

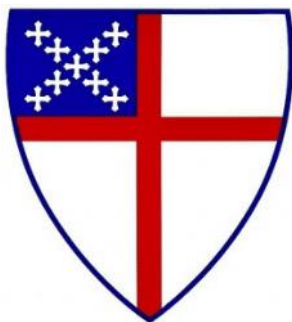


THE ANCHOR

NOVEMBER 2020

St. Clement's by-the-Sea
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcoming all since 1929



**Member, Anglican
Communion
PARISH MISSION:**

*Follow Christ through the
way we live and love,
spreading the good news
of God in Christ, opening
our hearts to all, and
experience and spread
joy in the process.*



**"This Church of
Ours is Open To
All...There Will
Be No Outcasts."**

-The Most Rev. Edmund
Browning Emeritus
Presiding Bishop



Worry...

*"Don't worry about a thing 'Cause every little thing
gonna be alright"*

So sang Bob Marley in the wonderful song, "Three Little Birds," in 1977. Pretty good advice, even if it is easier said than done. Worry can be a pretty destructive emotion and certainly does little to help us sleep at night. Jesus too tells us to abandon worry. And, I wonder if his instruction was a bit of inspiration for Marley, as he mentions birds in his "hymn," just as Jesus mentions

Birds to us as part of his. If one really wanted to push the comparison, we could argue that Marley's mention of "smiling at the rising sun" could also be an allusion to the Resurrection, but that probably does go too far.

What Jesus says about worry is this:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"
(Matthew 6:25-27)

There is much there to contemplate, no doubt! On the one hand, our Lord is without question correct about the futility of worry. It does nothing to extend or improve our lives, and may well shorten them! And yet, I've not found that when I offer the advice, "just don't worry" that it is either well received or much appreciated. Worry, just is! Seemingly, it is part of the human condition. And we'd be forgiven for a little worry in a year like this one, wouldn't we? A year of pandemic. A year of economic uncertainty. A year of intentional disinformation from global actors. A year of strife and of struggle for greater justice in our country, but also where such circumstances can turn violent in an instant.

Yes, a little worry may well be warranted. And yet, some seem to handle stress much better than others. They neither cringe nor cower. Nor do they allow their open hands to become balled-up fists. How do they do it?



...Continued on next page

As Christians, we put our trust in God. It is right there on our money to remind us. “In God we trust,” and not in anything else ultimately. Our job is not be unconscious nor unengaged. That is not the key to our quietude and peace. Quite the opposite. We believe that God has and is engaged in human history, always inviting us to a more compassionate way of being, bringing about his Kingdom. As we will talk more about in Advent, we believe that God has broken into human history through the birth of his Son, and that his Son shall come again. In the time in between, we have much to do.

I’m writing on the eve of our election. And yet, I have a great sense of peace. I voted several weeks ago. Part of this peace is resignation probably, “whatever will be, will be...qué será, será.” But, it is also trust. The absolute assurance that my life, and more importantly the life of my family, friends, parish, Church, nation and world are in the hands of God. As St. Paul says (when he is before an unbelieving crowd on the Areopagus in Athens), it is in God in whom, “we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). The people of God have certainly lived through calamities of their past. The prophets, and scripture in general, remind us in such moments where we need put our trust. Like this passage which for many is of the most treasured.

“I look to the hills, from where is my help to come? My help is in the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth” (Ps. 121:1).

My own father, who I think a lot about especially in this season, once gave me this very practical advice, “you know there is a place between being totally freaked out [i.e. worried to the max] and being totally careless, it is called ‘cautious.’” While not the same as “put your trust in the Lord” that advice nonetheless has helped me immensely throughout my lifetime. He added that most of the things I might worry about, “probably will never come to pass.” And the ones that do “will not be as calamitous as I feared.” What a great source of wisdom our parents are. I sure hope I will have such gems to hand on to my daughter when she begins to worry about the world. Gratefully, for now, she remains mostly blissfully unaware of the world’s problems.

It is hard to completely give up worry even with such insights, isn’t it? I’ve heard from some about the effect that worry has had on their sleep, or lack thereof, lately. They walk around now like zombies, with bloodshot eyes from another sleepless night, filled with “doom scrolling” on their smart phones or just all the stress that these times have produced. They lay there counting the ceiling tiles and wondering if they’ll ever be able to get a good night’s sleep again. Well, what can we do? What mechanism might we employ to hand over our stress and worry until another day? Because we can do something! We have agency. We could pray more. Couldn’t we? We could entrust these things to God before turning in and then take them up again the next day, right?

There is a rather famous story, perhaps apocryphal, that Pope John XXIII used to pray this before going to bed each night, “I’ve done my best in service to your Church this day, Oh Lord. But, it is *your Church* and *I’m* going to bed” or something quite like that. The exact words are not as important as the idea of giving it all over to God. I’ve told you of my own practice in earlier times of reading a bit of the lives of the saints before turning in for the night. Seeing their incredible faithfulness in less than ideal circumstances can give us a sense of perspective of our own present challenges. We don’t often like to hear that. Because it can sound like someone is minimize our concerns. I even wince a bit as I write it. But, there may also be some truth there.

St. Paul wrote a wonderful letter to the Philippians. We read it recently in our weekly Bible Study. In that letter is this passage, which might be helpful when we are feeling particularly anxious.

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (4:6-7)

It is important to remember that Paul penned those words from prison, as he awaited his trial before the emperor (and ultimately his death). And what does he tell us, "do not worry about anything!" Instead name it before God, and trust that God has heard you. Give it over to the Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth.

Most of our worries tend to be worries of what tomorrow may bring. That is to say, they aren't even about today. We worry endlessly about things that usually never happen. This pandemic has taught me many things. It has shown me some of the best of human nature, from people of all kinds of political stripes and how they take seriously the love and care of their neighbor. In some ways, the pandemic has given us opportunities to connect more with our families (at least those who live in the same house with us) than we have in the past. But, the pandemic has also helped me to know with certainty that I cannot control the future. I can act today and do some good, I hope, but tomorrow, next week, next month, these remain shrouded in mystery. I'll end then with where Jesus ended his comment about worry, "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Mt 6:34).

May you be without worry, but not be care-less.

And may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ, and blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you now and always.

As always, I welcome your feedback, frpatrick@scbythesea.org

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick



We will not be having in-person services on the weekend of Nov. 14-15th.

We will all be participating in the 10am: Diocesan-wide, online Eucharist on Nov. 15th.

We will be sending more details and the link to access the service soon.

Thoughts on Contemplative Prayer...

When I think of contemplative prayer, I remember one of the great spiritual masters, Thomas Merton.

Every semester when I taught the Christianity portion of my college class on world religions, I presented a powerful video on the life of Thomas Merton: *Merton: A Film Biography* (1984). In my class were many students who had not grown up in a spiritual tradition, but I found that this video was transformative for them. It connected with their own restless, searching souls.



Thomas Merton was a writer who was a typical “party animal” in his college days of the 1930’s. Yet he had a Holy Longing that eventually led him to be a Trappist monk, at that time one of the most severe forms of monasticism. He found serenity and deep connection with God in his practice of contemplative prayer.

As you read Merton’s journals, that restlessness, that Holy Longing was relentless. He became the first Trappist monk given permission to be a hermit, living alone on the monastery property. His restlessness pushed him to seek more isolated locations. He went to New Mexico, Arizona and Northern California seeking the right spot.

For Merton, contemplation is a way of being present to what is going on within ourselves.

Father Ron Rolheiser helps us to understand this, when he wrote:

“We are in solitude, in contemplation, in prayer, when we feel the warmth of a blanket, taste the flavor of coffee, share love and friendship, and perform the everyday tasks of our lives so as to perceive in them that our lives are not little or anonymous or unimportant, but that what is timeless and eternal is in the ordinary of our lives.”

There was a man who struggled with his faith in God and could not pray. He spoke with a Jesuit priest about this and received this advice:

“Make a promise to yourself to sit in silent prayer for half an hour a day for the next six months. If you are faithful to that, you will recover your sense of God.

The man rejected this suggestion, but his Jesuit friend persisted:

“Just do it! Show up and sit in silent prayer, even if you feel like you are talking to a wall. That is the only advice I can give you.”

Six months later, the man’s faith in God had returned.

There will be more boredom and restlessness than warm fuzzy feelings when we pray. But God invites us to show up and God will work with us.

Thomas Merton searched and searched for the best place for solitude and silence for his contemplative prayer.

The place where you chose to pray with the Lord is always the perfect place for you.

Fr. Brad

Memorial Garden – Open for Outdoor Prayer

There's a beautiful new spot for outdoor prayers and reflection at St. Clement's.

The Memorial Garden, long a sacred space at St. Clements with memorial plaques to departed loved ones, has been refurnished during the past six months to both accommodate the two new columbaria and also to transform the landscaping and seating into a place for prayer. Most of the earlier plants have been removed, and replaced with Mediterranean, Biblical plants that are simple and serene. The lawn has been rejuvenated and is now lush and green, and the benches were relocated to face toward the columbaria and exterior sanctuary wall.

It is, once again, a manifestation of God's timing that this garden is open for prayer at a time when the sanctuary is unavailable.



2021 Pledge Drive



“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” - 1 Peter 4:10

As we moved through the weeks of this year’s stewardship campaign, we heard messages of Faith-Filled Generosity. Last month, I invited you to pray and learn, taking these weeks to consider how your response to God’s call has been shaped by St. Clement’s and the friends who gather with you here. Hopefully, you’ve completed that discernment and submitted your pledge for 2021. If not, I pray you will do so very soon. The vestry will meet this month to begin our discussion of the budget for next year. We really need to know fully what we have to work with or drastic cuts may be required. You can email or call me with your pledge (if you’ve not submitted it yet) and I’ll go to the vestry meeting with a more accurate income report.

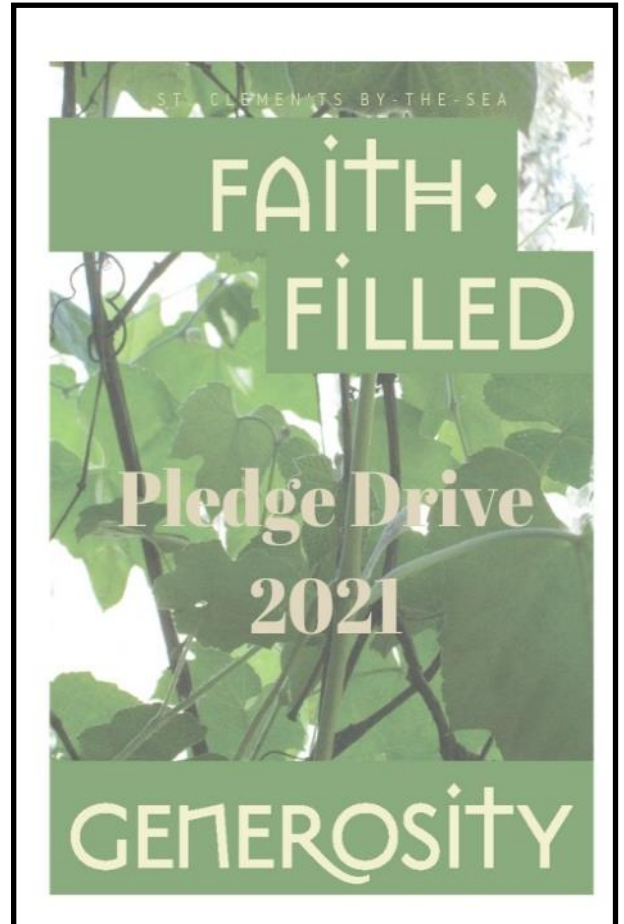
Thank you for being a part of St. Clement’s by-the-Sea.

Jon Ulz

Finance/Stewardship

504.701.7355

jdulz@cox.net



Time to Get Excited for our 2020 St Clement's Fundraiser!!



As we all know 2020 has had its share of challenges. Lack of usage fees due to our closed facilities and reduced weekly collections have put us way behind budget. Additionally, there was a flood in the spring that set us back considerably. But, hopefully our troubles are behind us and we can finish the year strong with a super fun fundraiser. The RockinJazzBigBand is a San Diego orchestra, who is putting together special 8 piece dance band for our event. As the name implies the band perform an excellent selection from the Great American Songbook that will have you applauding and dancing in the kitchen.

For the price of your ticket, you'll be able to join the event on-line and take in all the fun from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm on **Saturday, November 21**. During the show you'll have a chance to participate in 3 auctions we'll be running to raise as much as possible for our 2020 St Clements Recovery Fund. Look for details on how to buy your tickets! in upcoming e-blasts.

Restoration Update...

The restoration of the roof, ladies restroom, hallway and front office has been complete. In addition the rear roof line of Okie hall has been repaired, new gutters installed and drain conduit added to channel water away from the building. The reconstruction of the down stairs education wing and renovation of the men's restroom is now under evaluation. Hopefully, with God's help, we'll be fully functional when we once again commence services in our Sanctuary.

Blessings

Rich Suda





FAM Food Distribution...

We have recently begun working with Family Assistance Ministries as a satellite location for distribution of food to needy families. Many are facing economic hardship right now, and FAM has been blessed with food donations from farmers (who formerly sold to restaurateurs). A crew of volunteers has been here on Fridays, putting the food which FAM provides into boxes and then placing those boxes in the trunks of people's cars as they drive through our parking lot. **The distribution takes place from 12:30pm-2pm, with volunteers turning up at noon. The next food delivery will be Friday, Nov 6 and Nov 20.** Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers that have been serving. If this is a ministry that would appeal to you, please let us know that you can serve (info@scbythesea.org).

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

5:00pm Saturday Evening
"Casual Service"

Bring your own mask, chair and BCP

9:00 am Sunday Morning
(English)
Traditional / Contemporary
With music, Live-streamed,
chairs provided

11:00 am Domingos
La Misa en Español
Con musica, sillas provistas,
la transmisión en vivo

If you are unable to attend outdoor worship you can view it on the St Clement's Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5kQlrSCMkmdDOhQhGeKaUA>



Covenant Groups Begin the first week of Advent

Advent is a time of new beginnings! St. Clement's is offering a weekly opportunity for deepening our understanding of the gospel and forming new connections with each other. There are women's groups, men's groups, and mixed groups forming, meeting at a variety of times on zoom.

Here is the basic format of a meeting:

1. Begin with a moment of silence and prayer.
2. Highs and Lows: Each member takes 2-3 minutes to share the highlights and low points of their week.
3. Look/Book/Took Bible Study: The Look section allows the group to make observations about the world as we experience it. The Book section invites the group into scripture to see the world through the light of God's Word. (Each week we will study the upcoming Sunday's Lectionary readings). The Took enables us to take home truth(s) we have discerned.
4. Prayer: Aloud or silently we give thanks, and pray for the needs within our group, our families, our church, and our community.

In November, we will be placing folks in groups of their choice and training the facilitators of the groups.

If you want more information, would like to join a group, or are willing to facilitate, please contact us:

Laura Casellas Laura.casellas@yahoo.com (203)451-7598

or Hilary Viscount hviscount@gmail.com (714) 932-2210

social justice
book club

All are welcome!
Zoom Meeting
Thursday, November 19th
7:00 pm

Book: *The Person You Mean To Be*, by Dolly Chugh

Contact our host, Laura Casellas to receive the Zoom link.
203.451.7598 or lauracasellas@yahoo.com



Join us on Wednesday's at 11am for our weekly Bible Study. We presently meet by Zoom. You need not be a biblical scholar to participate. Just come with a desire to learn more.

Here is the link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765551451?
pwd=UXdNYUxtT29FNU1YRolkNFdPQmxqdzo9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765551451?pwd=UXdNYUxtT29FNU1YRolkNFdPQmxqdzo9)

Meeting ID: 847 6555 1451
Passcode: 823922



Vestry Meetings
Tuesday, November 17th
7:00 pm
Currently meeting via Zoom.

- November Birthdays -



11/1 Marcia Mohler
 11/2 Deb Loftus
 11/10 Joan Ashbrook
 11/12 Gustavo Carrillo Jr.
 11/12 Katrina Soto
 11/17 Dylan Casey
 11/17 Patrick Crerar

11/17 Robert Miranda
 11/17 Elvira Carrillo
 11/18 Margarita Farias
 11/21 Susan Rhodes
 11/23 Rachel Tomeo
 11/25 Cecily Grigg
 11/27 Juvenal Delgado

- November Anniversaries -



11/5 Jose & Elvira Carrillo
 11/18 Mike & Andrea Morris
 11/27 Roger & Mary Ann Morrison
 11/29 Bill & Deb Loftus



St. Clement's by-the-Sea EPISCOPAL CHURCH

San Clemente's First Church

Welcoming all since 1929



SUNDAY WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR OUTSIDE WORSHIP

9:00 am Holy Communion Rite II

11:00 am La Misa en Español

202 Avenida Aragon
San Clemente, CA 92672

OFFICE HOURS

Vary during these times.

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Website: www.scbythesea.org

The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Rector