



# THE BULLETIN

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
An Episcopal Community in the Heart of Houston, Texas

APRIL 2020  
CHRISTCHURCHCATHEDRAL.ORG

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY CARE LINE | 713-826-5332



## HOW TO CONNECT WITH THE CATHEDRAL ONLINE

During this unusual time, where people self-isolate for the health of the community yet do not want to socially isolate, the Cathedral is making available all sorts of wonderful opportunities to connect with clergy, staff, and parishioners online from the peace of your own home.

Starting March 15, the Cathedral has been posting videos of the 11 a.m., 1 p.m. (en español), and 5 p.m. (The Well) worship services on the Cathedral website, [christchurchcathedral.org](http://christchurchcathedral.org). Everyone is able to worship together from home, knowing that others in the community are tuning in at the same time. If you aren't able to make it at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 5 p.m., or you wish to rewatch them, the videos will be waiting for you on our website after the worship services have passed. Go to our homepage and click on the banner about each worship service.

The Cathedral has active Facebook and Instagram pages, where you will find daily meditations, beautiful photography, news, videos, and worship services — on Sundays as well as noonday worship services during the week. You can find them at [facebook.com/cccathedraltx](https://www.facebook.com/cccathedraltx) or [instagram.com/cccathedraltx](https://www.instagram.com/cccathedraltx).

There are also social media accounts for our children and families, youth, and young adults available; the full list of accounts is on our website. Look for the scrolling banner on the homepage that says, "How to connect with the Cathedral online."

In addition, many of the small groups such as Bible studies and other classes are meeting on Zoom, an online conference app. Once you download the app to your computer, laptop, iPad, mobile device, or phone, it's very easy to use. The app is free to download, and it takes just the press of a button. Talk to your ministry leader to find out whether your groups are meeting on Zoom.

Minister for Children and Families **KariAnn Lessner** launched a new series on her podcast, *You Brew You*, about *The Way of Love*. She interviews young parishioners about the seven tenets of the *Way of Love*, and it's really a delight. You can find it on iTunes, or go to the website [youbrewyoupodcast.com/listen](http://youbrewyoupodcast.com/listen).

And, importantly, **Dean Thompson's** blog is always available to you; you may find his words a comfort and a balm. To read them, visit [barkleythompson.org](http://barkleythompson.org).

We hope you will stay connected with your Cathedral. We encourage you to connect to the Cathedral through all these digital means. In addition, reach out to friends, stay in touch, make a call, send a text or email. We all benefit from being connected to this vibrant, loving community.

## Where do we find God?

*"Then the word of the Lord said to Elijah, 'Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' And a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."*

— 1 Kings 19:11-12

In 1 Kings 19, the world around the great prophet **Elijah** seems to be crumbling. Elijah's very life is in danger, and he finds himself isolated from those he trusts and loves. Being faithful, Elijah seeks the presence of God. He wonders where God is to be found in the midst of his troubles. Elijah is bombarded by the fire, the wind, and the earthquake, and he thinks that God will most likely be found

**LETTER FROM THE DEAN**, page 2

## Podgorny named Minister for Community Life

Dean Thompson is pleased to announce the promotion of **Bethany Podgorny** as Minister for Community Life. Podgorny presently serves as the Assistant Director of Education and Community Initiatives for Da Camera of Houston, a local arts organization that produces thematically programmed concerts designed to attract new listeners to the concert hall. Since 2015, Podgorny has also been a staff singer at Christ Church.

The Minister for Community Life coordinates all community programming at the Cathedral, including major events such as May Fete, Episcopal Night at the Ballpark, the annual Parish Retreat, and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper as well as smaller gatherings such as Bridge Night and our Fall and Spring Gatherings. The Minister for Community Life is charged to nurture Cathedral fellowship

**COMMUNITY LIFE**, page 4



BETHANY PODGORNÝ

**LETTER FROM THE DEAN**, from cover somewhere in the noise and tumult going on around him.

But God is not in the tumult. God is instead revealed in the “still small voice.”

God was never in the rattle and bombast. Rather, all that noise merely prevented Elijah from encountering God. God was never apart from Elijah in the first place, but only when Elijah took a step away from the noise, only when he was quiet and still, could Elijah encounter the God who was always there.

Many have realized the truth of this story this past week. Even as we’ve had to retrench from work, severely restrict our movements, and suspend visitations with friends and family beyond the home, newfound small moments of stillness and quiet have presented themselves as gifts. That is one of the innumerable ways that God is redeeming these days. The moments of holy respite differ for each of us. In my own life, I am taking a 45 minute walk with **Jill** each day, trekking down side streets we’ve never seen before and talking about things that the crush of ordinary days doesn’t allow. I am making a dent in the Tower of Babel-sized stack of books on my nightstand. (Remember how great reading is?) I am daydreaming, which I haven’t done in years, and thinking with gratitude about those places and encounters in my life that have nourished and enlightened me. In each of these and many other ways, I encounter the still small voice of God, who casts off anxiety and restores hope. The key is for us to turn down the volume and stop moving long enough to recognize the gift and listen for the voice. These days give us that blessed opportunity.

Where do we find God today? God is not in the noise and tumult that surround us. God is in the still small voice. God is there, with you, in your home. God is also downtown at the corner of Prairie and Caroline, where the Beacon quietly and faithfully continues to distribute food to women and men for whom the tragedy of homelessness does not take hiatus for the coronavirus. God is at the Texas Medical Center and at hospitals throughout our great city, where physicians, nurses, lab techs, and orderlies give of their prodigious brainpower, compassion, and steady care to protect our public health and ease the burden of those already infected by the virus. God has been with us since before the coronavirus arrived, and God will be with us still when the coronavirus is gone. Take time today to see our current circumstance not as isolation but as the blessed opportunity to hear God’s still small voice.

**PASTORAL CARE:** You are part of the Cathedral family. We are all sisters and brothers in Christ, and if you have need in this time of social distancing, your Cathedral is here for you. If you need to contact our minister for pastoral care or a priest for tangible

## Christ Church Cathedral contact information

**Jody Gillit**, Minister for Pastoral Care, [jgillit@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:jgillit@christchurchcathedral.org), 832-691-4775

**The Very Rev. Barkley Thompson**, [bthompson@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:bthompson@christchurchcathedral.org), 832-740-3595

**The Rev. Canon Art Callaham**, [acallaham@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:acallaham@christchurchcathedral.org), 713-597-1375

**The Rev. Canon Simón Bautista**, [sbautista@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:sbautista@christchurchcathedral.org), 301-204-0130

**The Rev. Canon Becky Zartman**, [bzartman@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:bzartman@christchurchcathedral.org), 570-259-0671

**The Rev. Greg Seme**, [gseme@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:gseme@christchurchcathedral.org), 305-788-0754

**The Rev. Jim Morgan**, [jmorgan@beaconhomeless.org](mailto:jmorgan@beaconhomeless.org), 936-355-9051

**After Hours Pastoral Care Line**, English, 713-826-5332 (nights and weekends)

**After Hours Pastoral Care Line**, en español, 301-204-0130

assistance, an ear to bend, or a word of encouragement, our contact information is in the sidebar above.

**If you are isolated and need someone to pick up groceries or other necessities for you, please contact Jody Gillit, and we will arrange for someone to help you.**

**If you would like to volunteer to assist other parishioners in this way, please contact Jody Gillit as well.**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:** Again this Sunday, March 29, we will worship together...from home! The links to the worship services are found on the main scrolling photos of the website’s homepage.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School from home is offered at 10 a.m. Minister for Children & Families **KariAnn Lessner** and Minister for Youth **Marcia Quintanilla** will email our Cathedral families directly with log-on information for Sunday school.

**THE ROBERT C. STUART LENTEN SERIES:** The Lenten series will continue virtually. Check your Cathedral Thursday Enews for information on how to access the Lenten series.

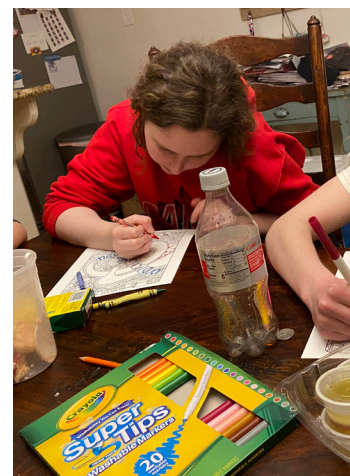
**WEEKDAY NOON WORSHIP:** Each weekday, Cathedral clergy continue to offer Noonday Prayer on Facebook Live. You are invited to join here on the Cathedral Facebook page: [facebook.com/cccathedraltx](https://facebook.com/cccathedraltx).

**OTHER VIRTUAL CATHEDRAL PROGRAMMING:** Please visit [bit.ly/CCC2connect](https://bit.ly/CCC2connect) to discover all the programs, podcasts, bible studies, and other opportunities for online engagement with your Cathedral family.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER:** It is likely that Holy Week and Easter worship services will be online. Please look for my upcoming parish letter about these services.

Blessings be upon you, Cathedral family. You are in my daily prayers. Take time this week to listen for that still small voice. Amen.

## Ashes to Go, and m IN PICTU



Above: High school Root Groups are now

Right: The Rev. Ashes to



Above: The Faces of the Other photograph

Below: The Rev. Becky Zartman led con





more  
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meeting weekly via Zoom.  
Greg Seme administered  
Go in downtown Houston



aphy show celebration in February brought people of all walks of life together.  
firmation class in February.



# Let books be your escape

BY BOOKSTORE MANAGER LUCY CHAMBERS

Locked away for a crime he didn't commit, the fictional Edmond Dantès finds himself falling into despair until the Abbé Faria emerges from a tunnel into his cell. The Abbé gives Edmond an extensive education: they cover language, culture, medicine, science, and more, filling Edmond's mind with understanding so profound it allows him to escape and become the Count of Monte Cristo.

As we find ourselves confined without our usual access to companionship and entertainment, we are provided with ample time to read — for pleasure, for escape, or for knowledge to create a better future once the pandemic has passed. Whatever our reasons for reading, it reduces anxiety and takes us away from the constant barrage of recycled news.

The Bookstore is here to help you find good books. Call or email us if you need a title suggestion. While e-books are not our first choice during normal times, they are a gift to all of us now.

The Dean's Book Club title for April 1, *The Telling Room: A Tale of Love, Betrayal, Revenge, and the World's Greatest Piece of Cheese* by **Michael Paterniti** is a good title to add to your reading list. **Elizabeth Gilbert** calls it "a gorgeous and impassioned monument to the art and mystery of storytelling, ... rich, funny, humane, devastating, and beautiful." And, apropos of these times, **Michael Pollan** says, "*The Telling Room* embodies the spirit of slow food and life."

When we emerge from these uncertain days of captivity, perhaps we will be better for all the books that we have read and wisdom we have gained during these long, quiet days.

Contact: **Lucy Chambers**, [bookstore@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:bookstore@christchurchcathedral.org)  
713-222-0286

"All human wisdom is contained in these two words, 'Wait and Hope.'"

—**Alexandre Dumas**, *The Count of Monte Cristo*

## Voracious Readers Recommend:

**George Hawkins**, one of the Cathedral's great readers, suggests *Pachinko* by **Min Jin Lee**, *American Eden* by **Victoria Johnson**, or *Martin Luther* by **Eric Metaxas**.

*Pachinko*, also recommended by **Shannon Hayes**, is a multi-generation saga about a Korean family in Japan. George finds it Dickensian with its generations and connected characters and powerful in the way it presents immigration to a country that is not particularly welcoming.

*American Eden* brings **David Hosack** to life. Intimately connected with many of the founding fathers and celebrities of the late 18th and early 19th century New York City, Hosack established one of the first Botanical Gardens and served as a talented doctor, chosen by both **Burr** and **Hamilton** for their fateful dawn confrontation. George says, "The reader may well be inspired to take up botany, horticulture, medicine, or science by the strength of Hosack's accomplishments."

And, George says *Martin Luther* illuminates the struggle and the inspiration that occasioned **Luther's** revolution and defines the perfect storm of politics, alignments, international rivalries, and historical figures that enabled the birth of this less centralized religion. He adds, "This book should be required reading for anyone exploring the route to personal theology."





# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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Did you know you can read **The Bulletin** on our website? If you'd like to go "online-only," contact Ramona Sikes at [rsikes@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:rsikes@christchurchcathedral.org) or call her at 713-590-3301.

## The lives of the saints

BY THE REVEREND BECKY ZARTMAN

When life seems overwhelming or too much, I look to the lives of the saints. I reach for the stories of their lives because I know whatever I'm facing right now, they have faced as well. In these times, I've been thinking about **Julian of Norwich**, who as a child witnessed the Black Death, and yet proclaimed, "All will be well." I've been thinking about the early Christians who fearlessly nursed others during the epidemics and in so doing brought others to faith. I've been thinking about **Father Damien**, who ministered to the leper colony of Molokai and so became a leper himself. I've been thinking about the witness of **William Mayo**, who as an Episcopalian worked with the Roman Catholics to build a hospital that would care for the whole person, a place that even today is a symbol of hope against the ravages of disease.



Father Damien

What I love most about saints is the fact that they are indubitably human. Even **Mother Teresa** faced doubts about her call and her ministry to the sickest of Calcutta. When we learn about their lives, we discover that saints aren't superheroes or angels; saints are humans, like us. Saints are humans who have simply discovered and understood that they were immeasurably loved by God, and then were set free by that love. Free to love with God's never failing love, free to become who God made them to be, and free to give all, even their life, for God, knowing that nothing could ever separate them from the love of God.

So walk with the saints in this time of the uncertainty. Learn about their lives, be inspired and strengthened by their stories. Know that while "we feebly struggle, they in glory shine." They've already won; with their help, we too are on our way to victory in Jesus.

### COMMUNITY LIFE, from cover

so that parishioners make meaningful connections with one another. The Minister for Community Life also coordinates the Community Life Council.

Dean Thompson says, "For several years we at Christ Church have been moved by Podgorny's voice in the Cathedral Choir. Now we will gain from her love for the church, her desire to bring parishioners together in relationship, and her ability to plan events and work with volunteers."

Podgorny will fill the shoes of **Karen Kray-cirik**, who was promoted in January to become the Cathedral's Chief Administrative Officer in addition to her role as Minister for Stewardship.

Of her new role, Podgorny says, "I am very excited about stepping into the role of Minister for Community Life at Christ Church Cathedral. Over the past four years singing in the Cathedral choirs, I've grown to love and respect this church and the impact it has on the city of Houston and each person who attends. I look forward to getting to know many of you better over the coming weeks and months as we work to create opportunities for an even stronger and more connected community." Podgorny assumes her new role on April 16.