****

**“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Romans 5:5**

**January 23, 2020**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**: Eva Robertson, Gene Jackson, Yvonne Nemett, , Jeff Erwin, Donna Boles, Ewing Devaney, Clark Cotner, Melissa Jenkins, Kate Lunceford, Abbie Davis, Shirley Velazquez, Jennifer Matthews, Matt Ekis, Kathryn Baker, Phyllis H., Harry Erwin, Tommy Dooley, Paul Trawick, Hunter Cooper, Victor Abello, Doyla Duke, Cheri L., Jonnie Stephens, Carey Ann, Margaret, Gresser Family, Vicki H., Ted Reynolds and please pray for The Parish Church of the Holy Comforter.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**January 25, 2020 – Altar Guild Meeting/Training Day** at 11:00am. Light Lunch provided

**February 4, 2020 – Holy Day: Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

**Low Mass – 6:30 p.m.**

* **February 6, 2020**- We are pleased to announce on February 6, 2020, **Andrew** **Peterson**, songwriter and author, will be performing at Holy Comforter. This event is sponsored by Dr. Ted and Maureen Benke, and will benefit Holy Comforter’s **Organ Maintenance Fund.**

*Dinner is from 6 to 7:30 pm., Concert at 8pm.*

***Mr. Peterson*** *will hold a Q&A session in the Parish Hall after concert*

***We will need help with set-up, meal, merchandise sales, green room and ushers***

***Menu –*** *Chicken Spaghetti, bread, salad and dessert, disposable tableware*

*We are so privileged to have him perform at our church. Let’s really make an effort to show him how grateful we are with our heartfelt hospitality.*

* + - **February 22, 2020 – Bishop Reed** is hosting a Leadership Conference. Anyone who wants to understand the inner workings of being a Leader in our church is encourage to attend i.e., clergy, vestry, staff, volunteers. The Diocese will be providing more information.
    - **February 25, 2020 –** Pancake Dinner – 5-8 pm. Adults $10 and children $5.
    - **February 26, 2020 –** Ash Wednesday – 7:00am, 12:00pm, and Low Mass at 7:00 pm.
    - **March 1, 2020-** Bishop Reed’s visit - One Mass 10:00 am followed by lunch
    - **March 3, 2020**– Lent Tuesdays – 6:00pm - Stations of the Cross, eat (there will be a sign-up sheet for soup and bread) and Fr. Bob will have a study of the Anglican Faith.
    - **March 7, 2020** – Diocese Altar Guild Meeting, Bishop Reed will also attend.

More info to follow.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

* Effective **February 1, 2020**, we will no longer accept contributions to the **Organ** **Renovation Fund**. That fund will be closed out. Any plans to contribute must be done prior to the above date.

**On Sundays, the Bible Project/Sunday School Program will be offered from 9:15 am to 10:15am. K.C. Lopez leads the adult session and; at the same time, a program is available for children ages 7 and up.**

**Serving at Mass:**

**January 26, 2020 Third Sunday of the Epiphany**  Altar Guild Team:   **Stanley**

**8:00 a.m. Low Mass**

Lector: Sue Keemer

Ushers/Oblationers: Stanley/Smith

**10:00 a.m. High Mass**

MC/Server: K. C. Lopez

Crucifer/Thurifer:

Lector: Kathy Buck

Ushers/Oblationers: Barber/Forsythe

Vestry Member on Duty: Randy Nance

Teller : Rachael Stiver

If you are not able to be at the church to do your appointed duty listed above, you must find a replacement or call Charles Conant or Tommy Forsythe.

Rector’s Rambling

Was the Founding of the Anglican Church a Movement of God or the Result of a King’s Nuptial Naughtiness?

The Anglican Church has ofttimes been accused of being born from the libido and political machinations of one King Henry VIII. This is partial truth. Henry’s desire for a male heir led him to seek an annulment from his wife, Catherine of Aragon. Whether biblically justified, Popes routinely approved such requests. However, it just so happened that the Pope was the prisoner to Charles V, Catherine’s nephew. This made matters difficult and the Pope Clement VII forbade the annulment. To make a long story short, Henry and his ecclesiastical advisors broke from Rome and established the Sovereign as the head of the Church. Very little changed. Henry was, after all, a Catholic. Yet the die was cast, and change was inevitable.

Enter Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, our founder. Shortly before King Henry’s death in 1547, Thomas Cranmer was arrested on the grounds of heresy (1543). Why would the Archbishop of Canterbury, a man Henry appointed, be arrested for heresy? It had to do with Cranmer’s insistence on the doctrine of justification by faith alone. In his opposition to the *King’s Book,* an official document outlining the belief of the newly founded Church of England, Cranmer wrote: “It is the work and glory of God alone to justify the ungodly, to forgive sins, to give life freely out of his goodness, not from any merits of ours. Satan desires that divine honour be paid to him. Therefore, the one who has attributed either justification's beginning or its pardon to his own works, does he not blaspheme his Creator with satanic wickedness?[[1]](#footnote-1) Attributing the king’s beliefs to satanic wickedness could indeed get one arrested!

By the time of Henry’s death, Thomas was fully convinced of the biblical doctrine of justification by faith alone. His stalwart insistence on this matter is displayed in our Eucharistic Prayer. The benefits of justification (signified by the Eucharist) are procured only by the “one oblation of himself once offered.” This falls in line with Cranmer’s theology displayed in his refutation of the *King’s Book*. There is no sacrifice save the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Our “sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving” is a response not an addition. The message is clear, nothing regarding his merit stands between the believer and his reception of Christ. The reception of the elements is the climax of the liturgy. After he sacramentally receives Christ, he offers his life in response. This was indeed a change from the Medieval idea of justification through good works. Our justification before God was bought through the sacrifice of Christ now proclaimed through Word and Sacrament. Our reception/acceptance of Christ’s work on our behalf is now displayed through our reception of the elements.

While Henry’s infatuation with Anne Boleyn coupled with his desire for a male heir resulted in the political separation from Rome, it took his death and the restructuring of the medieval liturgy for true reform to take hold in the Church of England. Indeed, what we pray is what we believe.

1. Ashley Null, *Thomas Cranmer's Doctrine of Repentance: Renewing the Power to Love* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 195. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)