

St. John's Good News

April 2020



From the Senior Warden...

Dear Friends,

March has been a month like no other, as I'm sure you will all agree. I don't know how many times I've read/heard the word "unprecedented", but it has been that, and more. The public health concerns related to containing the spread of the Covid-19 virus, and ensuring our healthcare system is not overwhelmed, have taken precedence over our day-to-day lives, and this has been a struggle for all of us. Everyone's life has been impacted – most of us are working from home; children are also home and need to be kept busy; if you are retired, your normal activities have been restricted. And most importantly, our regular church services have been suspended through at least the end of May.

Not being able to attend church during Lent and missing out on the fellowship of Easter week seems an extreme burden and price to pay for the greater good. But I ask you to read Fritz's email - if you have not already seen it, it is included in this newsletter - and understand that there is hope in our faith in following the message of Jesus. Yes, we will not be able to celebrate together the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday at St. John's, but the hope his resurrection brings us will always be with us. And that hope will see us together again in due course, and this time of isolation will be but a tiny memory in our past.

There are many great resources for daily prayer and worship available online, and I'd like to let you know what St. John's is doing to continue to connect with everyone:

- Diana started a mission to pack 100 bags of dried goods that are available to anyone who is locked in, unable to get to a grocery store, or has a food emergency.
- On Palm Sunday we will have palms and the day's lectionary available for drive by pick up at the church. While the palms will not be blessed, they will serve as a reminder of the start of Holy Week and the culmination of the Lenten journey. The palms will be treated with a disinfectant solution and all safety measures will be followed during pick-up.
- We will post a video of service from St. John's on Easter Sunday. Details will be sent out next week.
- We are encouraging parishioners to check in on one and other in this time of need. If anyone has any pastoral needs, Rev. Melissa is available. Just reach out to myself or Angela for her contact information.

Our Priest-in-Charge process continues. The wardens met with a candidate, Rev. John Beach, just before the social distancing requirements were announced, and most of vestry had an opportunity to speak with him via Zoom last weekend. I want to make sure all vestry members have an opportunity to speak with him before we proceed and, now that the diocese has put all transitions on hold until at least mid-April, we have time to schedule additional video meetings. I believe he would be a good fit for us at St. John's and will keep you posted as the process continues.

As we continue learning to live our lives at a slower pace, and in a more deliberate way, let us always carry the "Hope" of Jesus's resurrection with us, knowing that we will all see each other again at St. John's.

~ T.J. Martin

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Lenten Greetings,

As I read the e-mail about this week's services being canceled, I was struck by the irony of the timing these precautions occurring during lent, a solemn season of prayer, doing penance, repentance of sins and self-denial. During this time it is our tradition to give up something we consider a luxury for the 40 days of Lent to replicate Jesus's forty day journey into the desert. I never considered going to church each Sunday a luxury, but perhaps it is. Just because we are unable to attend Bible Study, services or coffee hours for now, it does not mean that we are without God's presence.

Earlier this week, we received the first two refurbished chandeliers for the Nave of the Church. My original plan was to hang them on Holy Saturday to represent the Light of Christ coming into the Church for Easter. Dad and I discussed it this morning and with the uncertainty of how long services may need to be postponed, decided that perhaps now is as good of a time as any to bring the extra light into the Church so we began to install them today. I climbed the ladder to remove one of the original chandeliers in the fount of the church, one which has been hanging there for almost 100 years and as I slid back the mounting cover, I looked at the cast iron mounting plate and smiled. There it was, right over us each Sunday, each holiday, each wedding, baptism and funeral, cast in iron, for multiple generations securely holding up the lights which have illuminated the word of God for us to read and the hymns of joy to be sung. "HOPE" I have always lamented that I have never seen a burning bush or been aware of God giving me a command in a clear confirming voice as described in some of the bible



stories or as seen in movies and TV, but then again perhaps I was just not looking in the right place.

I am sharing this story with all of you in the “Hope” (see what I did there 😊) that it reaches a person who needs to hear it. With the rapidly changing circumstances of the situation and amount of the sometimes conflicting information, it is perfectly normal to feel fear, disparity, panic, anxiety and a host of other emotions, but do not lose the hope God gave you. Know that even apart we are together through Christ, reach out to each other, particularly those without social media or e-mail to make sure everyone is safe and cared for physically and emotionally. If you are in trouble or know of someone in trouble reach out to all of us so we can find a way to help. And perhaps most importantly, I suspect this is a big concern on many people’s minds, rest assured and know that the Super Secret Coffee hour is still on, maybe not on the 22nd, but on a date to be determined by the grace of God. 😊

See you soon,
Fritz White

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Easter Prayer List

Please forward names for remembrance or thanksgiving to the office by email or phone no later than **Wednesday, April 8th**. Thank you!

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PayPal

If you did not receive our earlier this week, please be aware pledges, flower memorials or other gifts can be forward to St. John’s through PayPal. This option may be more convenient for those not on ACH withdrawals.

We are asking that if you intend to continue giving by check, that you kindly hold onto offerings until at least the beginning of May. Otherwise, please know the processing time for your pledge will be significantly delayed. PayPal is easy to use and the transaction time is much faster than other methods. You will get a receipt for your contribution.

Thank you!

WORD SEARCH

W X T J S U N R I S E J W I D W J
O Q D A V G V W X I F L O C K S R
Q T D R M E R C I F U L A R S C T
N X O A W A K E N I N G T N N O X
G W U M Z L T S Z K S P R O U T S
F H L X B X G C B U D D I N G K R
G E A S T E R T I D E X Y D V Y L
M R E S U R R E C T I O N T G H P
I U A M B V A K H F L H G N M A M
G G I S E N P I I I R L I W I W S
R Y V L S F X C G J A T F T R A F
A V V F O Y U I A P S G W W A E H
T A C I C R V F L E M R A Z C V U
I M Y U C R H P N M K K L P L N G
O N M T A D P O L E S D Q Z E K Y
N J A F L O U R I S H I N G J Y O
Z A T F X Y H J W U A F E Y O V X

Agape ~ Awakening ~ Budding ~ Crucifixion ~ Eastertide ~ Flocks ~ Flourishing
Grassy ~ Merciful ~ Migration ~ Merciful ~ Miracle ~ Nesting ~ Resurrection
Sprouts ~ Sunrise ~ Tadpoles ~ Tomb ~ Vigil

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Have a very blessed Easter!

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**Officers:** T. J. Martin, Senior Warden ~ Daniel Casey, Junior Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Paul Felci, Asst. Treasurer ~ Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Dale Coogan (2021) ~ Rose Holt (2022) ~ Samantha Martin (2023) ~ Kristina Palazzo (2023) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2022) ~ William St. Clair (2021) ~ Kenneth Webber (2023) ~ Diana White (2021)