



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
March 29, 2017

New and Notable...

*Please note: The office will be closed
Thursday, March 30 and Friday, March 31.*



Thoughts from Lori

I've been thinking a lot about listening. Specifically, my own difficulty with truly listening. Maybe it's just me, but when I'm in a conversation with someone, especially if it's about something we are both passionate about, I'm so busy thinking about my answer that I'm not concentrating on what the other person is saying. I'm more intent on coming up with my own convincing reply than on truly trying to understand what the other person is saying. And if he or she is doing the same thing, then neither of us is likely to learn anything helpful, let alone understand each other any better.

So I've been wondering about how I can become a better listener. A better conversationalist for that matter. The times that I have felt most heard have been with people who have listened quietly, have asked me a few open-ended questions - not bating questions, not questions designed to trip me up or prove me wrong - but questions that have invited me to articulate what I am thinking and feeling. Which in turn, encouraged me to try to do the same.

That's my goal: to listen more quietly. To ask open-ended questions; to encourage (in both myself and my partner in conversation) carefully considered thoughts and feelings. The outcome, I hope, will turn out to be an opportunity to learn something and understand more clearly.

I venture to suggest that the world would be better off if we all practiced this kind of listening. But then again, maybe it's just me.

Faithfully,
Lori

ABOUT HOLY WEEK AND THE TRIDUUM

Holy Week will be upon us soon, beginning with Palm Sunday, also known as The Sunday of the Passion, on April 9th. That in itself is a dramatic beginning during which we will make the shift from celebration to solemnity, from "Hosannah!" to "Crucify him!" and Holy Week will have begun. This is the event and the season that defines who we are as Christians: people of the resurrection. But we cannot get to resurrection without the passion and death of our Lord. Therefore, we are providing you with every opportunity to observe this sacred time.

The details of the schedule are included below. It includes the Eucharist on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. These will be simple, quiet services. The real focus of the week is on the Triduum: The Sacred Three Days, sometimes referred to as one service taking place over the course of three nights. It begins with Maundy Thursday, which will include the Agape Meal, foot washing, the Holy Eucharist, and the Stripping of the Altar.

Following this service, the Julian chapel will be turned into "the Chapel of Repose" for the purpose of keeping watch with Jesus through the night. Those who wish to participate in this ancient tradition may sign up for an hour, or simply come to the chapel any time through the night, up to noon on Friday.

Good Friday will be observed with the Good Friday Liturgy and Stations of the Cross at noon. That evening, in addition to the Good Friday Liturgy, the service will include the Mass of the Pre-sanctified Gifts. It is traditional that no consecration of bread and wine take place on this day, so elements will have been reserved from the night before, and all of it will be consumed on this night.

The final service of these three days is the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, held again this year at St. Ann's in Woodstock. It begins with the lighting of the new Paschal Candle, then includes a portion of the Easter Vigil, Renewal of our Baptismal Vows, and the First Eucharist of Easter.

If you have never experienced the full Triduum - that is, the sweep of these three dramatic days - I invite you to do so this year. It is an experience like no other for more fully understanding the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection. While Easter morning is always a joyful celebration, there is simply nothing to compare to the *experience* of The Great Three Days. It gives new meaning to "welcome happy morning"! So in the words of the Ash Wednesday invitation to enter into a Holy Lent, I invite you therefore in the name of the Church to prepare for the Easter celebration by entering into Holy Week. May you find yourself richly blessed by the mercies and blessings of God in Christ Jesus. lml+

Notary Public

Lisa Strandberg, the Rector's administrative assistant, is now a Notary Public. If you need something notarized, she will provide that service at no charge for parishioners. She is usually in the office Tuesday through Friday from 9am to 1pm. Call the church office (815-385-0390) if you would like an appointment.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday - April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Blessing of the Palms

The Passion Narrative and the Holy Eucharist

Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

April 10, 11, 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Agape Meal and Foot Washing

Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

followed by Prayer Vigil

Good Friday

April 14

Stations of the Cross at noon

The Good Friday Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Cross

Mass of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

The Great Vigil of Easter

April 15 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's, and St. Ann's

St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Woodstock

Easter Day

April 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Festival Eucharist of the Resurrection

A Word from The Rev. William P. McLemore

FEAST DAY OF JOHN KEBLE

Wednesday, March 29th, is the Feast Day of John Keble, born in 1792, the son of an Anglican Vicar, the Rev. John Keble, in Gloucestershire, England. At the age of fourteen, he won a scholarship to Oxford, and graduated in 1811 with highest honors. He taught poetry at the University, and was ordained priest in 1816.



He wrote a cycle of poems in 1927, which he called "The Christian Year." One of his poems, "New every morning," is found in our 1982 Hymnal (No. 10), and reveals the warm pastoral spirit of this cleric for which he became famous. This is the fourth verse of the hymn: "Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be, as more of heaven in each we see; some softening gleam of love and prayer shall dawn on every cross and care."

England at this time was going through the industrial revolution and urbanization, and Parliament acted to abolish some bishoprics. Keble protested the action as undermining the independence of the Church. His resistance rallied the Oxford Movement, which began to publish a series of tracts promoting the traditions of the Anglican Church. This effort set them apart as the "Tractarians." Though Keble was bitterly attacked for his stand, his loyalty to the Church was unwavering. He died at the age of 74, and three years later, Oxford formed a college bearing his name, which offered an education in the strict fidelity to the Church of England.

What we learn from Keble is a deep reverence for the traditions and teachings of Anglicanism, especially the drama of the Church Year, and the characteristics of its pastoral and redemptive ministry.

Children's Chapel

This week's lesson will be "Preparing for Palm Sunday." Leaders will be Amy & Jeff Zabor.



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

In case you missed it....



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!

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.

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:



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>

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.

NOTE: We still have six empty bags left. If you haven't yet filled one of these for our upcoming Mobile Food Pantry, please consider doing it now. Thanks!

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.

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 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.

The usual fare...

Servants for April 2nd

Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*
Judy Robel - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Pam Dietmeyer, Al Robel - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Darrell Rowe - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Paige Morris - *Children's Crucifer*

On the Calendar...

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, April 1, 8:00 a.m.
Music Therapy - Every Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Holy Week begins Sunday, April 9th
Vestry - Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.
Mobile Food Pantry - Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Lessons and Hymns

Sunday, April 2nd

Fifth Sunday in Lent - Year A

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14. The prophet visits the valley of the dry bones which come to life as he prophesies.

The Psalm: Psalm 130. Out of the depths is a cry for the Lord as this person's "soul waits for the Lord."

Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11. Paul described the difference between the flesh and the Spirit.

The Gospel: John 11:1-45. The death and resurrection of Lazarus.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 567. "Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old." This hymn was written in 1864 by Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891) especially to be used in a hospital chapel. The hymn was inspired by Matthew 14:35-36 and portrays Jesus as the healer and life-giver. The composer of the tune, "St. Matthew," is disputed but appeared in a 1708 "Supplement to the New Version of Psalms" to be used with Psalm 33.

Sequence Hymn: No. 508, "Breathe on me, breath of God." Edwin Hatch (1835-1889) wrote this hymn for his own private hymn collection "Between Doubt and Prayer," in 1878. It became so popular that it entered the Anglican hymnal in 1916. It reflects our philosophy of Christian conversion which generally looks to a gradual life of holiness ending in the "perfect life of thine eternity." The son of non-conformist parents in Derby, England, he joined the Church of England in 1853 and was ordained a priest in 1859. Though primarily a scholar, his writing of this hymn reflects a deep belief that God transforms the human heart through the Holy Spirit. The tune, "Nova Vita," literally means "New Life" and was composed by Lister Peace, organist at Queen's College. This hymn lends itself to being sung softly but with a deep breath to reflect the meaning of the words.

Presentation Hymn: No. 411. "O bless the Lord my soul." This hymn was written by James Montgomery and is based upon Psalm 103. The text has been in our hymnals since 1826 without any alterations over the years. The tune "St. Thomas" was composed by Aaron Williams and is used in its abbreviated form for this hymn. The words call forth our faith in the deepest sense, "O bless the Lord my soul."

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. 610. "Lord, whose love through humble service." This hymn is the work of United Reformed Pastor, Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984) and is aptly assigned to our hymnal section, "Christian Responsibility." The third verse explains in detail the closing challenge at our worship, "Go in peace to serve the Lord." "As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light, in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share." The tune, "Blaenhafren," is a Welsh melody named after striking waterfalls in Wales.

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



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