



THE TRUMPET

EMMANUEL CHURCH, BEL AIR

18 JANUARY 2023



SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Can be found at the Satucket Lectionary www.satucket.com/lectionary/
or at the Lectionary Page www.lectionarypage.net

Happy New Year from Christian Formation

We have turned the corner and have entered the New Year and now we have entered the new church season of Epiphany. All of this means that things are back to “normal” (whatever that is!). Sunday School resumes its regular classroom schedule (December was a wonderful mix of class time and special events) beginning at 9 a.m. with the 10:15 worship service following. We have lots of wonderful projects and crafts planned, so be sure to bring the children!

Adult Bible Study continues in the Harward Parlor each Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. We continue our study of the *Fruit of the Spirit*, and all are welcome to join in.

A second adult Bible Study has begun on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 in the Harward Parlor. The focus is *St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians*. This letter is full of familiar and treasured scripture, and happens to mirror the Epistle readings in church for the next month. Come soak in God's word as we examine and explore it!



Holy Communion

Our practice of Holy Communion has undergone several variations over the last three years. Emmanuel (and the rest of the Episcopal Church) adapted as much as we could to the circumstances. We managed to learn how to use the communion cups at home, then an intinction-only practice, and now the return to the common cup.

Last Fall, Bishop Sutton asked congregations in the Diocese of Maryland to move away from the practice of intinction. His reasoning had two thrusts: first, scientific research says that sipping from a chalice is actually safer than having fingers dipping (accidentally) into the wine; and second, the Anglican theology of Holy Communion emphasizes the use of a “common cup” and a “common plate” from which everyone partakes. This emphasizes the fact that we are all equal in the eyes of God.

Though I understand both arguments (and agree with them to an extent), I am also aware of how hard it is to change our behavior about something many of have done for decades. Please bear with us as we negotiate this change, and forgive us for any awkwardness in our presentation of the Sacrament.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2023

Once a year, congregations in the Episcopal Church gather as a whole to do a little bit of business. Reports from ministries and church leadership are reviewed, financial reports from the previous year are made available, and the budget for the coming year is introduced. Occasionally we update our by-laws to reflect current church practice, as we did last year in reducing the size of the Vestry from 12 to 9 members.



This year we have five Vestry slots to fill. Life in a congregation is fluid and folks come and go with some regularity. One will complete a one-year term, one will complete two years of a term, and three will be selected for regular three-year terms. We changed our selection procedure several years ago from voting for members (which felt a little too “zero sum” for the Church) to placing nominee names in a hat and drawing them – in much the same way as the Apostle Matthias was selected by drawing lots.

The qualifications required to be a member of the Vestry are specified in the Prayerbook: We look for people who “Work, Pray, and Give” in the furtherance of God’s Kingdom. We meet the Third Mondays of most months, and there are occasionally tasks that we ask members to participate in.

Please consider whether you might be called to this important ministry, and let Sandy Cormack or Mark Gatza know if you’d like to help.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Save the Date: A classic **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** is slated for Tuesday, 21 February, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Get your fill of carbs before Lent starts the next day!
- Emmanuel has sponsored a number of Winter/Spring events in the past, including **Lenten Lunches**, an **Anglo-Irish Supper** around St. Patrick’s Day, a **Thrift Shop Fashion Show** in April, and congregational picnics. If you are interested in helping us plan one of these, let the office know and we will connect you with the right folks.

PRAYER FOR THE BISHOP SEARCH COMMITTEE

The slate of Candidates for the 15th Bishop of Maryland have been announced, and their short biographies are available at episcopalmaryland.org. Please continue to pray for this important transition in our Diocese.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously upon your church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop coadjutor for this diocese, and those who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday Morning Service is Back

Our long-standing Tuesday 10:00 AM Eucharist returned this month. This service includes a simple but profound rite of prayers and laying on of hands for healing. We meet in the Maryan Room and conduct the service informally around the table.

Emmanuel Church Staff

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The Rev’d Canon Dr. Mark Gatza,
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The Rev’d Bill Smith, Associate
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Heather Costantino, Christian

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www.emmanuelbelair.org

Services:

Sundays —8 AM, 10:15 AM, Noon
Fellowship & Sunday School 9 AM