



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ March 31, 2021

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday

St. Paul's In-Person Service

Preacher and Celebrant - Bishop-elect Paula Clark

7:00 pm

Good Friday - Noon

Stations of the Cross via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/99546373518>

Phone in - 1 312 626 6799

Good Friday - Evening

First United Methodist In-Person Service

7:00 pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

7:00 pm

St. Ann's Woodstock, livestreamed on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjioWzcYMIxa49h2oE_gog

Easter

In-Person Worship

8:30 am

As part of our shared ministry here at First United Methodist, St. Paul's will be conducting the Maundy Thursday service in-person and have Stations of the Cross via Zoom on Friday. FUMC will be conducting the Good Friday evening service. All are welcome to every service!

Intercessors are needed!

Intercessors read the Prayers of the People during our worship service, and we are in need of additional volunteers! Please let the office know if this is something you can help out with. This is low-key way to assist our worship service once every few weeks.



We Are God's Light: A Greeting from Bishop-elect Paula Clark

"I am honored and humbled to serve as your next bishop and I'm eager to roll up my sleeves and minister with you," said Bishop-elect Paula Clark in her video greeting to the diocese. "We will have plenty of opportunities to talk about the work God is calling us to do, but first I hope we can get to know one another better."

Watch the full video greeting from Bishop-elect Clark by [clicking here](#).

From Deacon Deb

*"For had it been an adversary who taunted me, then I could have borne it;
Or had it been an enemy who vaunted himself against me,
then I could have hidden from him.
But it was you, a man after my own heart,
my companion, my own familiar friend."*

The above lines are taken from Psalm 55, verses 13 and 14. Psalm 55 is the appointed psalm for Morning Prayer on every Wednesday in Holy Week. It serves as a stark reminder that although many sought the life of Jesus, it was those closest to him who betrayed and abandoned him.

Gratefully, each year we are given the opportunity to faithfully stand with Jesus and walk beside him through these most holy days. We hope that you will join us for our very special Maundy Thursday in-person worship tomorrow night at 7:00 pm. On Good Friday we will

have Stations of the Cross via Zoom at noon. We are then invited to join our First United friends at their 7:00 pm service. St. Ann's has graciously provided a link to their Easter Vigil service on Saturday night. All of these offerings provide us ways to enter deeply into the sacred mystery of our Lord's passion and resurrection. Please come and help carry the Cross.

My Jesus Lord,
I take my daily cross.
I welcome the monotony
that often marks my day,
discomforts of all kinds,
the summer's heat, the winter's cold,
my disappointments, tensions, setbacks,
cares.

Remind me often that
in carrying my cross,
I carry yours with you.
And though I bear a sliver only of your cross,
You carry all of mine, except a sliver,
In return.
Clarence Enzler, Everyone's Way of the Cross

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah



Living Well Through Lent 2021
A Personal Devotional and Lenten Program
Listening With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!
by Scott Stoner

Let anyone with ears listen!
—Matthew 13:9

The sounds of spring in the Northern Hemisphere are unmistakable. Birds singing, rain showers, the wind in the trees, and the sound of gurgling creeks, all announce the resurgence of life all around us. The sounds of Easter are unmistakable too. Some of my favorite sounds of Easter include trumpets, bells, organ music, choir descants, children shrieking as they hunt for eggs, and loud acclamations that Christ is risen.

All around us, God is speaking to us of resurrection. The question, one that we have been reflecting on in our journey through Lent this year is, "Are we listening?" We have learned that one of the greatest gifts that we can give to one another is the gift of listening. We have learned that much of what passes for listening is not authentic listening, but instead superficial, almost a pretend kind of hearing, and that deep, authentic listening requires intentionality.

Today we are reminded of the gift of resurrection that God has promised us. The gift that we can give back to God is to truly listen to the story of Jesus' resurrection with the ears of our hearts. Jesus' Parable of the Sower, while not usually associated with the celebration of Easter, is a profound description of what happens when we are open to listening to God. With the guidance of our guest writers, this Lent has been devoted to removing the rocks and thorns in our hearts, souls, and minds that make it hard for us to truly listen to God and to one another. I invite you now to listen to this parable as a parable for what can happen when we genuinely listen to the good news of Easter in our lives.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

—Matthew 13:1-9

My hope and prayer for all of us today is that through listening to the story of Easter anew, God will bring forth a harvest of resurrection in our lives and in the lives of those whom God calls us to love and serve.

For daily reflections to follow up on this article [click here](#)

Submitted by Beth Lukas, Senior Warden

Servants for Sunday, April 4

Lector – Al Robel

Intercessor – Judy Robel

Vestry Person of the Day - Al Robel

Our Grocery Cart needs to be filled!

Food for Thought Ministry

The mission of Food for Thought is to provide hope and dignity to high school children by discreetly supplying food to students in need. There are food pantries located at both East and West Campus. To further our ongoing and growing ministry to children, we are asking for your support in donating food to our grocery cart to supply these pantries. The items requested are:

Canned tuna, chicken or salmon
Canned vegetables
Canned fruit
Canned soup
Peanut butter
Hot and cold cereal
Healthy granola bars and snacks
Pasta and rice
Pasta meals and sauce

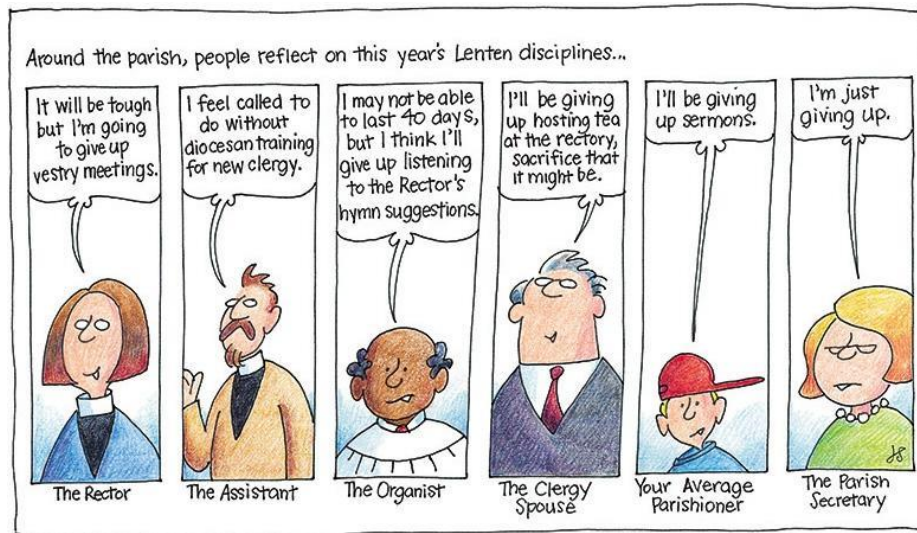
St. Paul's Prayer List

Week of April 4 - April 10

Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

Ongoing prayers: Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Amy, Tim, Eleanor, and Erin

Current prayers: Jenn, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Shirley-Patricia, Terry, Samantha, Debbie, Shawn, David, Lucy, Arthur, Andy, Joan, Shari, and Stacy



Questions or concerns?

Please contact our Senior Warden - Beth Lukas: Gramlukas2@gmail.com

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon: DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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