

# St. John's Good News

## **To be given a backbone An Easter Reflection, by The Rev. John Beach**

*Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise." ~ Bishop Phillips Brooks*

*Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death, victory is ours through Him who loved us. ~ Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

John's Gospel describes the disciples trembling in fear in a locked room after the death of Jesus (John 20:19). The movement which held such promise only a few weeks earlier had turned very sour, very quickly. Every ounce of energy that remained within them was used in trying to survive the day. There was no creativity left within their minds to consider tomorrow. Their hearts were void of faith, hope, and love.

What we celebrate at Easter is the transformation of group of terrified and pathetic men into a community who was inspired to unlock the door, leave the darkness, and proclaim the healing love of God in Christ Jesus. They were given courage, creativity, humor, and compassion. Death (such as they had experienced in the locked room) no longer had victory over them.

I use the word inspired (meaning to be filled with breath) because that is quite literally what happened to them upon their encounter with the risen Christ. He breathed into them, a re-enactment of the tender and loving act of God in creation described in the second chapter of the book of Genesis. Jesus breathed upon them, at which point his spirit filled the empty space within them that had previously prevented them from walking upright in the daylight.

This is what we celebrate at Easter. Jesus breathes into the fearful trembling souls and enables them to stand upright in the midst of danger and uncertainty. He also speaks these strange and powerful words to us: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained." We are given the ability and mandate to equip the world's people to stand upright. We are given a spirit which empowers us to "Speak the Truth in Love" (Ephesians 4:15).

*Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!*

John+



**April  
2025**

**Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually: All are welcome to participate. The service also continues to broadcast via Zoom, with dial-in and link options shared by email.**

Phone: 781-233-1242

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We welcome back to St. John's The Rev. Dr. Paul Dalzell  
from Alexandra, Australia

Paul will be the interim for three months starting on May 1st. We look forward to having him and his wife, Robyn, joining us for worship during this time. Paul and Robyn will be living in the rectory during his ministry here. Denise and John will be moving to Montreal upon his retirement.

We are in need of several pieces of furniture to make the rectory a home. If anyone has living room furniture, a queen size bed, or a dining room table you could give or loan to this project, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact the church office if you are able to contribute—thank you!

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Rev. John's Final Service

**Please note!** Rev. John's final service at St. John's will be **Sunday, April 27th**. The Celebrant and Preacher will be The Rev. Canon Greg Perez. We hope everyone is be able to attend to say farewell and offer John and Denise their best wishes!

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The Lenten Quiet Day at Emmanuel Church

The Quiet Day scheduled at Emmanuel Church in Wakefield has been moved to **Saturday, April 5th from 9-2 p.m.** All are warmly welcome to join us.

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MGA ~ Grant Award

St. John's has recently been awarded a grant for 1,400 dollars from Massachusetts Master Gardener Association (MGA). This grant had been requested by Mary Krull to be used for the acquisition of new plants for our memorial garden. We are very grateful for Ms. Krull and Lahneen Visco who have coordinated volunteer gardeners to tend to this beautiful spot. We invite anyone who is able to assist in pruning and planting to join us on **Monday, April 14th and Monday, May 12th**. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

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Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13th - 10am

Agape Meal, Maundy Thursday, April 17th - 6pm  
Maundy Worship - 7pm

Good Friday, April 18th - Noon & 7pm  
Easter Sunrise Service - 6am (weather permitting, or indoors)  
Easter Eucharist - 10am

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these single-word movie titles?

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

Batman ~ Beetlejuice ~ Casablanca ~ Chinatown ~ Conclave ~ Ghostbusters  
 Goldfinger ~ Grease ~ Jaws ~ Moonstruck ~ Pinocchio ~ Rocky ~ Sideways  
 Spartacus ~ Superman ~ Tootsie ~ Titanic ~ Vertigo

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*Have a very blessed Easter!*

**Officers:** The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Donna Manoogian, Sr. Warden, John Rogalski, Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Asst. Treas., and Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Rose Holt (2027), Joanne Lancaster (2027), M. Dibby LeBlanc (2026), Sandy St. Clair (2028), and Lahneen Visco (2028).