

St. John's Good News



April
2022

From Rev. John...

Dear Friends,

Laurence Binyon, who penned the famous poem during the First World War: *They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old...*

Later went on to write a reflection for his time, and for our time:

We are living in a time of trouble and bewilderment, in a time when none of us can foresee or foretell the future. But surely it is in times like these, when so much that we cherish is threatened or in jeopardy, that we are impelled all the more to strengthen our inner resources, to turn to the things that have no news value because they will be the same to-morrow that they were to-day and yesterday – the things that last, the things that the wisest, the most farseeing of our race and kind have been inspired to utter in forms that can inspire ourselves in turn.

Like Binyon, we live in a time of “trouble and bewilderment”. I take great solace, comfort, and courage from our gathering around the altar and celebrating the love Christ. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, we are given cause to consider that, throughout history, those who have relied solely on human ingenuity and strength eventually come to realize the limitations of their interior resources.

We are soon to enter Holy Week. We remember Jesus entering Jerusalem in an age of violence and instability. We remember that he called upon the Jews to remember the “*the things that last*”. They are called to remember that God has called us to be a people free to love, to speak truth, and to seek justice. We remember that even in the darkest of times, God will be with us and deliver us from all that threatens us—even our paralyzing fear of death.

In his essay *Easter: The Festal Protest against Death*, the German theologian Jürgen Moltman writes of the power of the resurrection.

Anyone who makes a person laugh
Opens heaven to him.

Anyone who is patient with another
Gives him future.

Cont'd

Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually on Zoom. All are welcome to participate, and seating capacity is 75. Please note: we continue to monitor community Covid cases and will keep you updated about worship. The Zoom link is shared weekly via email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:
[@StJohnsSaugus](#)

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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Anyone who accepts a person
As he himself is accepted by Christ
Loosens his tongue for life's hymn of praise.

Let us go out from our customs and our habits
And learn to hope from the Bible.
Let us go out
And cross the frontiers
So that we may infect life with hope.
Let us ignore the barriers,
And look only to the One who breaks them down.

He is risen.
Jesus is risen indeed.
Blessed be the Lord for ever and ever.

~ Jürgen Moltman

Peace,
John+

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

March 23, 2022

Dear People of the Diocese of Massachusetts,

We continue to grieve the brutal military attack by Russia on the sovereign nation of Ukraine, now four weeks underway. Daily scenes of attacks on medical facilities, civilian domiciles, and even upon those fleeing Ukraine via attempted humanitarian corridors, have left us all feeling horrified, angry, and helpless.

Your bishops joined with our colleague bishops of The Episcopal Church, gathered together for a meeting of the House of Bishops at Camp Allen in Texas, in issuing a statement about the war in Ukraine. We decry the actions by Russia as “a fundamental violation of the rights and dignity rightly accorded all people, and a flagrant breach of international norms.”

We call upon leaders of the nations to work for an immediate end to this unjustifiable carnage. We pray for God's protection and defense of those who remain in the path of warfare, and those who have been displaced. We pray also for the protection of those who have risked their own safety to speak out against the war in places where such prophetic posture is dangerous. We pray that all refugees be received with compassionate and equal treatment and dignity.

The full statement from the House of Bishops may be found (see entire letter at diomass.org).

In the Diocese of Massachusetts, prayers for the cessation of war in Ukraine have been earnestly lifted at prayer vigils and other events in congregations across our diocese. **We urge continued**

prayers by every Episcopalian and at every worship service in our churches. Such prayer is our bounden duty, and is itself no small thing.

Additionally, we urge sacrificial support from all our members and congregations for humanitarian relief efforts in response to the Ukraine crisis. Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, the Anglican Diocese of Europe, and numerous ecumenical partners to reach refugees in Poland, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia. Financial contributions provide direct support to equip local agents with the specific forms of emergency assistance needed.

We call upon all congregations in the Diocese of Massachusetts to conduct in-gatherings for the Ukraine Crisis Response Fund of Episcopal Relief & Development on one or both of two upcoming Sundays, April 3 and April 10.

Detailed information on that fund is available (see diomass.org). Resources for announcements, bulletin inserts, and links for direct online giving are all available at that site. We join all of you in praying, giving, and laboring for the furtherance of God's Peaceable Realm here and now, in the world God has given us.

Faithfully and fondly,

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop Diocesan
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan

A Collect for Peace

(Bishop Mark Edington; alt.)

God of timelessness:

from chaos and disorder
you brought forth the beauty of creation;
from the chaos of war and violence
bring forth the beauty of peace.

In your mercy,

Hear us and help us, O God

God of compassion:

You saw the humanity of the outcast and the stranger;
help us to see the evils of our hatreds and suspicions
and to turn them into the embrace of your Beloved Community.

In your mercy,

Hear us and help us, O God

God of peace:

Through your love on the cross
you overcame the power of violence and death;
turn us away from the love of power
that we may transform a warring world
through the power of your love.

In your mercy,

Hear us and help us, Lord.

These things we pray in the Name of the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer for Eastertide by William Sloan Coffin

O God, whose mercy is ever faithful and ever sure, who art our refuge and our strength in time of trouble, visit us, we beseech thee-for we are a people in trouble.

We need a hope that is made wise by experience and is undaunted by disappointment. We need an anxiety about the future that shows us new ways to look at new things but does not unnerve us. As a people, we need to remember that our influence was greatest when our power was weakest. Most of all, we need to turn to thee, O God, and to our crucified Lord, for only his humility and his strength can heal and free us.

O God, be thou our sole strength in time of trouble. In the midst of anxiety, grant us the grace to count our blessings-the simple ones: health, food, sleep, one another, a spring that is bursting out all over, a nation which, despite all, has so much to offer so many.

And grant us grace to count our more complicated blessings; our failures, which teach us so much more than success; our lack of money, which points to the only truly renewable resources, the resources of the spirit; our lack of health, yea, even the knowledge of death, for until we learn that life is limitation, we are surely as formless and as shallow as a stream without its banks.

Send us forth into a new week with a gladsome mind, free and joyful in the spirit of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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Palm Sunday

The Liturgy of the Palms

[Mark 11:1-11](#)

The Liturgy of the Word

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#) [Psalm 31:9-16](#) [Philippians 2:5-11](#) [Mark 14:1-15:47](#)

Palm Sunday, or Sunday of the Passion service follows the Ash Wednesday service in the Book of Common Prayer, beginning on page 270.

This Sunday recalls Jesus' triumphal arrival in the city of Jerusalem, where he is heralded as a king. This scripture is found in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11a, and Luke 19:29-40. It describes Jesus riding on a donkey, palm branches, and garments of clothing being laid out in front of him. For this reason, some congregations may use a donkey as part of their procession. Shouts of Hosanna are heard throughout the crowd. Hosanna means "save, pray". Christian usage has come through the Greek Bible, giving it the form ὡσαννά, *hōsanná*.

In liturgical context, it refers to a shout of praise and worship and adoration or referring to a cry expressing an appeal for divine help. It appears in numerous verses including in "Hosanna;

blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Mark 11.9), "hosanna in the highest" (Mark 11.10); "hosanna to the Son of David" (Matt 21:9), "help" or "save, I pray."

Most all use palm branches in some form during the service, either as a flower arrangement, actual palm branches strewn on the floor or carried by members of the congregation, or palm crosses. The rubrics (instructions found in the Book of Common Prayer) indicate that the congregation may gather at a place apart from the church, so that all may go into the church in procession.

But the mood of the service takes a turn at the Gospel readings, announced as The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. These readings, taken either from: Matthew 26:36-27:54 (55-66) or 17:1-54 (55-66); Mark 14:32-15:39 (40-47) or 15:1-39 (40-47); Luke 22:39-23:49 (50-56) or 23:1-49 (50-56).

The readings begin where Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. We hear how Jesus went to pray but the disciples were too tired to keep watch. It is from this portion of scripture, many congregations will hold prayer vigils during some portion of the three days leading up to Easter - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday and Easter Eve - called the Paschal Triduum.

Scripture then describes Jesus' arrest, his appearance before the Sanhedrin, (the supreme court of Jewish chief priests and elders), Peter's denial of knowing Jesus, Judas hanging himself (not found in all Gospel readings), Jesus before Pilate, Soldiers mocking Jesus, the crucifixion of Jesus, and Jesus' death.

Palm Sunday is sometimes called the Sunday of the Passion because of Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem marked the beginning of His great and final humiliation~His suffering and death on the cross to atone for the sins of the world.

Book Recommendation

Bound and Free by Douglass John Hall

In our largely secular, postmodern environment, theology perhaps appears quaint and archaic. Yet Never has a thinking faith been more vital than today, says Douglas John Hall, when religious pluralism and fundamentalisms abound. Precisely because we live in a post-Christendom era, he asserts, serious religious reflection on the meaning and import of Christian faith is indispensable to renewing a sidelined church, a disoriented society, and ourselves as people of faith. Hall shows how in his fifty years of theological journeying he himself has come to see in theology a personal quest or even compulsion to dive deeply into life's deepest ambiguities, to take on the perplexity and disorientation of one's age, and to struggle to find meaning in the hiddenness of God. Christians around North America have come to depend on Douglas John Hall's writings to keep their faith honest and relevant. Now, in *Bound and Free* they will find a brief but earnest apology for the theological vocation as well as a personal testimony to a life of grappling with God as glimpsed in doubt, question, and quest.

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## Every Child Deserves to Smile

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the March collection of snacks and sweet Easter treats for the children. The items will be collected through the first week in April.

In April we will be collecting books and activities. The age range is infant through late teens. We will also continue to collect non-perishable food items, paper goods and cutlery, toiletries, baby wipes, and diapers (sizes Newborn, 1, 3, & 5 ).

If the *Every Child Deserves to Smile* ministry touches your heart or you would like to learn more about the impact it has on individuals we assist, please let us know! We will be gathering on **April 6, at 9:30am in the Hurl Room.** All are welcome.

Please contact Jeanne Seaboyer 781\*662\*4342 or jmseaboyer(at)gmail(dot)com if you have questions.

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### Lobster Roll Sale

**Friday, April 22nd  
7am – Noon**

Due to increased costs, the price is now \$15.00/each – still a bargain!

Includes one lobster roll, condiments, bag of chips, and a brownie.

Local delivery for orders of **5 or more.** Order deadline: **Tuesday, April 19th.**

Email or call the parish office: StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com or 781-233-1242.

If you leave a voicemail after regular business hours (Tues.-Fri. 8:30am-1:30pm), be sure to include your name, amount of rolls, and phone number (in case there's a question). *We greatly appreciate your continued support!*

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### Mother's Day Plant Sale

Mark your calendar for **May 7, 9am – 2pm** and come on down as we once again transform the front lawn into a landscape of color! Select a gorgeous plant for that special lady in your life and don't forget yourself!

Beautiful 4" potted plants & 10" hanging plants from Kane's Flower World in Danvers never disappoint. Helping hands are needed for plant pick up on Friday, May 6 and sale day 8AM-2:30PM. Pricing and order forms for pre-orders will be available April 10.

Please contact the church office.

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### Easter Word Search

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

Cenacle ~ Covenant ~ Crucify ~ Disciples ~ Golgotha  
 Jerusalem ~ Lilies ~ Palms ~ Passion ~ Pilate ~ Redeemer  
 Resurrect ~ Sacrifice ~ Shrove ~ Supper ~ Vigil

*Have a Very Blessed Easter!*

**Officers:** The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano, Sr. Warden, Daniel Casey, Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** James Brown (2025), Duana 'Dee' LeMay (2024), Sandy Mears (2025), Donna Manoogian (2024), and Kenneth Webber (2023)

Holy Week Schedule



**Compline ~ Wednesday, April 13th at 8:45pm**  
(Contact church office for Zoom link)

**Agape Meal followed by Eucharist ~ Maundy Thursday**  
**April 14th - Meal at 6pm Eucharist at 7pm**

**Contemplation of the Cross ~ Good Friday**  
**April 15th at Noon and 7pm**

**Easter Celebrations ~ April 17th**

**Sunrise Eucharist at 6am** (Location to be announced)

**Festal Eucharist at 10am** (At St. John's and virtually on Zoom)

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*A Blessing for Ukraine*

(by Kate Bowler)



God, the unthinkable has happened.  
Swiftly, relentlessly,  
by stealth and through open destruction,  
the peace and beauty of the ordinary,  
has been shattered in a day.  
O God of justice and might,  
We call to you to come and bring this suffering to an end.

Comfort these trembling hearts.  
Shield the vulnerable.  
Strengthen those with the resources and the resolve  
to protect what they love  
in the face of such overwhelming force.  
Grant wisdom to the nations of our world, to our leaders, and to us,  
to grasp the unfathomable,  
to see evil in its true light,  
and come against it unflinchingly.

Dear Ukraine,  
though we shudder to watch what is happening  
We will not look away.

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