Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!
The Lord is Risen, Indeed!
Alleluia!!

Dear Friends,
I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy during these unique and unprecedented times. The COVID-19 virus has affected and challenged the health and economy of our nation and world. Our church, as many in our society, face new realities and challenges, forcing us to do ministry in new ways. And yet as we face the challenges of the moment, I discern the signs of God working in innovative ways in our community. Through this letter, I hope to communicate and update you on the state of our church at this moment.

Over the past month, we have undergone significant changes in response to our current crisis. Under the direction of Bishop Nicholas Knisely, the Wardens, Vestry, and I have stopped in-person services at the church for the time being.
Our Bishop has suggested that we anticipate at least a 90-day suspension of in-person services for all churches in our diocese. Our Bishop and Diocesan staff have ensured that they would help provide support to all churches of the diocese during these challenging times. However, they have asked and encouraged stronger and well-resourced parishes to be as "self-sufficient as possible" while the Diocese helps support churches with fewer resources to survive past this present crisis.

At Christ Church, we have appointed a small subcommittee of our Vestry, made up of Vestry members and parishioners, to make recommendations and give action steps to our Vestry. So far through this crisis, we have done the following:

1. Created a 90-day contingency plan for our church, prioritizing the finances of our church and ministry during this crisis
2. Sought to reduce parish expenses where possible while committing to retain all current staff of our church
3. Redefined some of our staff job descriptions to sustain our ministry efforts
4. Offered services through our online platform Facebook Live and accessible through our Website. We have a daily noontime "Food for Thought" program that continues to grow and connect our community.
5. Our staff has been hard at work to help create telephone trees, and Zoom Sunday school classes and Adult classes to encourage learning and keep our parishioners connected through this crisis.
6. We have been approved for a loan which we expect will be converted to a grant from the Federal Government through the Cares Act.
7. Continued to ask and have received support from our Parishioners.
As a result of the actions outlined above and the heartwarming financial support of our parishioners our financial outlook appears to be strong. The financial support we have received from our parishioners and non-parishioners humbles me, sometimes giving even more than their pledge! Thank you!

I see God's hand guiding our parish in new and beautiful ways. Our church's resilience, creativity, and love for each other inspires me. I am excited by the ways our parishioners, older and younger, are embracing technology to connect, to worship, and to learn of God's ways. I revel in seeing how that challenge has caused our parish to extend our reach and ministry of Christ beyond the confines of our region. We now have parishioners who are connected and support our church in Florida, Tennessee, New Jersey, and around the globe. I am grateful for the creativity and leadership of our Wardens, Vestry, and the members of our small task force. I am grateful for our dedicated hard-working staff. I thank God for the work of our various committees. Christ Church has always been a light in our town and region, and through this challenge, our light and hope have not dimmed; we have become a stronger light, witnessing to the presence of God. Although I would never have wished for us to be in this present challenge, I believe that God is helping us be the church of God for our time!

Friends, I know that when the day comes when we can worship together as a community, it will be a joyous one! I look forward to that great day! It will be a wonderful Easter celebration!

*Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!*
*He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!* 

In Christ,  
The Reverend Sunil Chandy  
Rector  
Christ Church Westerly, RI
Easter is normally the busiest time of the year for the Altar Guild. This year during Holy Week, things were, however, very different. We are so grateful to all who made it possible for our Parish Family and many others to be able to participate virtually. On Maundy Thursday, Fr.Sunil, Simi and their family brought us the traditional rituals. These rituals are very special to the Altar Guild, especially the stripping of the altar, washing of the altar and veiling of the crosses. Although some might not have noticed, or know the reason, when Fr. Sunil washed the altar, he included the washing of the 5 crosses. On our own Christ Church Main Altar, there are 5 crosses on top, one in each corner and one in the middle. They may have two symbolisms: the five wounds of Jesus or the middle cross may represent Jesus and the 4 corner crosses the evangelists who wrote the Gospels and spread the word of Christ in all four corners of the world. Also, the white veiled cross begins the service and at the end, it is replaced with a black veil. THANK YOU so much to Fr. Sunil, Simi, who is a member of the Altar Guild, Alex and Phillip, acolytes, who stripped the altar and Daniel. Good Friday service was meaningful and we were still able to have the rituals that normally accompany it such as the veneration of the cross. Then came Easter, oh how beautiful everything looked! Sincere thanks to Pleasant Acres and to Simi and Barbara Capalbo, a member of the Vestry and Property Committee Chair, for the beautiful altar and floral backgrounds. The Chandy Family represented our families at these services and we are most grateful.

Although we were unable to decorate ourselves and create the Garden of Repose; Holy Week was done with grace, dignity and Love. It might not have been our busiest season, but it certainly was for the clergy and all others who helped.

We look forward to getting back to church to take down all of the signs of Lent, put on the white hangings and bring back all of the other beautiful candles and unveiled crosses. HOPEFULLY SOON.
A few other notes:

• After much consideration and with the uncertainty of when we will be able to return to church, we have decided to cancel the distribution of the Mothering Sunday Roses for this year. Some of you have already done so, however, if you haven’t let Sarah Starkweather, our Treasurer know, (sarahmstarkweather@gmail.com) if you would like to change your order to a donation, which we would appreciate. In this way we can most likely be able to complete both the purchasing of the chairs and the tiling of the classroom as soon as possible. If you would rather not change to a donation, we will gladly refund your money. The tributes will be published in the Friday Email Blast on May 8th. We are sorry and look forward to next year!

• It is also not too late to send in your Easter Flower Memorials or Thanksgivings. Our plan was to decorate the church with flowers and publish tributes at some point after we return. Again, with the uncertainty, we have decided to publish the tributes in a Friday Email Blast in late May. If you no longer have your envelopes that were sent out, please contact Sarah and we will send you one with a form. As a reminder, funds from this are also used to purchase wine, priest hosts, hosts and other items that are needed for worship.

We leave you this month with the Rebekah’s Creed that Cheryl found on a recent search for words at this troubling time. This is our Food for Thought:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of man, and the Sisterhood of woman.

I believe in the watch-words of our Order – Friendship, Love and Truth.

Friendship – is like a golden chain that ties our hearts together. Love – is one of our most precious gifts, the more you give, the more you receive. Truth – is the standard by which we value people. It is the foundation of our society.

I believe that my main concern should be my God, my family and my friends. Then I should reach out to my community and the World, for in God’s eyes we are all brothers and sisters.

We miss all of you and look forward to the day we can all be together again. Stay safe and well!

Cheryl Leong and Natalie Pukas and Members of the Altar Guild
Are you feeling lost? Alone? Disoriented? Without resources? Without even a plan a), much less a plan b)? The conditions are indescribable for so many of us; fear, loss, lockdown, anxiety, loneliness, desperation, the known and the unknown - all converging on us in flashing bursts of breaking news. It is enough to throw the strongest and surest off course. Thomas Merton, the 20thC contemplative priest and Trappist monk, walked his own journey of darkness and despair. He found his way through with this prayer of humility and surrender. It is most fitting for our moment in time. Let us pray:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

Merton prays with awareness, gratitude and willing obedience. His are words of hope, of faith, and of courage. Even as Easter people who rejoice in the risen Lord, we know in our hearts that we will die and rise with him again – and again - and that darkness does not overcome the light when we are open to God’s saving grace.

Onwards,
Anne
From Your Pastoral Care Commission-

We want to thank all of you for being so patient with us as we have been trying to contact each of you during this unsettled time that we are in. We just want you to know how much we care for you and are so happy you are part of our Christ Church family. Our team of Phone Tree callers have felt your love in return after speaking with you. Please let us know how we can help you and we will make every effort to make whatever you need happen.

In addition, we are calling you about the free Friday Meals which are being offered to anyone who wishes to have them. They are being made by URI Students, over 350 in total, for each Friday during the Coronavirus pandemic and brought to The Westerly Senior Center. The meals are being delivered during the hours of 11 -1 pm. If you wish to pick up or have a Friday meal delivered to your home, please click on the link below, fill out the form, and be sure to include how many dinners are to be picked up or delivered in the “Special Instructions”.

**Friday Meal Sign up Sheet**

Life is never as we think it should be but if we all pray for one another, we can feel God’s love permeating through us as it spreads to others.
Friday Meal Deliveries

Tammi Dunlap receiving delivery instructions

Kristy Allardyce

One very happy recipient!!!
A message from Kristy Allardyce...

Christian Formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others and all creation. Although we haven’t been able to be together at church, we, in Sunday School, have been together online and in spirit! Our Pre-K - 2nd grade classes have been posting video lessons on Facebook each week with stories, activities and humor! Ms. Alison created packets of take home materials for families to have to create weekly crafts, but no worries if you didn’t get a packet, all crafts materials can be found at home. Thank you to those teachers for their innovation, creativity and dedication! Ms. Janice, Ms. Kathleen and Ms. Jacqui’s class have been meeting regularly on ZOOM. It’s been wonderful to see all our friends' smiling faces! We’ve even had friends from England and other states join the fun! Confirmation class has also been meeting through ZOOM. We have just learned that per the Bishop’s orders we will need to postpone Confirmation this year from June to a date further in the year. All the more time to prepare! :-D

As we come to the end of our regular Sunday School year, we are looking at ways to continue our mission of growing our relationship with God over the summer months. Stay tuned for ways in which this will occur. Vacation Bible School will likely look different this year as well but with the enthusiasm of all our volunteers, I’m sure we will come up with something unique!

I am so pleased to share the beautiful ministry of one of our youth, Piper Cameron. She has felt a calling in her heart to reach out to parishioners to touch base and wish them well during this time of isolation, so don’t be surprised to receive a call from this sweet young lady. It will be a privilege to chat with her.

As always, thank you for your support of our ministry.

Be well! Kristy

"It is the month of Maying"

1. May 1 is when St. Philip and St. James are observed. Who are they?
2. May 31 is when The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is observed. What is that?

Answers on page 10
1. Philip and James were both part of the 12 Apostles called by Jesus and appear in all four of the Gospels. In John 14, Philip is the one who asks Jesus “Lord, show us the father, and it is enough for us” right after Jesus has said “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” James, brother of John the Evangelist and probably a cousin of Jesus, was one of the three, along with Peter and John, who went up the mountain with Jesus and witnessed the Transfiguration. The interesting thing here is that this is another example of how the church, when setting up the calendar, would often choose dates to contrast with various pagan observances going on. Nov. 1 was chosen for Hallowtide to contrast with what we call Halloween, and here, six months later, May 1 is chosen to contrast various springtime rituals going on around then.

2. This is the title given to an event described in Luke 1. After the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her that she will bear Jesus, he also tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is six months pregnant with a son, who will be John the Baptist. Mary then proceeds to go visit her, and when they meet and greet each other, Mary’s declaration “My soul doth magnify the Lord” becomes known as “The Magnificat” in our liturgy. Since we observe The Annunciation on March 25 and the birth of John the Baptist on June 24, putting the visitation during this timeframe makes sense.
Christ Church Worship Services
Available Sundays and Wednesdays

DUE TO COVID-19, ALL CHRIST CHURCH SERVICES CONDUCTED IN PERSON HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. HOWEVER, YOU CAN STILL WORSHIP, FIND SOLACE, AND FEEL CONNECTED TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY BY JOINING US ONLINE ON FACEBOOK LIVE.

PLEASE JOIN US ONLINE!
#VIRTUALMORNINGPRAYER
MORNING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY MORNING 10AM
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM LIVE
CHRIST CHURCH

CHRIST CHURCH
A CANDLELIT SERVICE OF COMPLINE
WEDNESDAY 6PM
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM LIVE
For more detail please navigate to: https://www.christchurchwestly.org/events/calendar

MAY 2020
A Letter of Thanks

Dear Fr. Sunil,

It is hard not to say thank you after viewing and listening to our church’s online services. Of the ones I have experienced I am consistently rewarded and filled with gratitude afterward. You and your teams have really stepped up to the plate and given so much.

It’s strange and kind of funny to have to think of our worship services being "produced," but then they always have been, except that they are always in-person productions and don’t involve as much technology (except for our ever-challenging sound systems). I just want to say that I have been enjoying the variety of production from service to service, including the "settings." The starkness of the Lenten and Palm Sunday backdrops were noticeable, but then the fabulous Easter surprise of seeing you outside surrounded by flowers of all kinds, a good breeze and a choir of birds in the background. It really was Easter. Even this morning, with the beautiful stained-glass windows and brick and stone of the chapel behind you, it felt like Easter.

I also valued the simplicity of Fr. Erik’s Compline last night, complete with his acapella rendition of that wonderful hymn (46) that I don’t think I have ever noticed before. Somehow, when I am not singing I am more able to take in the words of the hymns. I am just listening and reading. The same seems to be true of the whole service - any service. This radically different approach to worship (for me who is not a TV worship watcher) has been an excellent exercise, sort of a refresher - a silver lining I certainly did not expect or imagine. Of course I presently have the benefit of a totally-quiet house in which to follow the services so as to be able to hear and focus on them completely, so that helps. (The audio in the chapel this morning seemed much stronger than the first production I saw there, by the way, but I also now know - thanks to some desperation while watching the National Cathedral on Easter morning - that one often needs earbuds/earphones to adequately hear sound coming out of one’s computer.)

None of this present mode of worship can totally replace our usual mode, of course, and there’s nothing quite like in-person community and the importance of in-person community to our Christian faith, but I am definitely seeing the benefits of our present situation and could relate to your remarks this morning in your sermon about letting go of some of our expectations so as to be able to receive something important.

So thank you once again so much, and I hope that your health and your family’s continue to hold up.

Happy Easter!
Join us for a fun and informative exploration of the Episcopal Church and its history, beliefs and practices. This online session runs for five Wednesdays during the Easter Season from 7PM to 8:30 on FacebookLive.

"Walk in Love: Episcopal Belief and Practice" by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe will guide our discussion. The class will culminate in an opportunity to be received as a full member of the Episcopal Church.

**SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>&quot;Introduction: Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>&quot;Marking Time: Days, Weeks and Seasons&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>&quot;Basic Beliefs: What do we believe?&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>&quot;The Church: Who and what are we?&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>&quot;A Trinitarian Life: Father Son + Holy Spirit, one God&quot;</td>
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LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? HERE'S A FEW IDEAS...

1. Call and register online any families who could benefit from the Friday Food Delivery, organized by the Westerly Police Dept. Click to sign up for Friday Meal Delivery


3. Read a story for Sunday school from your home. Contact kristy allardyce on how to get started at kristyallardyce@gmail.com

4. Are you tech savvy? Reach out and teach your friends at Christ Church how to view our virtual church services.

5. Can you help feed our neighbors? The WARM Center needs small water bottles, juice boxes, and individually wrapped snacks. They have asked that these items be dropped off at Mel's Downtown Creamery. Volunteers will then collect and deliver your donations to your neighbors in need.

6. Find a prayer partner, link to our prayer list and pray together this list every day. Include our First Responders, leaders national and local, and Health Care Professionals. Click here for our Christ Church Prayer list
News from the Jonnycake Center

Thanks to the incredible and dedicated support of a private family initiative that is focused on helping those with the greatest need, ANY DONATION received between today and Tuesday, June 20, 2020 WILL BE MATCHED up to $30,000.

Grab & Go Student Meals at Jonnycake Center of Westerly!

Free “Grab & Go” meals are available at our Food Pantry for local students 18 and under.

Pick up from:
23 Industrial Drive (Westerly)
12-1pm Monday-Friday

Meals include nutritious breakfast and lunch supplies.

Meals are also available at:
Springbrook Elementary • Tower Street School
Community Center • Bradford Citizens Club

Additional meals available from:
Ocean House’s Food Truck at the Westerly Ice Rink

Jonnycake Social Services

For assistance with:
• Our Food Pantry
• Meals for Children
• Housing Bills
• Utilities Payments
• Health Insurance Info
• Pet Food
• Critical Household Needs
• Other Social Services

Contact our Social Services office at (401) 377-8069.

Modified operating procedures are in place. We are making every effort to support #NeighborsInNeed.
Service Hours
(To Be Resumed Post Quarantine)
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Choral Eucharist
w/Children's Chapel and Nursery Care
Wednesday 7:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10:45 a.m.
Bible Study

Christ Episcopal Church

CLERGY
The Rev. Sunil Chandy, Christ Church Rector
The Rt. Rev. David Joslin, Rector Emeritus; Bishop in Residence
The Rev. Erik Larsen, Assistant to the Rector
The Rev. Sandra Haines-Murdocco, Priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon Anne Burke, Deacon

STAFF
George Kent, Organist & Choirmaster
Jacquelyn Smith, Parish Administrator; Wedding Coordinator
Dorothy Adams, Office Assistant
Kristy Allardyce, Director of Christian Formation
Madeline Therrien and Sarah Gruhzit, Childcare Coordinators

VESTRY
Betsey Rice, Senior Warden
Caswell Cooke, Jr., Junior Warden
Sarah Starkweather, Clerk
Stephanie Blanchette, Treasurer

Fred Allardyce
Barbara Capalbo
Mike Evering
Katherine Hoxsie
Lisa Kitchen
Paul Kuhn
Doug Lawrence
Emily Mugge
Natalie Pukas
Thomas Quaratella
Richard Roy
Molly Schonenberg

COME JOIN US!

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401-596-0197
christ-church@verizon.net