



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

on the Branford Green

May you find Christ, Community and Compassion within these historic walls.

Rector's Recommended Reading

Marcus Borg, Borg is among the most widely-known and influential voices in progressive Christianity. "He combines the critical eye of the scholar with the mediating sensitivity of faith."

The Heart of Christianity

Jesus; Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary

***Celebration of Discipline; The Path to Spiritual Growth*, by Richard Foster**

Foster defined simplicity as "an *inward* reality that results in an *outward* life-style. The inward reality is spiritual centeredness – keeping everything in a state of awareness and connected to the two great commandments; love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

***Amazing Grace, A Vocabulary of Faith*, by Kathleen Norris.**

Norris identifies the *Sanctus* – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might – as a moment in the liturgy of great importance and an illustration of the movement from ordinary to extraordinary time. She says "The Sanctus feels like a door to me, opening onto eternity, where the angels and all the saints sing "Holy, Holy, Holy." These few simple words are used to break open our world and Christ becomes present, silent in the sacrament."

***The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*, by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Picket**

A hard-hitting study of the social effects of inequality and its profound implications.

***The Great Emergence*, by Phyllis Tickle**

There is a profound movement taking place in Western Christianity, not unlike the Protestant Reformation of 500 years ago.

One renovation arising from this Great Emergence that Phyllis describes is a shift in how we approach church. She sees that we are moving from a model of *Believe, Behave, Belong* to one of *Belong, Behave, Believe*. Belonging has replaced adherence to doctrine as the means of entry into a community of faith.

1100 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

www.trinitybranford.org 203-488-2681 e-mail rector47@trinitybranford.org



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

on the Branford Green

May you find Christ, Community and Compassion within these historic walls.

Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening, by Diana Butler-Bass.

Diana Butler-Bass contends that we are at the end of a sea change in religious Christianity which has been going on since the 1970s. Historians have mapped the *Three Great Awakenings* in American history where old patterns and beliefs were set aside for new forms and vitality. Bass is convinced that the Fourth Great Awakening is underway and as a result there is a great deal of doubt and discontent afoot in the culture and in churches.

In this book (one of eight), the author challenges readers to acknowledge that there is much work to be done: "to find new paths of meaning, new ways to connect with God and neighbor, to form new communities, and to organize ways of making the world a better place." Bass's vision for the new spiritual awakening in Christianity revolves around relational community (belonging), intentional practice (behaving), and experiential belief (believing).

Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead, by Brene' Brown, PhD, LMSW

Dr. Brown is a research professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, involved in research on topics ranging from vulnerability, courage, and authenticity, to empathy and shame.