



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
March 8, 2017



New and Notable...



Shrove Tuesday
February 28th

A good time was had by all! If you missed it this year, be sure to come next year.





Thoughts from Lori

Early last year, I began the process to join the Anti-racism Commission (ARC) of the Diocese of Chicago. That involved updating the required (for clergy) anti-racism training, which I did in July. In October, I became an official member. I was partly motivated by a comment made by a colleague who quipped that "nobody up here (meaning McHenry County) is interested in all that." Because I am and have been interested in issues around racism, as well as other justice issues, for a long time, I decided to put my money where my mouth is, so to speak.

Last weekend, the ARC members had an overnight retreat Friday and Saturday led by Dr. Catherine Meeks from the Diocese of Atlanta. She is the chair of their commission, known as "The Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism." She is also the editor of [Living into God's Dream](#), the book our bishop has invited the Diocese of Chicago to read during Lent.

Confronting racism is hard work. Talking about racism is difficult for us White people. We hate the implications that we are racists and that we're to blame for problems faced by Black people. After all, we aren't prejudiced. We just want everybody to get along. Right? So why do we have to keep talking about this stuff?

But if we are listening to the news, if we are paying attention to the world outside our personal spheres, we cannot deny that racism is an unhealed wound in the American psyche. And it affects all of us. Here is what Dr. Luther Smith, author of Chapter 1 in the book, says about why we should all be concerned and involved:

The byproducts of racism are toxic for an environment in which everyone breathes. Denied housing, jobs, and educational opportunities for generations, whole communities experience futility and its consequences of crime and despair. Law enforcement's too frequent harassment and violence against Black and Hispanic citizens have undermined the respect needed from all citizens for effective policing. Mass incarceration and the dehumanizing conditions of prisons have made the nation less safe for everyone. Racial alienation fuels stereotypes and mistrust that result in fear and hostility.

We are all in this together. (Emphasis mine.)

[Living into God's Dream, p. 11]

But still, if it's so challenging to even talk about this subject, why do it? I can only speak for myself. Here is why I am committed to this work:

- Because I want to live in a kinder and more compassionate world.
- I want to be part of the solution, not the problem.

- I want my children and grandchildren to live in a more peaceful and just world.
- Because I believe racial healing builds up the Kingdom of God.
- Because I believe it is God's dream that we live in perfect harmony with each other.
- And I do believe that we are all in this together.

How about you? Together, are we willing to listen to the voices of our sisters and brothers of color when they tell us their stories? If so, our discussion will continue this Sunday at Coffee & Conversation based on Chapters 2 and 3 of Living into God's Dream.

Faithfully,
Loritt

* Click [here](#) for the link to reflections on the Book of Joy.

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 12	Lent 2	Chapters 2 & 3
March 19	Lent 3	Chapters 4 & 5
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>

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.

Children's Chapel

This week's lesson will be "Jesus Enters Jerusalem." Leaders will be Kim Morris and Terry Jaworski.



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

In case you missed it....

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+

A LETTER FROM THREE BISHOPS On Immigration



Please open this link to read a letter from three bishops: our own *Bishop Jeffrey D. Lee*, *Bishop Sally Dyck of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church*, and *Bishop Wayne Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* have issued a letter on the new federal immigration enforcement guidelines issued last

week by the Department of Homeland Security:

<https://www.episcopalchicago.org/our-stories/2017/02/27/letter-immigration-bishop-dyck-bishop-lee-and-bishop-miller>



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.

The usual fare...

Servants for March 12th

Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*
Judy Robel - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Pam Dietmeyer, Charlie Boak - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Sally Berweiler - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Antonia Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*

Lessons and Hymns
Sunday, March 12th
Second Sunday in Lent - Year A
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-6 God sends Abram to another land which God will show him as he travels.

The Psalm: Psalm 121. The Lord God watches over the people and preserves them from all evil.

Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 12-17. Paul looks at the life and importance of Abraham to the Christian faith.

The Gospel: John 3:1-17. Nicodemus questions Jesus about how and what the kingdom of God is and how to enter into it.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 401. "The God of Abraham praise." This hymn was written by Thomas Olivers and is based on an ancient Jewish creed called the "Yigdal." It has thirteen articles that praise God in every way imaginable. Translated into English, it begins with these words, "Extolled and praised be the living God, who exists unbounded by time." The tune was written by a Jewish cantor, Meyer Lyon, thus the name, "Leoni."

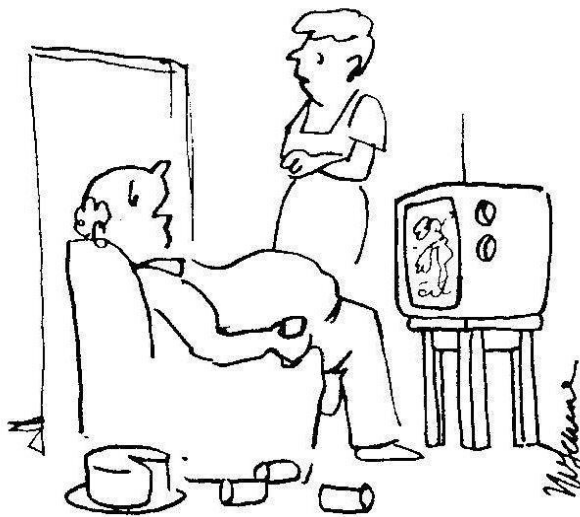
Sequence Hymn: No. 147. "Now let us all with one accord." This hymn was written by Gregory the Great (540-604 A.D.) who was popularly known in his day as the "Father of Christian Worship," for his work with the liturgy to make it Christ-centered. This particular hymn calls for God's help in our temptation and redemption. The tune, "Bourbon," is attributed to Freeman Lewis (1780-1859), a surveyor who played the organ for a Presbyterian Church in Uniontown, Pennsylvania and composed hymns and music.

Presentation Hymn: No. 313. "Let thy blood in mercy poured." The words are attributed to John Brownlie (1859-1925) and found in a composite collection of hymns and songs for the Holy Eastern Church. The melody was composed by Johann Cruger, a German cantor and musician.

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. 149. "Eternal Lord of love." This hymn was written by Thomas Henry Cain, born 1931, and is based upon the image of the church as a people on a journey towards the God of glory. The tune is the Old 124th composed or adapted by Louis Bourgeois for the Geneva Psalter of 1551. The present harmonization is by Dr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

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



"I can't think of a thing to give up
for Lent this year!"

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[St. Paul's Website](#)

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