

The Abundant Life

March 22, 2018

For Sunday, March 25th

From the Rector

Servant, Not Super Hero

Each year, as we begin Holy Week with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we read this text from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul quotes a hymn that gives both profound history and theology about Jesus which forms our faith: The hymn understands Jesus' ultimate triumph as directly opposite of his entry into Jerusalem. The king will conquer, but not as the people expected. "Triumph" becomes something far more.

When I was in Jerusalem three years ago, we were standing on a hill overlooking the Old City, where the Temple would have been. Our guide was a Palestinian Christian who invited us to imagine Jesus entering the city from the southeast, while Pontius Pilate entered the city from the northwest. Pilate would have been riding a powerful war horse and surrounded by his troops dressed for battle. Jesus was riding a borrowed donkey, surrounded by his rag-tag disciples, and a spontaneous crowd of hopeful people who prepared his way with an eclectic mix of cloaks and leafy branches. The contrast of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the entry of Pilate is similar to other contrasts in the Good News of God.

Jesus was God's son and could have insisted upon privilege, but he chose to ignore his divine privilege – to empty himself – and live as a servant to the least likely of people.

Jesus was that obedient servant whose denial of privilege set the example for us. The triumph of God's good news is not that Jesus chose humility, but that he chose humanity. His example of service is an example of divinity that we are invited to choose.

Serving others is not a conscious emptying of our identity, of what makes us who we are. Rather, it is the process of authentically living in the community of other people whose intrinsic value invites us to care – to serve. We are invited to test this ourselves. Paul invites us to "Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus."

In our lives we practice serving and in our worship we celebrate Jesus' triumph. Join us.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Philippians 2:5-11 (CEB)

Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:
Though he was in the form of God,
he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.
But he emptied himself
by taking the form of a slave
and by becoming like human beings.
When he found himself in the form of a human,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore, God highly honored him
and gave him a name above all names,
so that at the name of Jesus everyone
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

FAITH BUILDING

Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Library

The Episcopal Cafè

March

3/25 NO SESSION – Palm Sunday & Bishop's visitation

(Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation) April

April

4/8 Holding All Things in Common: Reflections on Acts 4:32-35 .

Led by Rev. Canon Victoria Hatch [1]Read about it

4/15 Pop-In Jesus: Reflections on Luke 24:36-48.

Led by Ron Geikow [2]Read about it

4/22 Real Love: A Reflection on 1 John 3: 16-24.

Led by Alan Zimmerman [3]Read about it[4]

4/29 Abide in Love: A Reflection on 1st John 4:7-21.

Led by Gary Scott [5]Read about it

Sundays — Accepting God's Gift of Faith

March

3/25 Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation; 10:30AM

April

Tuesday @ 7PM at St. Margaret's (Special Event)

4/3 Choosing Civility in the Abrahamic Tradition as a Spiritual Practice

Featured Speakers: Rabbi David Lazar, Rev. Lane Hensley, Jihad Turk

Tuesdays @ 7PM in Library: The Great 50 Days of Easter! This series will celebrate the 50 days of Easter incorporating elements of Lectio Divina, Hymns, and Baptismal Covenant

4/10 50 Days of Easter.

Facilitated by Rev. Canon Victoria Hatch

4/17 Lectio Divina: Easter Readings and Reflection.

Facilitated by Gary Scott.

4/24 The Music of Easter.

Facilitated by Rev. Canon David Caffrey

[6]For a printable copy, click here

Hospitality Ministry

Please join us in the Parish Hall after each Sunday service for coffee and refreshments.

Your hosts this Sunday will be the Vestry.

Please consider hosting a coffee hour.

You may sign up at the West end of the Parish Hall.

Parish Deaths

Former parishioner Gene Walker died Friday, February 23rd at his home in Las Vegas. Funeral service will be at Forest Lawn, Cathedral City, at noon on Monday, March 26th.

Gun violence and prevention

Students across the nation are taking a stand against the alarming number of mass shootings in our nation and are challenging adults to work with them to reasonable and responsible gun regulations. Let's support these students and demand that Congress enact effective and sensible legislations. Contact our elected representatives today.

Senator Dianne Feinstein: (202)224-3841, [7][wwwfeinstein.senate.gov](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov)

Senator Kamala Harris: (202) 224 3553, [8]wwwharris.senate.gov

Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz: (202) 225-5330,[9]wwwruiz.house.gov

Adult Literacy

St. Paul's is reviving its plan to serve our community with an adult literacy program. Volunteers are needed to work one-on-one with adults who

want to learn to read in English. The organizing team will meet again on Wednesday, March 28th, at 1:00 PM in the office conference room.

Those interested in volunteer tutoring are invited to attend an orientation meeting on Saturday, April 7th at 9:30 AM in the Library in the office. Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex and Parish Hall. No formal teaching experience is necessary. Volunteers will be required to complete the Diocesan “Safeguarding God’s People” training. For more information contact Sharon Strong 760.285.8910.

Maundy Thursday (March 29th)

Soup Supper is scheduled for 5:45PM in the Parish Hall. Foot Washing will follow in the Memorial Garden. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and Parish Hall, or you can call the office. Maundy Thursday Commemorates the Last Supper and the “Great Command” of serving others.

Watch & Pray Through the Night

. . . of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Morning. Altar of Repose will be in the Office Lobby. Sign-up sheet located ONLY in the Narthex or you can call the office (760) 320-7488.

The Good Friday Offering

. . . is one way we in the Episcopal Church help to support the ongoing ministry of love and compassion carried out by our Anglican sisters and brothers throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

The history of the Good Friday Offering reaches back to 1922 when, in the aftermath of World War I, The Episcopal Church sought to create new relationships with and among the Christians of the Middle East. From these initial efforts which focused on a combination of relief work and the improvement of ecumenical and Anglican relations, the Good Friday Offering was created.

Today, the Good Friday Offering is making a difference, whether funding an eye clinic in Aden or women's programs, schools and medical services in the West Bank. Please consider participating in this effort.

Special Events/Parade Team:

St. Paul's will be participating in the One PS Neighborhoods Fair on Saturday, March 24 11AM-2PM at Ruth Hardy Park. Volunteers are needed for set up and take down and to represent us at the both.

For volunteering and more information call Jerry Di Noto at the office (760) 320-7488.

The Good Book Club

Group Study of the Lenten reading of Luke continues Tuesdays through April 3rd at 1:00 PM in the parish office conference room. Materials for individual study can be obtained [10]here, which includes a "Journey with Luke", ed. Zabriski. "Forward Day by Day" is available free at St. Paul's.

Let's get together and make Palm Crosses!

The Altar Guild invites all parishioners to join us in the Parish Hall on Friday March 23rd from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. or on Saturday March 24th from 9:00 A.M- Noon to make Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. We will provide breakfast for you on Saturday, and it's a fun time to get to know one another. The crosses are not hard to make so don't be intimidated, and if you don't want to make the actual crosses, there are other jobs we can find for you. Please feel free to invite your friends as well. Bishop Katherine is visiting on Palm Sunday so we anticipate a larger than usual attendance, and we will need more crosses than usual. So we know how much food to plan for breakfast, please let us know if you care planning to come by contacting me - Kathy Kilmer, (760)774-8233 or [11]kmkcc@aol.com, or the church office.

Conference @ Hope Lutheran

Don't miss this important conference: "Where is Our Peace in this Violent World" being held on March 24th at Hope Lutheran Church, 45900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert. Guest speakers are Congresswoman Jackie Speier and our Assisting Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori who was the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church from 2006 to 2015. Early registration is requested due to limited space. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and the Parish Hall.

Holy Saturday Hike

The St. Paul's Parish Life Hiking Group will mark March 2018 with a meditative hike along the Westside Loop in Black Rock Canyon, Joshua Tree National Park, on March 31, 2018 at 8:00 AM. Come join us as we prepare for Easter with a morning of Joshua trees, wildflowers and sweeping mountain vistas. Contact Chris Kelly [12]cwkelly615@gmail.com for full information.

Parish Life Book Club

. . . meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 1 PM in the Library and new members are always welcome. For April 3, 2018, Book Club has selected Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko. Ceremony is a profound and moving work of Native American literature. A World War II veteran of mixed ancestry is scarred by his experience as a prisoner of the Japanese and further wounded by the rejection he encounters from his people. Only by immersing himself in the Indian past can he begin to regain the peace that was taken from him. Book Club is a group of people who enjoy reading and talking about the books they read. For more information please contact Jan Wacker at jwacker2001@yahoo.com.

The Couperin Dynasty

. . . a program of Baroque music by three generations of France's immortal composers, will be presented by harpsichordist Margaret Irwin-Brandon on Sunday, April 8th at 4 PM in the Parish Hall. All are cordially invited to

attend and a suggested donation of \$20 is requested at the door. A reception will follow to greet the artist.

Communion at Windsor Court

The next communion service at Windsor Court is Wednesday, April 11th at 10:15 am. The priest and the residents are always happy to have parishioners attend.

Next Taizé Service

Please note: our next Taizé service will be one week later than usual on Thursday April 12th at 7:00 pm.

“A Taize service is a time to be still within as we sit together and experience the love and power of the Holy Spirit.” All are welcome to worship through chant, meditation and silence. For more information, contact Nathan Ensign at 760.320.7488 x225.

Ordination

The Assisting Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori will ordain Patricia Lynn Horkey and Paul Kelly Mahon to the Transitional Diaconate on Saturday, April 14th. You may recall that Patricia volunteered at St. Paul's in July 2016. All are welcome to attend the ordination at St. Paul's Cathedral, 2728 Sixth Ave., San Diego.

Save the date: April 21st

On Saturday, April 21st, your DOK chapter will hold its annual retreat at Desert Journeys from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Women of St. Paul's are invited to attend this day of celebration, study and fellowship. Stay tuned!

Report Misconduct

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, our diocese trains people in the prevention of misconduct and encourages all to report misconduct. All reported incidences are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced misconduct of any kind, please contact Mr. John Seitman, jseitman@pacbell.net, 858-793-4555 or the Rev. Janet Wheelock, jwheelock@edsd.org, 952-240-8067.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are 9 am – 4:30 pm Tuesday through Friday. The office is closed on Mondays.

Should you call on Monday when we are closed to the public, please leave a message. In case of an emergency, a priest will return your call.

Print a copy of The Abundant Life?

[13]Print a copy

Sunday Worship Childcare

Childcare is available for both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. services.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to join our circle on Wednesday's from 10 am-1 pm in Hogarth Hall. Whether you wish to learn to knit or crochet or are an expert needleworker, we welcome you. Needles, hooks and yarn are provided. Please drop in to create and enjoy our prayerfully made creations.

Bullying Behavior Not Welcome Here

At St. Paul in the Desert we welcome all worshipers to a place that is free of violence and bullying.

Physical, verbal or emotional violence against others or against oneself is not acceptable because of our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. Please let Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself be your guide.

“It Gets Better” is a series of video messages to encourage Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender youth and let them know that they are loved as they are.

“A Blessing for Those Who Are Bullied” was written by the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, a Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

It is not enough to say “NO” to bullies. It is important to stand up for people and to provide resources for those who have been the targets.

The Church of St. Paul in the Desert

Local: 760.320.7488 // Fax: 760.416.2441
Email: clergy@stpaulsps.org Website: www.stpaulsps.org

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Palm Springs, California 92262

References

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