



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry  
March 22, 2017



*New and Notable...*



*Thoughts from Lori*

Think we have more controversy in the Church now than ever before? Not so. Just the subject matter changes. Today is the feast day for James De Koven (see Holy Women, Holy Men for March 22 or simply do a search). The big controversy was over ritual in worship. Yep. Ritual in our worship, such as bowing toward the altar and at the name of Jesus, incense, vestments, even candles on the altar. And lest you think the disagreements stirred up over these matters were minor, De Koven's defense of these practices was enough to prevent him from being confirmed as a duly elected bishop - twice!

In recent memory, we Episcopalians have found ourselves embroiled in controversies over the revision of the Book of Common Prayer in the mid-70's, the ordination of women in 1974, and in the last three decades, the inclusion of gays and lesbians in all aspects of our common life. These days, like everyone else in the country, we sometimes find ourselves divided along political lines: so-called conservatives versus so-called liberals. While there are clearly real differences of opinion, like most controversies and divisions, the issues on the surface obscure who we are and what we have in common.

The most obvious thing that binds us together is our love of God and our commitment to Jesus Christ. We are also bound together by our history as Anglicans; that is, this particular and sometimes peculiar branch of Christianity we call The Episcopal Church with its roots in The Church of England. One of the most important and consistent values of this church is this: to agree to disagree and *to still come to the Communion rail together*. It is a value that has sustained us through many controversies, some of which seem insignificant or even silly to us in hindsight, and if we can continue to embrace it, will see us through until the Kingdom comes.

The real question isn't about your or my political persuasion. It's about our commitment to this community of faith and serving God's purpose through it.

It's about the lives we are touching, and about our own lives being transformed in the process. I believe James De Koven would agree.

Faithfully,  
*Loritt*

### ***A SHAMELESS PROMOTION***

As most of you know, my daughter and son-in-law are members of the U.S. Navy Band. The Concert Band is on tour and will be performing in Milwaukee tonight, Kenosha on Thursday night, Sun Prairie on Friday night. Tickets are not required. Log onto [www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil) for more details. Also, the Sea Chanters, the Navy Band's singing ensemble, will be in Lake Geneva on Tuesday, April 25. These are amazing musicians and fabulous performances. If you can, be sure to see one of them. Although other of our military bands may be in this region next year, it will be at least four years before the Navy Band will be back in this area.

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### FLOWERS AND LILIES FOR EASTER



There is a sign-up sheet for those wishing to contribute to the **flowers and lilies that will grace our church on Easter Day**. Your donation of \$25 (or more) may be given - as always TO THE GLORY OF GOD - and in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a person or special blessing. Thank you for helping to make our Easter celebration more beautiful than ever!

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### **A NEW / OLD CUSTOM DURING LENT**

Those of you who have been Episcopalians for a long time remember that it was our habit to enter the church in silence before worship in order to pray and prepare for the liturgy. You are gently invited to practice that tradition during the season of Lent.

"WE ENTER SPEAKING TO GOD.  
WE LEAVE IN COMMUNITY SPEAKING WITH ONE ANOTHER."

Let's try it.

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### **A Word from The Rev. William P. McLemore**

#### **Feast Day of St. Joseph**

March 19th, transferred from Sunday to Monday, is the Feast Day of St. Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, mother of Jesus, and is regarded as a model for fathers, as well as the patron saint of carpenters. Other than this, very little is known of the person who came forward to give validity to the pregnancy of Mary. The photo of Joseph here was painted by the artist, Guido Reni around 1635.



From the account in the Gospel according to Matthew, we get the idea that Joseph was a resident of Bethlehem who settled in Nazareth because of the troubling conditions in Judea under the reign of Archelaus. He returned to Bethlehem with Mary at the birth of Jesus, and was described in scripture as a "just man" (Matthew 1:19), which is taken to mean that he was a devout servant of God, and regulated his life according to the law.

What we learn from Joseph is the lesson of patience and acceptance of the mysteries of God, as well as the importance of these traits for all fathers in relation to their wives and children.

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## Children's Chapel

This week's lesson will be "From the Garden to the Cross." Leaders will be Bobbi Fiali and Katie & Bill Lang.



All children are welcome to attend after the service for a snack, bible story, and activity.

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*In case you missed it....*

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## LENTEN STUDY

### One Book, One Diocese

### Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America

by Dr. Catherine Meeks

In response to our Bishop's invitation to the whole diocese, we will be discussing this book at Coffee & Conversation during Lent. The subject of racism is not an easy one, and we will approach it prayerfully. Several of us have purchased the book, and that will facilitate and shape our discussion, but everyone is invited to participate in the conversation. If you are reading the book, here is the schedule:



March 26	Lent 4	Chapters 6 & 7
April 2	Lent 5	Chapters 8 & 9
April 9	Palm Sunday	Asking the Question: Now what?

The Bishop will also be leading an online discussion via the diocesan website. See below for more information.

During Lent, which began March 1, Bishop Lee and other diocesan leaders will hold an online book discussion of "Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America," a collection of essays edited by Dr. Catherine Meeks. Congregations are also encouraged to hold their own discussions of the book.

"Living into God's Dream" combines personal stories and theological reflection with real-world examples of new conversations about race. The book is available online from Church Publishing, Amazon, and other retailers.

There will be an online discussion each Wednesday evening. Use this link to participate.

<https://www.episcopalchicago.org/our-stories/2017/01/04/one-book-one-diocese-living-gods-dream>

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## For Your Consideration: A Lenten Act of Generosity!

As an act of alms giving during Lent, please consider filling a **Personal Care Bag** to be given to our guests at the next **Mobile Food Pantry at St. Paul's** on Saturday, **April 29th**. A list is attached to each bag with suggestions for full-sized items for personal care. These are things that cannot be purchased with food stamps. When you have filled a bag (or more), **please return the personal care bag(s) to St. Paul's on or before Easter Sunday, April 16th**. The Food Pantry truck ministry is a shared project of the three Episcopal Churches in McHenry County. Thank you for your generosity and compassion, The Rev. Bill McLemore - St. Ann's; The Rev. Fran Holliday - St. Mary's; The Rev. Lori Lowe - St. Paul's.

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## Reconciliation of a Penitent

(BCP, pages 447-452)

Though individual confession is not required in the Episcopal tradition, it is available. Two forms are provided in the Book of Common Prayer for those who desire to make a formal confession. It is true that confession is good for the soul. Although we may receive forgiveness directly from God, sometimes it is beneficial and healing to actually hear the words of absolution through a priest. If you believe this would be helpful to you, please call me to set aside a time. My cell phone number is 706-957-2446.  
lml+



If you have not signed up already, we invite you to share in the 2017 Lenten email series from Episcopal Relief & Development. Each day during Lent you will receive a daily reflection, co-authored by a group of Anglican Communion and other faith leaders. During this season of reflection on our Christian faith, their writings will enhance your spiritual journey as they both inspire and challenge you. Each daily meditation is presented in both English and Spanish.

[\\*\\*\\*Sign up to Receive our Daily Lenten Meditations by Email](#)

[Subscribase para recibir nuestras Meditaciones de Cuaresma Diarias por correo electronico](#)

Other materials are available on our [Lenten Resources](#) page

\*\*\*Please note that the sign-up form is bilingual and contains both Spanish and English. To sign up for the Lenten Meditation emails, you only need to fill in the fields marked First Name, Last Name and Email Address. Thank you.

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*The usual fare...*

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### **Servants for March 26th**

Beth Lukas, Jim Lukas - *Ushers*  
Jim Lukas - *Lector*  
Judy Robel - *Intercessor*  
Deb Lang, Charlie Boak - *Eucharistic Ministers*  
Rick Carlstedt - *Vestry Person of the Day*  
Bella Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*

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**Lessons and Hymns**  
**Sunday, March 19th**  
**Third Sunday in Lent - Year A**  
*by the Rev. William P. McLemore*

#### **THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

*First Lesson:* I Samuel 16:1-13. Samuel selects a prospective king to succeed Saul and the mantle falls on a ruddy young man named David.

*The Psalm:* Psalm 23. This is the well-known "shepherd" psalm that promises the "goodness and mercy" of God for ever.

*Second Lesson:* Ephesians 5:8-14. Paul warns his church not to take part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but the fruit of light.

*The Gospel:* John 9:1-41. Jesus heals a man who was blind from birth and raises questions from the Pharisees and others.

#### **THE HYMNS:**

*Processional Hymn:* No. 143. "The glory of these forty days." This Latin hymn emerges from the 10th century and has been attributed to St. Gregory the Great but its true origin is unknown. The current translation was made by

Maurice F. Bell for the 1906 Episcopal Hymnal and it has been in the hymnals ever since. The tune, "Erhalt uns, Herr," is a hymn tune traced back to Martin Luther and a hymn that he wrote against the papacy and heretics, "Preserve us, Lord, by thy dear Word; from Turk and Pope defend us Lord."

**Sequence Hymn:** No. 490. "I want to walk as a child of the light." This hymn, based on I Thessalonians 5:4-5, was written by Kathleen Thomerson, currently the Organist and Music Director at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. She was born in Tennessee and grew up in Mississippi, California, and Texas. Her college music study was at the Universities of Colorado and Texas, the Flemish Royal Conservatory in Antwerp, and privately in Paris. Before retirement in Austin, she lived in Collinsville, Illinois, when her husband was a biology professor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. This is one of her best-known hymns and she composed its tune and named it "Houston."

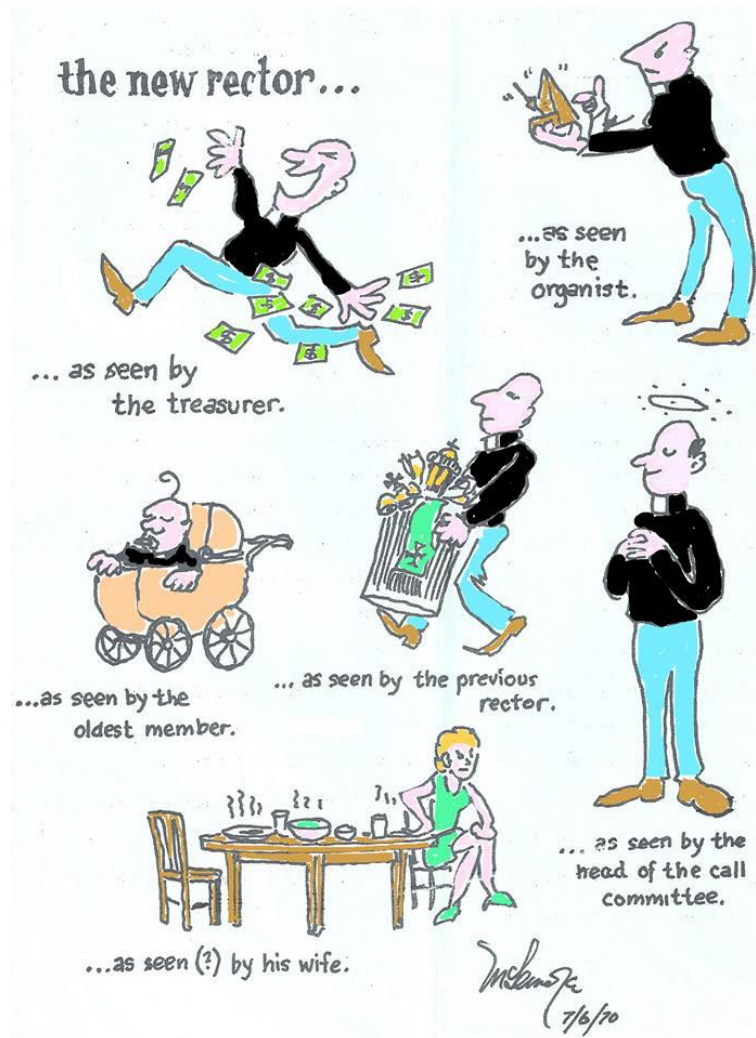
**Presentation Hymn:** No. 339. "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness." This hymn was written by Johann Franck (1618-1677), a German lawyer who produced 110 hymns which have been described as "subjective in character" that "speak of the intimate union of the soul with Christ." This particular hymn is one of his most famous and has been translated in many languages—several in English. This particular translation was made by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). The tune, "Schmucke Dich," was composed by Johann Crüger (1598-1662). The words are loosely reflective of Isaiah 61.

**Communion Hymn:** "Let the broken ones be healed." This short song will be used for our communion hymn during Lent. It was written by the Rev. Michael Hudson in his "Songs for the Cycle," (c) 2004.

**Recessional Hymn:** No. 493. "O for a thousand tongues to sing." This hymn was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), May 21, 1739, upon the first anniversary of his spiritual conversion. Wesley was ordained an Anglican priest in 1735 and came with General Oglethorpe to Georgia as his private secretary and chaplain. Because of the adverse reaction to his new environment, he returned to England. Even though tagged a "Methodist" for his support of a highly organized ministry, he refused to leave the Anglican church. He wrote over 6,500 hymns and 500 are still in common use. The fourth verse reveals the depth of his very personal conversion experience: "He speaks and listening to his voice, new life the death receive, the mournful broken hearts rejoice the humble poor believe." The tune, 'Azman,' was composed by Carl Gotthilf Glaser (1784-1829).

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From the cartoons created by  
*The Rev. William P. McLemore*



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