



Way back in the beginning of March at our Ash Wednesday service we had special music by JJ Heller entitled “Only Love Remains.” A few lyrics from it are:

Scenes of you come rushing through  
You are breaking me down  
So break me into pieces  
That will grow in the ground  
I know that I deserve to die  
For the murder in my heart  
So be gentle with me Jesus  
As you tear me apart

Please kill the liar  
Kill the thief in me  
You know that I am tired of their cruelty  
Breathe into my spirit  
Breathe into my veins  
Until only love remains

And it was indeed an interesting reflection for the start of our Lenten Journey. However, as we think about it as we approach Easter, with Holy Week set before us, may we look at it in new light, the aspects of new life begin the desire of JJ’s heart. “Break me into pieces that will grow in the ground... breathe into my spirit, breathe into my veins...” she knows and trusts that this new life is possible as long as she is ready to shed the old. She knows this transformation, this change isn’t easy. And this, this is the experience of Holy Week, of grief, of the pain of change and transformation. To become something new, we have to be willing to let go of something else. In order for Christ to make a way for all of us to be able to be made new, he had to let go of being distant (a savior is born unto us, Emmanuel, God with us), had to become fully human (not just fully divine), and come humbling himself, humbling to the point of being arrested, tortured and hung on a cross (letting go of power). Christ shows us how to let go in order to become something new. He was willing to let go of everything, even life itself, so that the whole world could be made new.

As we go through the last few weeks of Lent and enter Holy Week, continuing our way towards Easter, may these words from JJ Heller remain in our hearts. May they become a prayer for us so that Easter Sunday we can truly find the joy in being made new, in understanding just how new we’ve become – growing in the ground, sprouting up, with the Spirit breathing new life into our very being until only loves remains. Until on the love of God (for God so love the world) remains. Amen.

Rev. Erin Moore



## **Good News Gazette**

First  
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### **Psalm 61:1-4**

Here my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint. Lead me to a rock that is higher than I; for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

## **Beloved Community,**

These are difficult and unprecedented times that we find ourselves in today. Every day changes so fast that what I write to you today could change by the time it gets to you. It does not appear we will be able to gather together safely for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, or Easter. My heart is heavy even just typing such words. However, we are finding ways to try and remain connected and continue to worship together as best we can. Worship Services have been uploaded to Facebook and YouTube, for those without a computer or internet, services have been printed out and shared. If you have been having difficulty finding our resources or would like a print out copy instead, please let Pastor Erin know.

At this time, it is uncertain when we will return to normal activities. It is hard and difficult to think we might not be together, physically, for another few weeks (or longer). Please know, we are doing our best to help keep everyone connected. We are soon going to plan some “lunch time” gatherings where we share lunch together over a conference call, among other such connection gatherings. Please call, text, or email Pastor Erin if you are interested in participating in these connection gatherings.

May we continue to trust that God is with us, guiding us, holding us, loving us as God works through and in this situation.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by April 20th.

Pastor Erin’s email address is: [erinmoore@chespresny.com](mailto:erinmoore@chespresny.com)  
Pastor Erin’s cell phone: 862-432-7467, please limit use to 9-6pm Sun-Thurs unless there is an emergency.

## **Crafters Corner**

Crafters meetings are on hold for the time being, however, please feel free to continue to craft at home! Also, we are continuing to collect:

Pinecones, Corks, Pillowcases (in good condition), T-shirts (in good condition), Fabric, Pallets, Yarn, Malt-o-Meal cereal bags

If you have any flower pots or tea cups you are no longer using, we will gladly find use for them!

At this time, we do not have a collection site set up. If you have any of these items but cannot keep them in your home, please let Pastor Erin know.

## Daily Prayer

Pastor is offering daily prayer on both Facebook ([www.facebook.com/chespresny](http://www.facebook.com/chespresny)) and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLg16VOe9lbmcfB4dRHGfA>)

An example of the daily prayer:

Monday: O God, come to our assistance. O Lord, hasten to help us.

Psalm: 121, 6

God of miracles and unknowns, of breath and life, we fall before you this day in awe of your power and grace. We celebrate all that you have provided and thank you for your ever-flowing grace upon us. We especially thank you for...

The sun and the rain and all the ways you bless your creation... Those who labored for the good of your world... The opportunity we have to serve you and serve our community... All the love you impart upon your world... The light and love of Christ our Lord...

We also give you our concerns this day as well, knowing that you hold them all and care for us and the world in every circumstance. We especially pray for...

Those who are in danger this day, be it from war or illness, work or natural disaster... Those who work in the medical field, physicians and nurses, medical staff, county and nationwide health department workers... Those who are lonely... Those who are in need of your love... Your church in the world...

O Lord, we give up our burdens this day to you, trusting in your tender and loving care that you hold all that we carry. We surrender not just this day but our entire lives, trusting that you will always hold us, guide us, and continue to lead us into eternal life with you. Amen.

Tuesday: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth

Psalm: 25, 91

Almighty God, we thank you for this day, for your presence among us, and the sign of our love through Jesus Christ our Lord. We especially thank you for...

The gifts and blessings you provide daily... The relationships we have with family and friends... The strength you impart upon us to shine your light to our broken world... The ministries of the church...

Merciful God, we remember our community and our larger world and how you call us to reach out to others and share your gracious love. We especially pray for...

Those who are in fear of what is next... Those who are either working from home or home without work... The children in our community and around the world... Those who are ill and in need of healing... Your church in the world...

O Lord, giver of life, you have brought us through this day and now provide us a time for rest. Calm our hearts and minds our whole beings that we might be refreshed in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## April Second Offering

Our second offering for Sunday, April 26th will be to help offset the expenses of keeping the church running (including paying employees) while we have missed so many Sundays together.

### Ruling Elders:

Vicki Braidotti  
Ron Brooks  
Ruth Magyar  
Jerry Sutherland  
Matt Van Der Meulen  
Clerk of Session  
Gene Winters

### Deacons:

Edna Babcock  
Jean Barrett-  
Helen Braidotti  
Joanne Brooks  
Vanessa Magyar  
James Peterson—  
Moderator & treasurer

### Church Office:

(845) 469-4877

### E-mail:

[info@chespresny.com](mailto:info@chespresny.com)

### Website:

[www.chespresny.com](http://www.chespresny.com)

### Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/chespresny](http://www.facebook.com/chespresny)

## Daily Prayer Continued...

**Wednesday: Lectio Divina – helps you to read the Bible in a prayerful way. Pick a short passage of scripture (it can be anything you like, but if you're stuck, parables of Jesus or the shorter Psalms are a good choice). Read it through slowly, two or three times. Notice what jumps out at you, and ask yourself, what is God saying to me here? Reflect on this for a few minutes. Then, read the passage again. Now ask yourself, what do I want to say to God? Then say it. Lastly, sit quietly and know that God is with you.**

Thursday: Hear my prayer, O LORD; et my cry come to you.

Psalm: 126, 102

God of Creation, open our eyes to the beauty around us that we may rejoice in your goodness and be thankful for your love revealed to us, especially through Jesus Christ. We thank you for...

The ways you surprise us and enliven us... People who strive to do your will and work... Courage to follow after the one who calls us... Those who provide hospitality to us and to our larger community... The body of Christ, your Church, in the world...

God of Creation, open our eyes to the ways we need to provide better care for our creation, for the ways you call us to love and care for all that you have provided. We pray for...

A recognition of climate change and action by your church... Those who are most affected by the rising waters, changing temperatures and devastating droughts... For all of creation... For the oppressed, shamed, and ostracized... Your church in the world...

God of Creation, you have made this day and this night. As you guided your people in the desert by cloud by day and fire at night, be with us still, guiding us day and night. As we wake and as we sleep, hold us, keep us, and stir your Spirit within us so that each day we have strength to rise into new life with you. Amen.

**Friday: You, O Lord, are my strength; come quickly to help me.**

**Psalm: 105, 130**

**Eternal God, we rejoice in the new beginnings you give us each day through Jesus Christ, for strength in weakness and forgiveness in failure. Especially, we thank you for...**

**Your Spirit moving with us, in us, and through us... The signs of spring, of new life and new hope... Those who continue to work to keep us safe and healthy... Those who work for your justice and peace... The body of Christ, your Church, in the world...**

**Eternal God, you know all our needs even before we ask and yet you welcome our prayers, burdens and concerns for ourselves and for those around us. And so this day we especially pray for...**

**Those who are grieving... All who are lonely, distressed, and anxious... Those who have lost their hope... Those who are far from you and your great love... Your church in the world...**

**O Lord, as comes the eventide, abide with us. Abide with us in the darkness and in the light, giving us rest and strength, courage and hope to face the days to come. Lord, abide with us until Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee, o Lord, let us abide with thee forever. Amen.**

Saturday —Examen Prayer – a very simple way to prayerfully review your day with God in five steps:

1. Become aware of God's presence, or ask God to help you remember God's there with you.
2. Review the day with gratitude (as best you can!).
3. Pay attention to how you're feeling about it.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray about it.
5. Look toward tomorrow. What do you expect the day to hold? Ask God to help you remember <sup>4</sup>God's with you.