jesus is with us, a steadfast presence, keeping vigil with us in our darkest hours.

May we all feel His love, especially in our lowest times.

But I still love a good joke.

How do we know that God loves jam? Because he makes preserves, and redeems us!

—Merrie Beard
(who would like to point out that punctuation matters)

Online Giving

Many of you have recently taken advantage of the ease of making pledge payments online. If you are interested in doing so as well, go to episcopalnorman.org and click on the DONATE button in the upper left corner. There is a simple form to complete; be sure to also complete the memo with what the donation is for. You can use this to pay for altar flowers, make memorial donations, etc. We use a secure program facilitated by our bank. Questions? Contact the office at 321-3020.



Online Church Service Options

We are thrilled that in-person church services are resuming (in the courtyard at first)! For now, we will continue to offer our online services, as well. Connect with us here:

Sunday Mornings: Fr. Borrego and Olivia Burke continue offering music, prayer, and a homily every Sunday morning. Recently, volunteers have started reading the lectionary readings, along with the prayers of the people. The videos are available on the St. John's website, <https://episcopalnorman.org/videos.aspx>.

Wednesday Services: The Rev. James Tyree, our deacon, is offering a midweek prayer service and a homily reflecting on the life and ministry of Episcopal saints. The videos are available on the St. John's website, <https://episcopalnorman.org/videos.aspx>.

Adult Sunday School: The adult Sunday School class has been meeting via Zoom for the informal fellowship. All are welcome to pop in! The time is TBD. Send your email or contact info to Owen Mills (owen.mills@att.net) or Anne Hutchison (almhutchison@gmail.com) to receive info for logging in.

St. John's Morning Prayer: Morning prayer will continue online at least through September. Please join us via Zoom for morning prayer on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM. This lay led service takes about 20-30 minutes and is a great opportunity for group prayer, practice of our liturgies, and meditation on the lectionary readings. To join the meeting, just click the link below from your computer, smartphone, or tablet. If you are using a smartphone or tablet, download the free Zoom app from your device's app store. If you have questions about this service or about how to use Zoom, please contact Shannon Conley at la.emperatriz@gmail.com.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73026652111?pwd=WEhxVUNKc2dUWHJXaGRWNIRGdHRLUT09>

Meeting ID: 730 2665 2111

Password: 003527

PASTORAL CARE

The church is committed to the well being of its members through caring relationships and kind actions. The Pastoral Care committee and St. John's staff are placing calls to check on our parishioners during COVID-19. Fr. Borrego is also available for pastoral care via phone or email. If you or someone you know needs care from the Pastoral Care committee, please contact the church office at 321-3020, or staff@episcopalnorman.org.



Acolyte News

With the start of outside services, acolyte captains and second captains will be able to serve during the 10:30 services. Please check your emails for schedules and instructions for these. If you have a 4th through 12th grader that is interested in becoming an acolyte, training will begin late September and go into October. Please contact Emma Brown at ebrown@episcopalnorman.org if you have any questions or are interested in becoming an acolyte!



Youth Group Resumes for Fall

Youth Group is open for all 6th through 12th graders. If you are interested in either learning more about it or details for the meetings, please email Emma Brown at ebrown@episcopalnorman.org. In September, the Youth Group will be joining the fledglings for some outside activities on Sunday evenings. There will also be some virtual options that we will discuss when we return back to meeting on the 6th. Specific details will be posted in the Groupme! Football parking will start on September 12! Please watch Groupme for specific details for these events.



Fall Sunday School Plans

Happy September church family! I am looking forward to seeing many of you when we return to in-person worship on Sept 6!

With the restrictions we have in place, Sunday School will continue at a distance.

Instead of delivering to your houses, Sunday School materials will be available for pick-up at the church on Sunday afternoons at 4:30. Materials will include the kid-friendly gospel reading for the week and related activities kids can do throughout the week.

In weeks that Norman students return to Face-to-Face instruction, Fledglings (K-5th grade) and Youth Group (6th-12th grade) are invited to stay for in-person, socially distanced

fellowship. Fledgling parents are encouraged to stay and participate. Communication regarding these events will be through the Fledglings Facebook page and the St. John's Facebook page.

Our first Fledgling/Youth activity is a Family Picnic and game of Ultimate Frisbee on Sept 6 at 4:30. Families should bring their own picnic blanket, food, and water bottles. Upcoming events include a hike at Sutton Wilderness, S'mores making night, outdoor movie, and bike ride.

•Adult Sunday School continues online with Zoom discussions over the book *The Story of Christianity*. This is a succinct 2000 year history of the Christian faith. The book is available in paperback or audiobook.

New Bible Study Session Starts 9/9

"Get your popcorn ready!"

That popular expression started a few years ago relating to football and has since expanded to generate frenzied anticipation for any kind of exciting event. So get your popcorn ready -- because it's time to get hyped for the monastic, deeply meditative Bible reading known as Lectio Divina.

"Go Eat Pop Corn with Lectio Divina" is the theme of St. John's Wednesday Bible discussions on Zoom coming this fall. The 11-week series will begin on September 9 and run through November 18, the Wednesday of the week before Thanksgiving week. The discussions last from 7 to 8 p.m.

Lectio Divina is a style of reading in which a passage is slowly read aloud. The group then meditates on what was read and said before the verses are read again. Prayer and contemplation follows, and then each person is invited, if he or she chooses, to share what God may be telling that person through words or a phrase that, during the Lectio Divina process, really spoke to that person.

Throughout the series we will consider scriptures from Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians -- which is where the "Go Eat Pop Corn" comes in. It was a mnemonic I learned many years ago to help me remember the order in which those four Pauline letters appear in the Bible.

You are warmly invited to attend any, some, or all of the discussions on Zoom. The log-in information is detailed below. If you have any questions or login issues, feel free to call or text me at 405-820-1851.

Topic: Go Eat PopCorn with Lectio Divina

Time: Sep 9, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Wed, 11 occurrence(s)

Sep 9, 2020 07:00 PM

Sep 16, 2020 07:00 PM

Sep 23, 2020 07:00 PM

Sep 30, 2020 07:00 PM

Oct 7, 2020 07:00 PM

Oct 14, 2020 07:00 PM

Oct 21, 2020 07:00 PM

Oct 28, 2020 07:00 PM

Nov 4, 2020 07:00 PM

Nov 11, 2020 07:00 PM

Nov 18, 2020 07:00 PM



You can download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system:

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZlqdeqtrzksgtOeRpOIzUUfyD7mnQ3NgmLi/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGuqTkPH9WXthmARpwAB4job-_zmHpdjbdymS31LAIJVzbwL8YVP7xOQ_bX

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86723512607?pwd=dVMMyWHIZbVo3dzV2cGlmUW1CM2h5QT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2351 2607

Passcode: 694433

We hope to see you online on September 9!

A Page from St. John's History

The west wall of the Parish Hall holds a small, round stained glass window above the doors to the Cloister Chapel. This memorial window is an important piece of the history of St. John's and our founding members.

In 1888, the Heddens family, an original family of St. John's parish, settled three miles southwest of Norman, along the South Canadian River—James, his wife Sarah, and their three daughters, Katharine, Annie Isabel, and Jeanette.

Mr. Heddens settled down to start a farm and a cattle ranch. He was also active in the local community as a founder of the I.O.O.F. cemetery, and active in the fledgling St. John's Mission. He became a warden of St. John's after the death of Mr. Wiggins (see December 2019 Evangel for article about T.J.J. Wiggins.)

Annie and her older sister Katharine were planning a double wedding in June of 1893. Annie, who was engaged to a young lawyer, was boarding with other teachers in the ten-mile flats west of Norman. Six weeks before the wedding, a series of three tornadoes hit Cleveland County. Twelve of the fourteen boarders, including Annie, were killed. A total of twenty-five people died and nearly one hundred people were injured in these storms. *continued on page 7*



Annie Heddens Memorial Window

continued from page 6

Later that year, the memorial window for Annie Isabel Heddens was commissioned from the Tiffany Company (see photo.) Annie's younger sister, who was only six years old at the time of Annie's death, wrote years later, "My parents were crushed by the tragedy of my sister's tragic death, and there was nothing left in their lives of real interest to them but our church. Meager as were their resources, they placed the window in the church to her memory."

Katharine Heddens held her wedding on the original planned date of June 6; her ceremony marked the first Episcopal wedding in Norman (although it was held inside a Presbyterian church.)

The window was the only memorial window in the original St. John's church building, a white frame structure that sat on the lot where the Parish Hall was later built. In later years, the window was moved to the new church. Unfortunately, the original window was destroyed in a fire in the 1960s; a fireman smashed the window in an effort to put out a fire in the chancel. The pieces were gathered up and sent to the Tiffany Company for restoration. Contrary to the wishes of the church, the window was reproduced rather than restored.

The reproduction window hangs to this day in St. John's Church, connecting our current parish with the cloud of witnesses that worshipped in the early days of St. John's.

Belknap, Lucille S. 1980. *Beginnings: Oklahoma, Norman, the Little Church.*



Headstone of Annie Heddens



Headstone of James Heddens

ST. JOHN'S

Episcopal Church

235 W. Duffy, Norman
405-321-3020

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2088
Norman, OK 73070

OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

STAFF

The Congregation

Ministers of the church

The Rev. John Borrego

Rector: 321-3020

The Rev. James Tyree

Deacon

Catherine Wilson

Christian Formation
Director

Merrie Beard

Parish Administrator

Dr. Olivia Burke

Organist/choirmaster

Emma Brown

Youth Minister

St. John's Evangel

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staff@episcopalnorman.org • www.episcopalnorman.org

Due to COVID-19 virus, most services and activities have been suspended until further notice. We will meet in the courtyard for services beginning September 6 (see page 2.)

The church office will remain closed, but staff are checking email and voicemails daily. Please contact us at 321-3020 or staff@episcopalnorman.org.

Sundays

7:30 and 9:30 a.m., The Holy Eucharist

Tuesdays

10 a.m., The Holy Eucharist – *chapel*

10:30 a.m., Bible study – *library*

6:00 p.m., Boy Scouts

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m., Evening Prayer – *chapel*

Thursdays

9:30 a.m., Women's Bible Study - *library*

6:30 p.m., Knit Night (1st & 3rd Thurs.)- *commons*

COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S

- > Keep up with the news of the diocese at:
www.episcopaloklahoma.org
- > Connect with the wider Episcopal Church:
at episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens