

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

April 2017

FROM THE



RECTOR

Holy Week and Easter are almost upon us once again. They are the highpoint of the liturgical year, the celebration of the events that gave birth to our faith. For

many of us, the celebration of this week has been a part of our whole lives, though the ways we celebrate have varied. But the earliest records of church celebrations of Holy Week and Easter go all the way back to the fourth century!

Sometime around the year 380, a woman named Egeria, probably from Rome or France, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We don't know anything about her, except that she sent an extended letter back to her friends at home, fragments of which survive. In it, among the things, she described how Holy Week and Easter were celebrated in Jerusalem.

On Palm Sunday, after a morning service, she wrote: "And as the eleventh hour approaches, the passage from the Gospel is read, where the children, carrying branches and palms, met the Lord, saying: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord, and the bishop immediately rises, and all the people with him, and they all go on foot

from the top of the Mount of Olives, all the people going before him with hymns and antiphons, answering one to another: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. And all the children in the neighborhood, even those too young to walk, are carried by their parents on their shoulders, all of them bearing branches, some of palms and some of olives, and thus the bishop is escorted in the same manner as the Lord was of old."

Egeria describes services for each day in Holy Week, culminating on Maundy Thursday, when, after two Eucharists (morning and evening), the people went up the Mount of Olives where they kept watch overnight, then sang hymns as they processed to the garden of Gethsemane. Then, as day was breaking, they continued on to Golgotha. And there a relic of the cross was brought out and, Egeria says, "the people, both faithful and catechumens, come one by one and, bowing down at the table, kiss the sacred wood and pass through...

"And when the sixth hour has come, they go before the Cross, whether it be in rain or in heat, the place being open to the air, as it were, a court of great size and of some beauty between the Cross and the Anastasis; here all the people assemble in such great numbers that there is no thoroughfare. The chair is placed for the bishop before the

Cross, and from the sixth to the ninth hour nothing else is done, but the reading of lessons...Prayers also suitable to the day are interspersed throughout. The emotion shown and the mourning by all the people at every lesson and prayer is wonderful; for there is none, either great or small, who, on that day during those three hours, does not lament more than can be conceived, that the Lord had suffered these things for us. Afterwards, at the beginning of the ninth hour, there is read that passage from the Gospel according to John where He gave up the ghost. This read, prayer and the dismissal follow.”

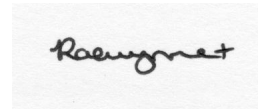
After more services and a vigil overnight, normal services continued on Holy Saturday, until finally, in the evening, the Paschal (Easter) Vigil began. Egeria didn't write much about it – apparently the traditions were much the same as back home, except that children were baptized and clothed and then led by the bishop to present to the whole church. And then, for the next eight days, there were special celebrations, culminating on the Sunday after Easter.

Processions, readings, prayers. Our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter follow many of the customs Egeria described, though ours are much simpler in comparison. We will gather in the Christian Ed. building on Palm Sunday for the blessing of the palms, and process into church, and then, at the end of the service, hear a dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel. On Maundy Thursday, we gather again at 6:30 p.m. in Mills Hall for a simple potluck meal and Eucharist, during which we process to the church for the communion and stripping the altar. On Good Friday, we too hold vigil with our dying Savior for three hours, and venerate the cross. On Holy Saturday we have a brief service of prayer, and then, as in fourth century Jerusalem, begin the Paschal celebrations with the

Easter Vigil, a wonderful service of readings and prayers that culminates in the Easter acclamation. And then on Easter morning, we celebrate once again the resurrection of Christ.

Join us this Holy Easter, as together with millions of Christians across the world and throughout history we remember the death and resurrection of the one who is our Savior and Lord.

Blessings,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raewynnet".

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Rest and Renewal

It is interesting to note that the American Heritage Dictionary waxes poetic about the word "rest" and has little to say about "sabbatical". Rest is defined as the act or state of ceasing from work, activity or motion; quiet. It is peace, ease or refreshment, mental or emotional tranquility. And the definitions go on and on. "Sabbatical" on the other hand is given scant recognition. It comes from Sabbath, the day of rest. And then the dictionary gives a cursory overview of qualifications for granting a sabbatical.

Our Rector is going to be on Sabbatical starting May 8th and ending June 26th (the last week is Clergy Conference). Raewynne will be staying in the U.S. this time at her house in Connecticut, where she plans to garden with abandon and to write with equal energy. Perhaps she will write of silence, a subject she has long wanted to write a book on. The Diocese has long recognized the need for our clergy to retreat, to restore perspective, to salve a weary heart, to have undiluted time to discern and strengthen faith and commitment. It is too bad our corporate leaders have not grasped the same concept as both a boon to their companies' productivity and a burst of energy for their employees.

Be that as it may, the Wardens and the whole Vestry wish Raewynne a joyous rest and renewal. Imagine the glorious sermons that will be stored and catalogued for our benefit over so many months to come. The theme for Raewynne's sabbatical is "Growing in God: Creation and Re-creation." David Gable will be filling in most Sundays during Raewynne's absence, and our dear supply priests for two. Let's welcome them all with warmth and appreciation.

*Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
(Matthew 11:28)*

Bishop Provenzano's Visit

As those of you who attended the 9:30 service March 5th know, Bishop Larry brought his usual enveloping gifts of warmth, energy and faith to our congregation. With 352 parishes in the Diocese, our Bishop is only able to visit each once every three years. There are many other opportunities to see him and share time with him throughout the year. The Convention each fall is an exceptional experience where you get to witness his administrative and faith based skills before a huge audience. There are services at the Cathedral throughout the year where you can find not only the peace and magnificence of that holy structure but also share in his and the Diocese's remarkable ministry.

Hopefully everyone who wished to speak and share with Bishop Larry had a chance to do so during the reception. The Vestry was blessed to meet with him afterwards, and hear both his praise and his concerns for our parish and all his parishes. Some of the issues we discussed together concerned child care during the family service, tithing (always a central focus for our Bishop), community outreach, and efforts to deal with the drug epidemic which touches just about every community. We also discussed "Sustaining St. James" and the program we are engaged in to restore and maintain our physical structures. Please contact Jennifer and me and all members of the Vestry if you would like to know in greater detail what our roundtable addressed. We will further discuss some issues in future columns. All in all it was a joyous day.

Peace and God's Grace,
Alex and Jennifer

**LOOKING AHEAD
TO HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

The week from Palm Sunday to Easter Day is the most solemn and glorious of our church year. It's the time when we hear the story that makes us who we are, the people of God, saved by Christ, forgiven and invited into resurrected life. Please mark the services on your calendar, and make worshiping and thanking God a priority for that week.

Palm Sunday - April 9

Holy Eucharist I at 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II with Palm
Procession at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday - April 11

Christ Mass 11 a.m. - Cathedral
of the Incarnation

Maundy Thursday - April 13

Supper and Eucharist 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday - April 14

Good Friday Liturgy 12 noon - 3 pm
Good Friday Office 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday - April 15

Holy Saturday Office 9:00 a.m.
immediately prior to decorating the
church
Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Easter Day - April 16

Celebration Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Celebration Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
CELEBRATION OF
THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Maundy Thursday service will begin in Mills Hall at 6:30 p.m. with readings, prayer, and a simple supper, and continue with Holy Eucharist in the church. Parishioners are asked to bring a dish to share for the supper. Middle Eastern food (hummus, pita, olives, figs, tabouli, dried fruit, nuts, falafel, etc.) is especially welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

St. James will be sponsoring our annual Blood Drive on Good Friday, April 14, from 3:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. Those eligible to donate are persons between the ages of 16 - 75 (16 year olds must have parental permission). Those 76 and over need a doctor's note. Bring your NYBC Donor Card or ID with signature or photo. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Edna Rousseau at (631) 584-7853.

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is encouraging all churches to participate in the annual Good Friday Offering, calling it "our opportunity to add some of the substance of our lives to the substance of our prayers." He asks for assistance for Jerusalem and the Middle East, "The Jesus Movement is manifested through opportunities like the Good Friday Offering to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East." Funds collected from the Good Friday Offering are gathered and distributed to the Province, which is part of the Anglican Communion.

EASTER SEASON LITURGY

For the season of Easter, we will once again be using the liturgy from “Enriching our Worship”, a liturgical resource created and authorized by the Episcopal Church.

In 1789, the fledgling Episcopal Church, meeting in Philadelphia, adopted the first American Book of Common Prayer. Explaining its departure in certain respects from the BCP of the Church of England, its preface observes that “It is a most invaluable part of that blessed “liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, that in his worship different forms and usages may without offense be allowed, provided the substance of the Faith be kept entire...therefore, by common consent and authority, may be altered, abridged, enlarged, amended, or otherwise disposed of, as may seem most convenient for the edification of the people, according to the various exigency of times and occasions.”

Since that historical decision, our Church has continued to seek an authorized language of Common Prayer capable of expressing what we believe about God as well as reflecting on our own corporate and individual relationship to the Godhead. Major revisions were made to the Book of Common Prayer in 1789, 1892, 1928, and 1979; minor revisions were made in 1793, 1822, 1832, 1838, 1845, 1871, 1896, 1914, 1920, 1935, 1949, 1961, and 1955.

The decision to provide contemporary language rites in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer was a reaffirmation of the principles stated in that original American preface. “Enriching our Worship” was the next step in liturgical revision; however, rather than reprinting the whole prayer book, it was decided to make the texts available digitally for use in parishes.

The focus of liturgical revision is to continually develop a language of prayer for all God’s people, based in the Reformation principle of the sixteenth century (which led to the first Book of Common Prayer in English, published in 1549) of praying in the everyday language of the people. These newest liturgies employ evocative language which leads worshipers deeper into the mystery of God drawing on often neglected riches of scripture and the Christian tradition. We will be using these liturgies throughout the Easter season. I invite you to listen carefully and pray deeply, trusting that God will indeed be revealed to you in them. If you have specific questions about them, please ask!

- Raewynne

GRANDMA’S VINTAGE SALE

Many parishioners have said they have a lot of vintage china, crystal, linens and “stuff” from their grandparents and/or parents that they would like to pass on to others who may enjoy them. To assist them in getting rid of their treasures, we will be hosting a “Grandma’s Vintage Sale” on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Mills Hall. If you are interested in reserving a space, we are offering 8’ tables for \$30. Each participant will be able to set up their own table to display their items. The event will run in conjunction with our Books & Things Sale, which will be held in the lower level of Mills Hall at the same time. The sale will be advertised in local newspapers and online. Please contact the office to reserve your table today, as space is limited.

- Laurie Mannix

AMAZON SMILE

If you (or your family and friends) utilize Amazon to make purchases, please consider the following: Amazon will contribute 5% of all your purchases to our church at NO COST TO YOU. All you need to do is enter this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-6003170> and then sign into your Amazon account. From then on, everything you purchase from Amazon through their sister site <https://smile.amazon.com/> will help our church. Again, it is at no cost to the buyer. Please consider asking family and friends to sign up for Amazon Smile through this link. You do need to enter the link, so as to avoid having to navigate through the thousands of registered charities. But again, it is just a one time thing.

*- Frank Giardina
for the Vestry*

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Do you enjoy coming to coffee hour? Due to “retiring”, vacations, or the extended absences of our snow birds who are members of our current team, we are in need of additional hosts to fill out our roster. All that is needed is to make coffee and tea, provide juice for the children, and some simple cookies, bars or cake on a Sunday. Hosts work in teams, so no one is asked to do it all alone. Teams are assigned to host every six weeks or so. Please speak to Pat Kregler (patkreg@verizon.com, 631- 584-0067) for more information, or to volunteer.

ST. JOHN’S HOSPITAL BABY ITEM COLLECTION

Would you like to honor or remember someone on Mother’s Day? If you make a donation (either monetary or new baby items) by May 1, we will pass them on to St. John’s Episcopal hospital in Far Rockaway and send a card to your nominated addressee in time for Mother’s Day. See the pink sheets in the back of the church in the coming weeks to make your donation. Baby items may be left in the box in the lobby of the Christian Ed. building by May 1. Flyers will be in Sunday bulletins in the next few weeks.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

St. James’ annual Strawberry Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 10 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Information on how you can contribute to make this a successful fundraiser for the church will be available after Easter.

GOT PLANTS?

If you are planting seeds this spring, when the time comes to thin the plants out, please consider potting some up to sell at the Strawberry Festival.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Walt Kregler was one of two recently retired officials of the Village of Nissequogue who were honored in March. Walt helped establish the village Fire Department and served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Architectural Review Board for more than 50 years. Mayor Richard Smith commended him for his sacrifice and dedication to the village.

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Mills Hall rental - piano recital
- 2 **Lent 5**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
- 3 Rector at Soul Brew 10:30 - 12
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Special Connections group 6 p.m.
Lenten book study 7:30 p.m.
- 6 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Decorating of church for Palm
Sunday - a.m.
- 9 **Palm Sunday**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Palm Procession & Passion play
- 10 Rector at Soul Brew 10:30 - 12
North Suffolk Garden Club 1 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Chrism Mass at Cathedral
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Lenten Book Study 7:30 p.m.
Women's Yoga group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Maundy Thursday**
Supper & Eucharist 6:30 p.m.
- 14 **Good Friday**
Good Friday Liturgy 12 - 3 p.m.
Blood Drive 3 - 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday Office 7:30 p.m.
- 15 **Holy Saturday**
Holy Saturday Office 9:00 a.m.
Decorating of church for Easter
9:30 a.m.
Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.
- 16 **Easter Day**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 17 Office closed
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.

- Women's Yoga group 7:30 p.m.
20 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
21 Mills Hall rental 7 p.m.- 23 **Easter 2**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 24 Rector at Soul Brew 10:30 - 12
North Shore Garden Club Board
Meeting 4 p.m.
Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Deanery meeting 2:00 p.m.
Women's Yoga group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Grandma's Vintage Sale and
Books & Things 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 30 **Easter 3**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kenneth Grigoletto
Fjeril Deal
Juliana Marie Silano
Heidi Glogg
Bryan Petschauer
Jesse Dean
Lindsey Noack
Tom LaMano III
Richard Tracy
Arlyne Gureck
Joseph LaMano

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Frank and Amy Giardina

EASTER FLOWERS

Each year the Altar Guild decorates the church for the Easter services. They invite you to give thanks for blessings or to honor the memory of a loved one by contributing money towards the purchase of flowers.

This can be done by using the envelopes in the back of the church in the weeks before Easter, or by completing the form below and mailing it with your check (payable to St. James Church) to the church by Monday, April 10 so that they can be acknowledged in the Easter bulletins.

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Easter Flower Offering

In thanksgiving for:

In memory of:

Given by: _____

Amount: _____