

Welcome to the March 2021 edition of St. Paul's Apostle. During the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic, we plan to make an abbreviated version of the monthly newsletter to keep members in the loop via email about our church's virtual activities and the spiritual resources available to us all. We sorely miss gathering in the church for worship, education, fellowship and succor. The Vestry hopes this communication serves as one more way to strengthen our bonds of friendship and faith until we can all be together again.

Outreach

St. Paul's Supports Repairers of the Breach

St. Paul's members responded energetically to the Outreach Committee's call to support the work of Repairers of the Breach through the first of two Lenten drop-offs on Saturday, February 27th. Members contributed health and hygiene items and clothing for Repairers clients, along with checks to help the agency. More than 20 members dropped off items in our parking lot and reconnected while enjoying coffee and doughnuts in delightfully sunny and unseasonably warm weather. Many thanks to all who showed up with donations and checks!

The second Repairers of the Breach donation drop-off is scheduled for Saturday, March 27th, from 10 a.m. to noon in the church parking lot. As Palm Sunday is the next day, palms will be distributed. Doughnuts, coffee and good conversation will be provided.



Jim and Ray Gramentine, Chuck Roy, Sandra Halgerson, Susan Bolinger and Lisa Kuhn caught up with one another in the parking lot.



Saint John's residents Ed Filmanowicz, Karen Loreck, Joanne Filmanowicz and Steve Loreck welcomed the opportunity to greet one another in person on the lot.



Deacon Sheila Scott and Chris Krueger came prepared for the asphalt gathering with their masks and sunglasses.



Despite the snowy backdrop, Flo Dukes and Suzy Brennan enjoyed chatting in the springlike sunny weather.

From the Rector...

Lent, for a variety of reasons, has usually focused on penance in negative and punitive images and practices. I believe it is important to recognize the shortcomings of our acceptance of the Gospel and especially the structural sin that is the product of human misguidedness. More importantly, however, I believe Lent offers us an invitation to come home to safety in God and enter the joy of our existence as created beings who have been chosen and belong.

It is reflection on that experience and reality that prompted us to continue the theme "Lift Every Voice and Sing" for Lent this year. The gospel readings for this month give testimony to that encouragement. Here are a few proclamations you will hear in the coming weeks: "Zeal for your house will consume me (John 2:17);" "they believed [...] the word that Jesus had spoken

(2:22);" "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but many have eternal life (John 3:16);" Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified [my name] and I will glorify it again (John 12:28)'." Those are the divine voices of God, Jesus and Spirit.

In a rich synchronicity, they occur on Sunday the 7th, 14th, and 21st, respectively. A trinity of sabbaths followed by Palm (Passion) Sunday. On that sabbath day, the voice heard will be ours: "They shouted again 'Crucify him' [...] they only shouted louder, 'Crucify him' (Mark 15:13-14)." It is time to change our shouts that still ring out in the actions of the world. Christ suffers and dies moment by moment from the oppressive words and actions of human beings who value their own voice over that of the of the Sacred.

In these remaining days of Lent, I invite you to ask God for words of calm, movements of stillness and the end to unnecessary things. The words of Mary Oliver:

Coming to God: First Days

*Lord, what shall I do that I
can't quiet myself?
Here is the bread, and
here is the cup, and
I can't quiet myself.*

*To enter the language of transformation!
To learn the importance of stillness,
with one's hands folded!*

*When will my eyes of rejoicing turn peaceful?
When will my joyful feet grow still?
When will my heart stop its prancing
as over the summer grass?*

From the Rector...

*Lord, I would run for you, loving the miles for your sake.
I would climb the highest tree
to be that much closer.*

*Lord, I will learn also to kneel down
into the world of the invisible,
the inscrutable and the everlasting.
Then I will move no more than the leaves of a tree
on a day of no wind,
bathed in light,
like the wanderer who has come home at last
and kneels in peace, done with all unnecessary things;
every motion; even words.*

Brad+

Music

Saint Paul's
CHURCH

Music of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Our theme for the celebration of African American Heritage Month, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," continues through Lent. We will hear the choral Introit *It is well with my soul* and the celebratory hymn of praise *African Sanctus* each Sunday.

Great is thy faithfulness; Shall we gather at the river; Take up your cross, the Savior said; Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine; and *There is a balm in Gilead* belong to the canon of Southern hymn tunes that still are common in Black and White congregations throughout the Deep South. These hymns continue to unite us in our worship.

Members of the music program commissioned several pieces by choral scholar Sam Mullooly in honor of African American Heritage Month: *Deep River* for solo piano, plus special arrangements of *Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling* and *Swing low, sweet chariot*.

We will draw anthems for the last three Sundays in Lent from our Anglican heritage: a 16th-Century Reformation anthem, *Call to remembrance, O Lord*, by Richard Farrant; *God so loved the world*, a contemporary anthem by English composer Bob Chilcot; and *Jesus so lowly*, from American composer Harold Friedell, his setting of a poem by Edith L. Williams. Williams (1887-1987) was a women's rights activist, suffragist, and educator in the Virgin Islands, her birthplace.

We will offer the great Southern hymn tunes *Resignation* (My Shepherd will supply my need) and *Lonesome Valley* (Jesus walked this lonesome valley), as arranged by present-day composers, as voluntaries for two Sundays in Lent. A rousing organ voluntary from the *Salem Sonata Suite* by American composer Dan Locklair based on a Moravian hymn, "...Let His work your pleasure be..." will be the final voluntary. Both feet play the pedals simultaneously throughout this piece!

The **Third Sunday in Lent** will feature organ works from the German Reformation. Tedd King will play *We Believe in One True God the Father* by Johann Ludwig Krebs, a student of J.S. Bach's. This Lutheran chorale is a paraphrase of the Nicene Creed. The melody of the "Cantus Firmus" chorale is played in the tenor register of the keyboard, with florid accompanying voices above. The closing voluntary is a fughetto: *These are the Holy Ten Commandments* by J.S. Bach. He constructed the fugue melody to consist of 10 segments and expanded the number by interweaving the melody 10 times throughout the composition.

The **Fourth Sunday** in Lent is called *Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday*. *Laetare* is the first word of the Introit (entrance) antiphon from pre-Reformation days. This day, also known as *Refreshment, Mothering, Jerusalem, or Rose Sunday*, offers a brief respite from the starkness of Lent and the approaching tragedy of Good Friday. Felix Mendelssohn's joyful *Prelude and Fugue in G Major* will frame our service as voluntaries.

The **Fifth Sunday** in Lent, is also the 336th anniversary of J.S. Bach's birth. We will mark the occasion with his *Prelude and Fugue in D minor*. The simple prelude has been a subject of dispute, with some scholars seeing it as a much later work that somehow became associated with the fugue. Scholars do agree, however, that the fugue is an arrangement of Bach's second movement of the *Sonata for Violin solo* (BWV 1001), written in 1720.

We will celebrate **Palm Sunday** with the Blessing and Procession of Palms to the glorious music of Palestrina's *The children of the Hebrews* and the festive hymn *All glory, laud, and honor*. The pomp of Christ's entrance into Jerusalem quickly dissolves into sadness, with the singing of St. Mark's Passion Gospel. William Byrd's haunting *Civitas sancti tui*, a setting of Isaiah's lament, *Zion is a wilderness; Jerusalem is made desolate*, will be a fitting anthem for the day.

On Palm Sunday and Good Friday, three choral scholars will sing the Passion Gospels using a cantillation formula for the chanting of liturgical texts. This method of chanting originated in ancient synagogue services. The chanting from the Torah uses this practice. Did Jesus chant and hear such melodies sanctified by time?

Music

Saint Paul's
CHURCH

Music of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

We will commemorate **Maundy Thursday** with An Order of Worship for the Evening from the Book of Common Prayer. It is a simple service marking the day's end with the lighting of candles, the reading of St. John's Gospel, "I give you a new commandment," a short canticle, and the singing of Psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me," during the Stripping of the Altar.

The **Good Friday** liturgy will include the Solemn Collects and St. John's Passion Gospel. Music will include the hymns *When I survey the wondrous cross* and *My song is love unknown*, and anthems: *Ah, Holy Jesus* by Johann Cruger, *Ave verum corpus* (Hail, true body) by William Byrd, and *The Reproaches* (O my people, what have I done unto thee?) by Tomás Luis de Victoria.

Easter Sunday will feature two major organ works: *Fanfare*, by Canadian composer John Cook, and French composer Louis Vierne's *Finale* from his First Organ Symphony, with King playing the latter. We hope that our new English tuba stop will have been installed to help proclaim these great Easter hymns: *Jesus Christ is risen today*; *He is risen*; and *Come, ye faithful, raise the strain*. Choral works will include *Surgens Jesu* (Jesus rising) by Peter Philips (1560-1628), and two works by yours truly, *Gloria in excelsis* (St. Paul's Service), and *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem*, both scored for choir and organ .

--Joseph Kucharski (a.k.a. Canon Joe)

St. Paul's 182nd Annual Meeting

St. Paul's members gathered virtually on Sunday, January 31, to review the many activities and achievements of the last year and to vote on the leadership of the congregation. Fr. Brad and Senior Warden Tom Goode highlighted the congregation's successes in creating new, and strengthening old, ways to worship and engage members amid the pandemic. These efforts include the planning, recording and posting of virtual Sunday worship services and Evensongs; using Zoom to offer Thursday Evening Prayer, Coffee Hour, Wednesday lunchtime conversation, EFM, Book Club, and Lessons and Carols. Treasurer Gerry Mainman reported that the finances of the church remained sound, and that pledges for 2021 were a bit above the 2020 total, which is an accomplishment in a pandemic.

Vestry elections: Goode was re-elected to a one-year term as Senior Warden. Lee Coppernoll and Peter Larson were re-elected to one-year terms as Co-Junior Wardens. Florence Dukes and Michael Gauger were re-elected to two-year terms. Three new members, Kurt Bushman, Jessie Michel and Matt Pamperin, were elected to three-year terms.

Growth

March Adult Forum Programs

Adult Forum programs for March will be available via Zoom at 9 a.m. Sundays, except the March 21 program (scheduled for 8 a.m.). The topics:

March 7: Lent and Its Many Traditions

March 14: March 14: Race, COVID, and the Healthcare System

March 21: St. Patrick and the Early Church in Britain (8 a.m.)

March 28: Analyzing the Collects of Holy Week

St. Paul's Book Club Meets March 9

All are invited to attend the St. Paul's Book Club virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Recently, we have alternated between short stories and longer works explicitly exploring the Christian faith. This month, our selections are three short stories from the collection Listening to God, Volume 2, edited by Paula J. Carlson:

"Short Easter" by John Updike

"The Rich Brother" by Tobias Wolff

"A Father's Story" by Andre Dubus

For further information and the Zoom link for the meeting, contact Sandra Halgerson at shalgerson@hotmail.com.

Contacts

Saint Paul's
CHURCH

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Office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

8:00 am Holy Eucharist in the Morning Chapel

10:15 am Choral Eucharist

Organ Recital and Choral Evensong

First Sundays of October thru May

(November at Forest Home Cemetery)

3:30 pm

Wardens and Vestry

Thomas Goode, Sr. Warden

Lee Coppernoll Co-Jr. Warden

Peter Larson, Co-Jr. Warden

Gerald Mainman, Treasurer Emeritus

Janet Tallberg, Treasurer Elect

Christine Krueger, Clerk

Kurt Bushman

Eric Dawson

Florence Dukes

Dana Fritz

Mike Gauger

Sandra Halgerson

Jesse Michel

Matt Pamperin

Malcom Soward-Gatford

Clergy and Staff

The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter,

Assisting Bishop of Milwaukee

The Reverend W. Bradley Toebben, Rector

The Reverend Sheila Scott, Deacon

Canon Joseph A. Kucharski, Director of Liturgy and Music

Tedd King, Associate Organist

Lynne Fields, Administrative Assistant

Patrice Hansen, Accounting Assistant

Peter Johnson, Building and Grounds

Bill Jankowski, Buildings and Grounds

Nevenka and Nikola Dedic, Housekeeping Staff

Artists-in-Residence

Milwaukee Chamber Choir

J. Mark Baker, Founder and Director