

The Abundant Life

April 13, 2017

For Sunday, April 13th

From The Rector

A Fierce New Life

As we complete this Lent and experience the powerful events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil and Easter, it should come as no surprise that things don't get simpler. Our complicated Lent has become even more complex and is filled with deep mystery.

Jesus walks a path which he perseveres in choosing. It is built on his public ministry of teaching, healing, and overcoming barriers to proclaim God's presence and change common expectations. In his interaction with the disciples and those closest to him, he teaches, challenges, and prepares them for transformation – his and theirs.

The most familiar personalities among his students - Peter, James, John, and Thomas - rarely seem to understand, while several strangers, the woman at the well and her village, the man born blind, and the neighbors of Lazarus believe.

Jesus continues to betrayal at the hands of Judas and to abandonment by his disciples. He confronts the people in authority, is condemned, humiliated, and dies alone on the cross. Secret friends make immediate and preliminary arrangements for his burial. And the story rests.

On the first day of the week, God continues the story which dawns with fearful women, both named Mary, hurrying to the tomb to care for Jesus' mortal remains. Meeting an angel who makes the Roman guards shake with fear, they listen to the incredible report and go to spread the word – Jesus is alive!

These once exhausted, grieving women have heard the message and are transformed by awe and joy. As they go, renewed and energized, they meet Jesus, take hold of him, and worship. They believe and they experience Jesus' new life. In this encounter, they remember the fierce compassion for people on the margins – love for the people whose stories are complicated.

Easter is the time when we are reminded of God's fierce commitment to everyone and everything that God has made. God's creation is ongoing and all things are made new. Each of us has been living life at a particular intensity, often just surviving or getting by. The fierce new life of Jesus calls us to a passionate commitment to God and to demonstrate it, not simply by religious practice, but by deep connection to others, especially to those who need this new life the most.

Join us as we respond to the complexities of our lives, not with simplistic answers, but fierce love that resembles the life of Jesus.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Palm Sunday

Blessing of Palms and Entry into Jerusalem

Saturday, April 8 - 4:00 pm

Sunday, April 9, 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Tuesday in Holy Week – April 11

The Service of Tenebrae - 7:00 pm

(Candles are extinguished and the darkness grows.)

Maundy Thursday – April 13

Supper – 5:45 pm

Foot Washing in Memorial Garden

Holy Communion - 7:00 pm (Childcare provided)

8:00 p.m.

Altar of Repose –

Watch with Jesus through the Night (sign up)

Good Friday – April 14

Good Friday Liturgy - St. John's Passion – 12:00 p.m.

(Childcare provided at Noon service)

Stations of the Cross - 7:00 pm-Children welcome

Holy Saturday – April 15

The Great Vigil of Easter 8:00 p.m.

Baptism, The First Communion of Easter

Easter Day – April 16

Service and Music 7:00 a.m.

Family Service with Choir 9:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 am

Festival Service with Choir 11:15 am

All Services are Holy Communion (Childcare provided at all services)

Susan Green Ordination for Deacon Candidate

Susan is a candidate for ordination as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church. She has been in the discernment process for the last five years and studying at the Diocesan School for Ministry in San Diego for the last two years. We will charter a bus to leave St. Paul's Palm Springs at 6:30 am on June 17th. The bus will arrive at the Cathedral in San Diego in time for the Ordination at 10:00 am. It will return at about 12:30 and arrive in Palm Springs at about 3:30 pm. The approximate cost for the transportation will be \$30. Sign up today in the Parish Hall.

Seven Weeks for Water 2017

According to the Christian tradition, Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ. During this period many people engage in fasting and practise moderation or self-denial in order to focus on repentance and consecrating oneself to God. While water has a strong spiritual significance in the Christian tradition as a gift of God, this scarce resource is threatened and denied to millions around the world.

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) invites you to use this season of Lent to reflect on water. Since 2008, the EWN has been providing weekly theological reflections and other resources on water for the seven weeks of Lent and for World Water Day on 22 March.

[1]Please click here to visit the article.

[2]

Hospitality Ministry

Please join us in the Parish Hall after each Sunday service for coffee and refreshments.

Please consider signing up to be a Sunday Coffee Hour host.

Communion at Windsor Court

The next Communion Service at Windsor Court is Wednesday, May 10th at 10:15 am. The priest and the residents are always happy to have parishioners attend.

Palm Springs Pride Parade

We are fast approaching our deadline for an organized, thoughtful participation in the Palm Springs Pride Parade. The team needs to be in place by April, A.K.A, QUICKLY. Please contact the Parish Office [760.320.7488] immediately if you want to help.

Parish Life News

Save the Date and plan to join us: The St. Paul's DOK chapter is holding its annual retreat on April 22 from 9:00 am. To 3:00 pm at Desert Journeys Guest House. Women of the parish are cordially invited. The Rev. Canon David Caffrey will again facilitate our time together, choosing "Rediscovering the Gift and Joy of the Daily Office" for the day's study and fellowship. Please notify Sharon Strong if you are considering joining us and for further information (including car-pooling) : [3]s.scrooper@gmail.com, or 760.285.8910.

Parish Life Book Club is a social group that meets monthly to talk about a book they select to read. The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. in the Library. The Book Club's next meeting is May 2nd and we'll discuss our current book A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman. Ove, the protagonist in A Man Called Ove, is getting older. At first glance

Ove is most certainly the grumpiest man you've ever met. Never trust first impressions. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. But behind Ove's cranky exterior lies a story and a sadness. The Book Club welcomes new members. If you enjoy reading and enjoy sharing your thoughts and opinions with other readers join us on May 2nd. For more information please contact Jackie Freeburn at jfreeburn@dc.rr.com

Faith Building 2017

Sundays at 9:15 am in the Library - The Episcopal Café

4/16 Easter Sunday: No Session

4/23 John 20: 19-31 Touching faith – Led by Alan Zimmerman

[4] Read about it

4/30 Divinely Blinded: Lessons from the Road to Emmaus – Led by Rev. Victoria Hatch

[5]Read about it

5/7 God Loves Dirty Sheep: Reflection on John 10:1-10 – Led by Craig Ewing

Tuesdays @ 7PM at St. Pauls in the Church

Ashes to Easter: A Gospel Journey through Lent

Evening Prayer and Lenten Reflection

4/18 –on Hope – Led by the Team

4/25 –on Countercultural Faith – Led by the Team

Don't Forget Roy's!

St. Paul's continues the outreach to the homeless men, women and children

at Roy's Desert Resource Center. Your donations of homemade and store-bought baked goods help bring a cheerful weekly dessert service to Roy's residents. Contact Chris Kelly, 760.406.2978, for more information.

Report Misconduct

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, our diocese trains people in the prevention of misconduct and encourages all to report misconduct. All reported incidences are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced misconduct of any kind, please contact Mr. John Seitman, jseitman@pacbell.net, 858-793-4555 or the Rev. Janet Wheelock, jwheelock@edsd.org, 952-240-8067.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are 9 am – 4:30 pm Tuesday through Friday. The office is closed on Mondays.

Should you call on Monday when we are closed to the public, please leave a message. In case of an emergency, a priest will return your call.

Print a copy of The Abundant Life?

[6]Click here

Sunday Worship Childcare

Childcare is available for both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. services.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to join our circle on Wednesday's from 10 am-1 pm in Hogarth Hall. Whether you wish to learn to knit or crochet or are an expert needleworker, we welcome you. Needles, hooks and yarn are provided. Please drop in to create and enjoy our prayerfully made creations.

Bullying Behavior Not Welcome Here

At St. Paul in the Desert we welcome all worshipers to a place that is free of violence and bullying.

Physical, verbal or emotional violence against others or against oneself is not acceptable because of our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. Please let Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself be your guide.

"It Gets Better" is a series of video messages to encourage Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender youth and let them know that they are loved as they are.

"A Blessing for Those Who Are Bullied" was written by the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, a Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

It is not enough to say "NO" to bullies. It is important to stand up for people and to provide resources for those who have been the targets.

The Church of St. Paul in the Desert

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References

1. <http://water.oikoumene.org/en/whatwedo/seven-weeks-for-water/2017/>
2. <http://water.oikoumene.org/en/whatwedo/seven-weeks-for-water/2017/christianity-sacredness-and-scarcity-of-water>
3. <mailto:s.scrooper@gmail.com>
4. <http://www.episcopalcafe.com/speaking-to-the-soul-touching-faith/>
5. <http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/women/divinely-blinded-lessons-from-the-road-to-emmaus.html>
6. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/The-Abundant-Life-April-6-2017.pdf>