



Emmanuel Newsletter
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 12, 2021
Emmanuel Church,
West Roxbury, MA

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that we will resume our weekly Saturday 5:00 p.m. Zoom gathering on September 11th. The Sunday 10am Service of Holy Eucharist will continue on the lawn or inside the church depending on the weather for the month of September.

The Saturday Zoom gathering will be recorded, and the format will be a focus on the theology of the scriptures assigned for that Sunday. The newsletter each week (pages 3-5 below) will provide the content but it can also be obtained by going to: www.episcopalchurch.org Go to the drop down tab, “storytelling” and choose “Sermons that Work” – you will see the “Upcoming Bible Study” link.

We also have some exciting news for the Fall. We will be supporting a music on the lawn event for the whole neighborhood on Sunday, September 26th at 11:30 am. Mark your calendars! Plan to bring friends and family!

We will have a Blessing of the Animals on the lawn on October 17th. Please join us, rain, or shine. In the case rain, we will move indoors.

Please download and print the liturgy so we can follow along without having to use the prayerbook.

Yours in Christ,
 The Rev. Joyce Caggiano
 Priest in Residence, Emmanuel, West Roxbury



PRAYER LIST

Please keep in your prayers the following persons: Paul, Mary, Catherine, Brant; Carla, Michael, Parker, Sergio, Martha, Gail, Hal IV and Anne. (Please email us the names of those who need special prayers---info@emmanuelwr.org. Only first names will be used.)



As Rev. Joyce indicated in her letter this week, we will resume our Saturday Zoom and be focusing on our scripture dialogue. You can find the service on pages 3-4, with the Gospel for discussion on pages 4-5 of this newsletter. We hope you can zone us! See the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting at 5:00 pm, Saturday, September 11, 2021:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83393727584?pwd=djVleklEZG85aXdoK2RXaEdEQjlxUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 9372 7584

Passcode: 973819



Join us Sundays at 10:00 am, in-person and outdoors/indoors this week at Emmanuel church. Remember to wear a mask and bring a chair or blanket.

Fall and Halloween are upon us!



Guess who is unloading boxes of pumpkins! Check with Terri on when these will be available to the public for purchase.

Zoom Prayers and Dialogue
Saturday, September 11, 2021
5:00 pm

The Prayers of the People

Jesus calls us to give up our lives for others. That we may have the faith to live as Jesus did, let us pray for all in need, saying:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

O gracious God, you have given up your very self to save the world. That we may be empowered to give up ourselves for one another, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

You have made your people equal and free in the baptism of your Son. That we may live joyfully in this new way, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

You call us to take up our cross and follow the way of Christ. That we may serve one another and live in obedience to your word, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

You show to us all the poor and the needy, all the homeless and the hungry. That we may lighten their load by taking it upon ourselves, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

You give us enough that we may share with the needy. That we and all institutions of relief may be insistent in our care for others, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

You have surrounded us with saints of every time and place. That we may follow them as they followed Christ on the way to the cross, we pray:

Hear our prayers, O merciful God, and accept our praises. May the gospel of your cross give its miraculous life to all the world, through Christ our Lord.

Mark 8:27-38

The gospel writer makes an important turn in this passage from Mark. For the first time, Jesus begins to teach the disciples about his suffering, death, and resurrection. He is nearing the time when he will start the journey toward Jerusalem. At this moment, he raises an important question

with them: How do you understand who I am? With confidence, Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah. Then Jesus begins to teach them what is in store for the Son of Man. This provokes Peter to rebuke him. Responding, Jesus rebukes Peter so severely that he calls him Satan. Peter both understood and didn't understand all; he knew that Jesus was the Messiah and didn't comprehend what that would mean. When Jesus began to teach them, it wasn't what Peter expected.

It is easy to think we understand. But we so often understand from our perspective as humans and not from the perspective of divine things. We can cling tightly to our ideas about what is happening. Jesus insists the disciples, Peter, and all of us let go of these things, and instead attend to the life of following Jesus, wherever that leads, even if it means unexpected directions, places where we might not otherwise choose to go.

- How can we learn whether we are following Jesus' way rather than simply human ways?
- Whom do we have to rebuke us when we need to grow in our understanding of divine things?

Sr. Kathy Lawler, OEF, is a Franciscan, a member of the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans. She is a candidate from the Diocese of Northern California in her final year of low-residency M.Div. studies at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Class of 2021). Her initial training in chemistry informs much of her ministerial focus. She is particularly enthusiastic about helping folks find connections between spirituality and science. She also teaches about the congruence between Christian faith and modern science. Kathy enjoys gardening, listening to audiobooks, and being in the beauty of God's good creation.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, Mark 27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”