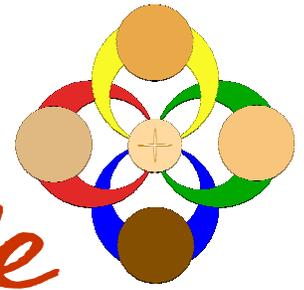


CREATOR



Chronicle



“As a congregation named for our Creator, we are children of the Living God, beloved brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, selflessly living out our faith in worship, fellowship, giving, education and outreach.”

May 2020

Dear Friends,

*This month we want to share some insight into an on-going conversation about **Liminal Space**. This is a conversation based on readings from Fr. Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations from April 26th thru 28th about the circumstances we are living in now between the world before the novel corona virus and the world that is coming after.*

***Liminal space** is an inner state and sometimes an outer situation where we can begin to think and act in new ways. It is where we are betwixt and between, having left one room or stage of life but not yet entered the next. We usually enter **liminal space** when our **former way of being is challenged or changed**—perhaps when we lose a job or a loved one, during illness, at the birth of a child, or a major relocation. It is a **graced time**, but often does **not feel** “graced” in any way. In such space, we are not certain or in control. *This global pandemic we now face is an example of an immense, collective liminal space.**

The very vulnerability and openness of liminal space allows *room for something genuinely new to happen*. We are empty and receptive—erased tablets waiting for new words. Liminal space is where we are **most teachable**, often because we are **most humbled**. Liminality keeps us in an ongoing state of shadowboxing instead of ego-confirmation, struggling with the hidden side of things, and calling **so-called normalcy into creative question**.

*It’s no surprise then that we generally **avoid liminal space**. Much of the work of authentic spirituality and human development is to get people into liminal space and to keep them there long enough that they can learn something essential and new. Many spiritual giants like **St. Francis, Julian of Norwich, Dorothy Day, and Mohandas Gandhi** tried to live their entire lives in permanent liminality, on the edge or periphery of the dominant culture. This in-between place is *free of illusions and false payoffs*. It **invites** us to discover and live from **broader perspectives** and with much deeper seeing.*

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Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Priest-In-Charge * office hours: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Please call the church office, 601-924-2261, to schedule an appointment.

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*In liminal space we sometimes need to **not-do** and **not-perform** according to our usual successful patterns. We actually need to **fail abruptly** and **deliberately falter** to understand other dimensions of life. We need to be **silent** instead of speaking, experience **emptiness** instead of fullness, **anonymity** instead of persona, and **pennilessness** instead of plenty. In liminal space, we **descend** and intentionally do not come back out or up immediately. **It takes time but this experience can help us reenter the world with freedom and new, creative approaches to life.***

I imagine that even if you've never heard the word **liminal** before, you likely have a sense of what I'm talking about. *It would be difficult to exist in this time of global crisis and not feel **caught between at least two worlds—the one we knew and the one to come.*** Our consciousness and that of future generations has been changed. We cannot put the genie back in the bottle.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Adam's Return: The Five Promises of Male Initiation* (The Crossroad Publishing Company: 2004), 135–138.

The Presence of Spirit in Liminal Space

Many things can bring us to the “threshold” of our ordinary ways of thinking and behaving, but even good rituals are merely “stand-ins” until Reality itself, often in the form of great love or great suffering, steps in and changes us forever. Richard Rohr’s friend Paula D’Arcy, with whom he has taught many times over the years, lost her husband and young daughter in a tragic car accident while she was pregnant with their second child. This story from Paula reveals how liminal moments can occur at any time.

One afternoon, my heart breaking, I began sorting through the clothes my daughter Sarah would never wear. A dress lay across my lap, a little piece of white cotton. It evoked one more moment . . . of bitter tears and confused disbelief. . . . Life was not supposed to turn out this way. . . .

It was such an innocent and common thing—a child’s garment. Yet even as it broke my heart, that dress became an opening; the soft cotton tore at me from within and began to empty me.

You are not the only heartbroken parent in the world, it said. The pain of loss is not yours alone. Disappointment is the human condition. I continued to stare at the cotton and lace, but something had shifted. The dress was somehow connecting me to the texture and mystery of greater things . . .

Without fully understanding why, I began to soften. I saw life’s contour, its density and its brilliance, just as it is, nothing more. . . . I saw how I’d been caught in a script of my own creation and . . . was totally caught up in my own world—my emotions, my wants, and my needs. . . . Now it was simply my time—my turn to know the darkness and discover whether or not I was brave enough to accept the human journey and find a way through. . . .

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I slowly began to see that within the cells of every living thing is the same essence—the presence of spirit. The heart of our journey is to awaken to this spirit within. . . .

Hardly anything turns out the way you expected it to, and you're frequently ready to write life off as too paradoxical and too difficult to endure. Then some indescribable light fights its way through the impenetrable dark—an unpredictable, unimportant, runaway moment that lights up everything you've been unable to see until then. That light removes all the shoulds and oughts, all the illusions about fairness. You enter liminal space . . . In that space you take your first script [*or what I call your false or separate self*], the one that weighs five hundred pounds, the script that was cutting into your heart all along, bleeding you to death but you didn't realize the wound or its seriousness—and you simply let it go.

Paula D'Arcy, *Waking Up To This Day: Seeing the Beauty Right Before Us* (Orbis Books: 2009), 51–52, 53, 55.

Dark Liminality

When I am in that darkness, I do not remember anything about anything human. —Angela of Foligno (1248–1309)

*After working as a physician and bioethicist for decades, Living School alumna and chair of the Center for Action and Contemplation Board LaVera Crawley became a hospital chaplain and spiritual companion for patients and their families in the liminality that often occurs between life and death. **Spiritual companionship** is an art many of us are learning to practice these days, but we must be willing to be present to those in need, not just physically (or virtually), but with our whole selves. LaVera shares some of the challenges of this spiritual work and how it can be transformative for everyone involved.*

There are likely few situations with the power to reliably propel us beyond the threshold of everyday existence and into the realm of the liminal than the way of the despair of receiving a diagnosis of a serious, life-threatening illness. It can feel like being hit by a brick or like being hurled into the dark abyss. Once there, the territory can be utterly disorienting and terribly frightening. . . .

Few know how to enter the liminal space where their loved one or patient has been forced to go, let alone how to *be* there should they be brave enough to dare to enter. We are uncomfortable in these kinds of liminal spaces because it is strange and unfamiliar territory, woven with the difficult feelings we've been taught to suppress by medicating them away, by bypassing them through platitudes . . . or denying them all together. . . .

It takes willingness, fortitude, knowledge, skill, and a deep trust in Spirit to go into these dark places as both witness and companion.

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To be very clear, I am not equating darkness with something bad or negative, any more than I would consider the apophatic way [1] as such. There is deep beauty in the darkness, in the unknowing, in the indescribable, if only we can open ourselves to its purpose. Metaphorically, the *dark emotions* of grief, fear, and despair can be profound teachers and guides. . . . The primal howl of existential suffering holds within it the lesson that we all must learn at some time in our lives: To heal from our suffering—not merely to ease or palliate it, but to transform it into the source and substance of our growth and wisdom—requires a journey through it. We must listen attentively for whatever message it has for us and, according to [psychotherapist Miriam] Greenspan, find authentic ways to befriend it so that we can surrender to its transmuting power. All spiritual traditions teach some variation of this wisdom. While it may not come naturally to us to respond to suffering in this way, through practice, it can become a learned skill. . . .

The *art of spiritual companionship* through the realm of the liminal can be learned, whether we are accompanying others or attending to our own souls. The first step requires trusting that, in the course of time, the very healing we seek can emerge by our journeying through liminal space, listening attentively to what the liminal seeks to tell us.

[1] The apophatic way (or *via negativa*) refers to the unknowability and ineffability of God. LaVera Crawley, “The Art of Spiritual Companionship,” “Liminal Space,” [*Oneing*, vol. 8, no. 1](#) (CAC Publishing: 2020), 81, 82–83, 90.

These readings are shared from Fr. Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations from April 26th thru 28th.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob



Sunday, May 10



Congratulations 2020 Graduates

May your graduation from High School be the beginning of a bright and rewarding future for you both.



Ruby Lanford

The past four years have flown by, I've changed so much and accomplished more than I dreamed possible! I completed my 2 year course in Digital Media Technology at the Career Complex, which opened many doors. As a Sophomore, I won 2nd place in a national poster contest. I participated in the University of Mississippi Cinema Festival as a Junior and a Senior, where I saw my one minute films shown on the big screen. Two of my projects, a documentary and an animation, were winners in the Scholastic Art and Writing Contest. I won a Silver Key as a Junior for my documentary and a Gold Key as a Senior for my animation. Best of all, I got to see my work displayed at the Mississippi Museum of Art. I have also been active in the National Art Honor Society, which has pushed my creativity and encouraged me to explore new avenues of expression.

I'm excited to go to Hinds Community College in Raymond this fall to begin a course of study in psychology and pre-med. I'll be finishing my studies in cognitive behavioral therapy at the University of Mississippi.



Maddie Gray Braley

2020 Graduate with Honors

Maddie Gray has been a life long student in Clinton Public Schools. Her Senior year has not been the one she expected with the C19 quarantine. She entered the world during the aftermath of 911, and graduates during a pandemic with many accomplishments to be proud of.

Clinton Public Schools:

Clinton High School band (6-12 grade), instrument - Clarinet.

11-12 grade: Highest concert band , Wind Ensemble.

Junior Honor Society, National Honor Society, Art Club, Anchor Club.

Summer Sailing:

Recruit to Skipper, Competitive sailing regattas.

John C Jones Leadership Award, 2014.

The Episcopal Church of the Creator:

Acolyte (4-12 grade): Honor Acolyte (multiple recipient), 2-time Acolyte of the Year Award. Lector & Chalice Bearer.

After graduation, Maddie Gray will be attending the University of Southern Mississippi majoring in Marine Biology. She will be one of 25 Clarinets in The Pride of Mississippi, USM's marching and concert band.



Access to the Church Buildings

The Vestry has approved a measure to change the locks on the church buildings.

Please take note:

The Sunday school building classrooms will continue to use the current key. The Nave, Storage Room, and Parish Hall locks are being replaced and will use a separate key.

This project is being completed in phases so: if you currently have a church key, keep it for now and if your position requires you to have access to the Nave and Parish Hall, see Beth Braley.

Rhea Estes said the changeover should be completed in the next few weeks and if you have any questions, please direct them to her.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

7	Rowan Braley Stone Braley
9	Melanie Tumaliuan
10	Lauren Dettwiller
11	Alex Runyan
16	Tori Meyers

Anniversaries

7	Charlie & Lisa Dieth
13	Ross & Pam Turner
23	Dorie & Tim Walsh

Church at Home

Family WORSHIP

“Even if we cannot gather with our church community, we can pray with our church. We can pray together online. We can pray at the same time. We can pray knowing that somewhere in the world, others are saying the same prayers we are. We can pray knowing that we are always joined in prayer with the company of heaven.

When we pray, we are never alone.” – *Scott Gunn, Forward Movement*

During this challenging time in our common life, we offer some alternative ways to worship.

The following churches in our diocese will be live streaming a Sunday service.

Copy & paste the following link into your browser to see a current list of all live streamed services and links to many other resources.

<https://www.dioms.org/Resources/church-at-home---livestream-other-resources.html>

Click the link next to a church to connect with the stream. Many of these will take you to Facebook Live. Don't have Facebook? You can still watch the stream.



Stewardship talent
planning
PLEDGE
faith
community
vision
LOVE
treasure
commitment
blessing
growing
support
giving
time
caring

Please continue sending your pledges in to the church. Even though we are not meeting, the monthly expenses still need to be met.

Also, we need to continue maintaining the church grounds. See dates in the calendar.



Saturday, May 16

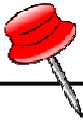
Many thanks for all the hard work of several church members in April. With their help we have the grounds and additional field mowed, edged, shrubs trimmed and debris removed.

In May we will continue to weed flower beds and perform other general maintenance. This will be done over several week days in addition to the scheduled Saturday date. Rhea Estes will email the specifics as the plans materialize.

WHAT IS PENTECOST?



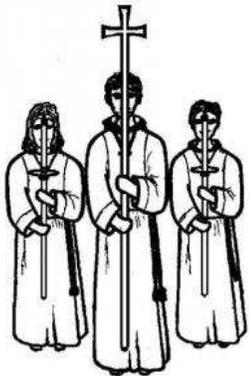
Pentecost is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church. It was mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (20:16) and Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (16:8). It marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. For that reason, it is often called "the birthday of the Church."



Pending our Bishop's direction to re-open churches, we are planning to begin normal services on Pentecost Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. You will receive an email later in the month, once we have clarification from the Diocesan office.

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 31st



Acolytes

Landon Daniel	- Thurifer
Maddie Gray Braley	- Crucifer/Server
Rowan Braley	- Torch
Manny Diaz-Olarra	- Torch
Ruby Braley	- Gospel/Server
Kate Onyia	- Pentecost Dove
Max Lanford	- Boat



Adult Servers

Chalice: Mike Milone, Bob White

POP: Janie Fields

Usher: Austine Onyia

Lector: Joan Blanton, John Lanford

VP of the Day: Ross Turner

Altar: Joyce White



May, 2020

The Episcopal Church of the Creator

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
3	4 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	5 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	6 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	7 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	8	9 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
10	11 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	12 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	13 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	14 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	15	16 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting Church Work Day 8am-12pm
17 FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's	18 6:30 pm: Vestry 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	19 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	20 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	21 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	22	23 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
24	25 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	26 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	27 6:30 pm: Zoom: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group	28 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	29	30 5 pm: AA / AI-Anon Meeting
31 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor (See note on page 8)						

Episcopal Church of the Creator

Church Office Hours:

9:00 am—2 pm, Monday—Thursday

Presiding Bishop

The Most Reverend Michael Curry

Bishop

The Very Reverend Brian Seage

Priest-In-Charge

The Reverend Robert M. Blanton

Administrator

Beth Braley

theepiscopalchurchofthecreator@gmail.com

Choir Director

Vacant

Senior Warden

Rhea Estes, 601-813-3863

Junior Warden

Vacant

Treasurer

Tommy Mills, 601-259-5333

Vestry

Ross Turner, 601-214-2484

John Lanford, 601-708-4374

Dianne Martin, 601-906-5086

Isabel Mills, 601-954-3769

Jennifer Duncan, 601-850-6353

Contacts

Church Office

Administrator—Beth Braley, 601-924-2261

Email: theepiscopalchurchofthecreator@gmail.com

Pastoral Emergencies

Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Cell: 601-291-0652

Polly Marshall, Cell: 601-953-2980

Acolytes

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305

Adult Christian Education

Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Cell: 601-291-0652

Altar Guild

Larry & Rhea Estes, Cell: 601-813-3859

Choir

Vacant

Children's Christian Education

John Lanford, Cell: 601-966-3441

Columbarium

Wendy Brantley, Cell: 601-954-3946

Flower Guild

Becky Wright, Cell: 601-940-4861

Funeral Guild

Vacant

Parish Lunches & Special Events

Andrew Wilder, 601-842-0058

Doug George, 601-502-5063

Cubmaster

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305

Wedding Coordinator

Vacant



Episcopal Church of the Creator
1445 Clinton-Raymond Rd.
Clinton, MS 39056

*We are part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion and in communion with the
Archbishop of Canterbury.*

“We are a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi: One church in mission, inviting, transforming, and reconciling. We seek to serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.”