



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ April 7, 2021

**Worship at St. Paul's
In-person and at home
Sundays at 8:30 am**

We are now worshipping in person here at St. Paul's, but for those who are still uncomfortable with coming to the service, we will be livestreaming via Zoom. Here is the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98034316249>

Meeting ID: 980 3431 6249

To dial in: 312-626-6799

From Deacon Deb

Easter Joy

I lay My loving Hands on you in blessing. Wait in Love to feel their tender pressure and, as you wait, courage and hope will flow into your being. Let all go this Eastertide. Loosen your hold on earth, its care, its worries, even its joys. Unclasp your hands, relax and then the tide of Easter Joy will come. Put aside all thought of the future, of the past. Relinquish all to receive the Easter Sacrament of new life.

So often my people, crying out for blessing, have such a tight hold on earthly fears that they have no hand to receive Mine.

*I hold my hands out to you in love. All blessings are yours to take, my beloved child.
God Calling*

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah

*St. Paul's welcomed Bishop-elect Paula Clark
at our Maundy Thursday service!*



**Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Reflection 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.

Submitted by Beth Lukas



Presiding Bishop Curry: Easter 2021 Message

“Our work goes on. Our labor for love continues. We will not cease, and we will not give up until this world reflects less our nightmare and more God’s dream where there’s plenty good room for all God’s children. Hallelujah anyhow.”

You may view his Easter message by [clicking here](#).

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.

Servants for Sunday, April 11

Lector – Rick Carlstedt
Intercessor – Barbara Moriarty
Vestry Person of the Day - Rick Carlstedt

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 11 - April 17

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, Stacy, and Pam



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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Phone Number - 815-385-0390
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