

The Abundant Life

April 5, 2018

For Sunday, April 8th

From the Rector

The Joy of the Kin-dom

For the second weekend of Easter I have selected Psalm 133 with its message of community, which is read following our first lesson in worship, as a response. During the 50 Days of Easter, the first lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts 4:32-35 describes this first community as being “of one heart and soul” and details how this kinship of faith worked for them.

Psalm 133 is read or sung to amplify the significance of that early unity of the followers of Jesus. The key word is “kindred.” For the early followers of Jesus, the usual familial ties were replaced by a thirst for the God News of God’s Reign. Among the followers, this kingdom became a “kin-dom” where everyone’s connection to God and each other was redefined. This new family was knit together from unlikely threads. It was different from their families of origin and position or social status.

The followers who looked to Jesus as their brother and teacher experienced a deep joy in this new life together, and Psalm 133, gave rich symbols with which to celebrate. Their unity was like olive oil that was precious to hospitality and to divine favor. When we baptize a person today, we make the sign of the cross in oil on their head. In the psalm, precious oil is poured in abundance – running down the face and into the folds of clothing.

The other powerful symbol is water. The “dew of Hermon” tells a story of water in gentle abundance. Southern California knows that abundant rain that is fierce can be deadly and whose benefit can be limited. The dew of Hermon is rain that lasts and nourishes all that grows. It signifies relationships that will endure. As a symbol of the new kin-dom that Jesus’ followers were experiencing, it spoke of the mutuality and communion of their life together.

Few Christian communities experience today the intensity of the common life of the first disciples. From time to time we might get glimpses of that new kin-dom, in worship, in shared outreach to those in need, or during retreat times when we spend more than a couple hours together. But those glimpses

can remind us or inspire us to seek the new community of faith – the kin-dom of God. And they point us to God’s ultimate intention for us and for all our “kin”- life forevermore.

Join in worship as we share Communion, a heavenly meal that promises life in Jesus, forevermore.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Psalm 133 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

A Song of Ascents.

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

FAITH BUILDING

Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Library

The Episcopal Cafè

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

Tuesdays — Accepting God's Gift of Faith

April

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: Introduction and discussion of the origins and different paths of

praying the scriptures.

Facilitated by Gary Scott, Audrey Spencer & Br. John Charles

4/24 The Music of Easter.

Facilitated by Rev. Canon David Caffrey

Hospitality Ministry

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

Please consider hosting a coffee hour.

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

Episcopal Community Services (ECS)

Operating under its mission of serving God by serving those in need through programs that foster hope, dignity, and independence, Episcopal Community Services inspires children, empowers adults and transforms communities by providing vital, high-quality social services that encourage healthy interdependence. ECS' current programs address homelessness, mental illness, early childhood education, child development and substance use education. Last year, ECS served more than 8,000 people. To learn more, visit [6]www.ecscalifornia.org.

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]www.feinstein.senate.gov
Senator Kamala Harris: (202) 224 3553, [8]www.harris.senate.gov
Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz: (202) 225-5330,[9]www.ruiz.house.gov

Prayer to end Gun Violence: By the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane

God of Justice, help us, your church, find our voice.

Empower us to change this broken world and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence.

Give us power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change.

For your dream of love and harmony, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

All this we pray in the name of the One
who offered his life so that we might live,
Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

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. 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 at 760.285.8910.

Parish Life Book Club

. . . meets on the first Tuesday each month at 1:00 PM in the Library and new members are always welcome. On May 1st, 2018, Book Club has selected *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton. Set in South Africa, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is the deeply moving story of a Zulu pastor and his son set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. It is a work of love and hope, courage and endurance. 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

St. Paul's DOK chapter will hold its annual retreat at Desert Journeys on Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 to 3:00. Women of St. Paul's are invited to attend. Facilitated by the Rev. Canon David Caffrey, we will celebrate “The Fifty Days of Easter,” particularly as they impact DOK's Rules of Life, Prayer, and Service. Carpooling can be arranged from the church. Please call Sharon Strong if you wish to join in the fellowship and study while enjoying the serenity of the high desert: 760.285.8910

Icon Writing Retreat

Icon Writing Workshop is a five-day (June 25th-29th) retreat instructed by Teresa Harrison, at St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego. Participants will learn the prayerful practice of painting or writing a Byzantine-style icon. The emphasis will be on the step by step process of painting an icon, using Jo Sonia acrylic paint and 23 carat gold leaf, as well as on the spiritual practice of allowing God to work in us and through us. The course per-person fee is \$435 and includes all supplies, five full days of instruction, and lunch. To RSVP please contact Julie McMinn, jemcminn@gmail.com.

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?

[10]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

125 West El Alameda

Palm Springs, California 92262

References

1. <http://www.patheos.com/progressive-christian/holding-all-things-in-common-john-holbert-04-09-2012.aspx?p=2>
2. <http://www.patheos.com/progressive-christian/pop-in-jesus-alyce-mckenzie-04-17-2012>
3. <https://www.sermonwriter.com/sermons/1-john-316-24-real-love-wagner/>
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5. <http://pastorduncansblog.blogspot.com/2015/05/abide-in-love-i-john-47-21.html>
6. <http://www.ecscalifornia.org/>
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8. <http://www.harris.senate.gov/>
9. <http://www.ruiz.house.gov/>
10. <https://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-Abundant-Life-March-29-2018.pdf>