

The Abundant Life

March 1, 2018

For Sunday, March 4th

From the Rector

Lifting and Believing

Our gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is a portion of the response Jesus makes to an interested Nicodemus, who has come to inquire under the cover of darkness. Nicodemus wants to understand the meaning of Jesus' words and actions, but he is stuck with an earthly perspective. Jesus challenges him to lift his vision heavenwards and believe.

The encounter is early in Jesus' ministry, but it focuses on a common theme: there is a deeper understanding of Jesus which connects him to his origin "from above." Jesus makes reference to Numbers 21:9, where Moses is instructed to lift a bronze snake with a pole so that people who have been bitten by snakes, can look upon it and be healed. When the Son of Man – Jesus - is lifted-up, those who look up and see beyond the earthly will receive new Spirit-filled life beyond the earthly.

During Lent, and reading this gospel selection, my thoughts turn to Jesus being lifted up on the cross. I think about the 16th century Corpus (Jesus' crucified body – without the cross) which is displayed in our worship space. Where I am when I look at it determines how I experience it. When I am very close, I respond to the pathos and brokenness of the crucified Jesus. When I am perhaps 15-20 feet away, I notice a peacefulness about his face. When on the other side of the church, I see the raised arms and it almost seems as if he is dancing. When Jesus speaks of being lifted-up in John's Gospel, he is referring to more than the suffering of the cross. He is also speaking of the resurrection.

So when we see Jesus lifted-up and believe, we are saying we trust that the cross is not the final lifting-up and that death, though real, is not the last word. Trusting that this is true, gives me courage to face my own failure and loss. Trusting that this is true, gives me compassion to walk with others in times of suffering or doubt.

Join in worship where some are seeing Jesus differently, yet trusting God to stay close.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

John 3:14-18 Common English Bible (CEB)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

FAITH BUILDING

Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Library

The Episcopal Cafè

March

3/11 Of Snakes and Things: Lectionary Reflections on Numbers 21:4-9.

Led by Craig Ewing [1]Read about it

3/18 The Oracle of Newness: Reflection on Jeremiah 31:31-3.

Led by Rev. Victoria Hatch [2]Read about it

3/25 NO SESSION – Palm Sunday & Bishop's visitation

(Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation)

Sundays @ 6:00 PM in the Library — Accepting God's Gift of Faith

Preparing for Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation — Four remaining sessions. All are welcome to attend any of these sessions as part of their Lenten Renewal, regardless if you are seeking Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation.

March

3/11 Discernment

Led by Fr. Andrew & Jerry Di Noto

3/18 Instructed Eucharist and Preparation

Led by Fr. David Caffrey & Fr. Andrew Green

3/25 Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation; 10:30AM

These Sunday evening sessions will be in lieu of Tuesday Night Adult Faith Building Sessions which resume April 3rd.

Spring Forward!

Daylight Saving Time Begins this Weekend

Be sure to move your clocks ahead

one-hour next Saturday night, March 10th!

[3]For a printable copy, [click here](#)

Parish Deaths

Former parishioner Gene Walker died Friday, February 23rd at his home in Las Vegas. Funeral service will be at Forest Lawn, Cathedral City, at noon on Monday, March 26th.

Miriam Hoover, a longstanding part-time parishioner, passed away here in Palm Springs on March 6th at the age of 104. Although she will be buried in Chicago, there will be a Celebration of Life service for her at St. Paul's on Saturday, March 17th at 11:00 A.M.

Gun violence and prevention

Gun violence and prevention: Students across the nation are taking a stand against the alarming number of mass shootings in our nation and are challenging adults to work with them to reasonable and responsible gun regulations. Let's support these students and demand that Congress enact effective and sensible legislations. Contact our elected representatives today.

Senator Dianne Feinstein: (202)224-3841, [4]www.feinstein.senate.gov
Senator Kamala Harris: (202) 224 3553, [5]www.harris.senate.gov
Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz: (202) 225-5330,[6]www.ruiz.house.gov

PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS:

A Lenten Study at St. Anthony's – Desert Hot Springs. Join in on Thursdays during Lent at 1:00 PM beginning February 22nd. This Lenten Study will be devoted to the music of Christians. Led by the Rev. Dr. Bill Doggett, this series will involve study and some easy singing. Weekly topics will include Chant, Gregorian and others; Metrical Psalms; The Rise of Hymns; Children's Hymns; and The Episcopal Hymnal. Come for a pot-luck lunch. Contact Deacon Susan Green at bluejayfive@gmail.com or 760.808.0174. St. Anthony's is at the corner of 20th and Mountain View in Desert Hot Springs.

Next Taizé Service

Join us for our Taize service on Thursday April 12th at 7:00 pm.

“A Taize service is a time to be still within as we sit together and experience the love and power of the Holy Spirit.” Our next Taize service

will be one week later than usual at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 12th. All are welcome to worship through chant, meditation and silence. For more information, contact Nathan Ensign at 760.320.7488 x225.

Special Events/Parade Team:

St. Paul's will be participating in the One PS Neighborhoods Fair on Saturday, March 24 11AM-2PM at Ruth Hardy Park. Volunteers are needed for set up and take down and to represent us at the both. For volunteering and more information call Jerry Di Noto at the office 760.320.7488.

Parish Life Book Club

. . . meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 1 PM in the Library and new members are always welcome. For April 3, 2018, Book Club has selected Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko. Ceremony is a profound and moving work of Native American literature. A World War II veteran of mixed ancestry is scarred by his experience as a prisoner of the Japanese and further wounded by the rejection he encounters from his people. Only by immersing himself in the Indian past can he begin to regain the peace that was taken from him. Book Club is a group of people who enjoy reading and talking about the books they read. For more information please contact Jan Wacker at jwacker2001@yahoo.com.

The Good Book Club

Group Study of the Good Book Club, the Lenten reading of Luke, continues Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the parish office conference room. Materials for individual study can be obtained from [7]www.forwardmovement.org, which includes a "Journey with Luke", ed. Zabriski. "Forward Day by Day" is available free at St. Paul's.

United Thank Offering

You will find information and giving envelopes for the United Thank Offering (UTO) in the pew pockets this weekend. The familiar blue boxes (perfect for pocket change!) will be available in the Narthex and Parish Hall. The DOK, which facilitates this ministry here at St. Paul's, has added information on recent grants given by the UTO, an impressive list attesting to the work of this important ministry of the Episcopal Church. Your donations will be in-gathered Sunday, March 11th. Please consider supporting the UTO this year during Lent.

Communion at Windsor Court

The next communion service at Windsor Court is Wednesday, March 14th at 10:15 am. The priest and the residents are always happy to have parishioners attend.

Guest Preacher–The Rev. Laurel Mathewson – March 17-18, 2018

Laurel, along with her husband, the Rev. Colin Mathewson are vicars in charge of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, North Park, San Diego. They are engaged in the North Park Project, which is building a new way of being the church in San Diego. You can learn more about the Mathewsons and the ministries of this faith community by checking their webpage:

[8]<http://www.stlukesnorthpark.org>.

Here are some videos of Laurel preaching:

[9]<http://www.stlukesnorthpark.org/workofchristmas>

[10]<http://www.stlukesnorthpark.org/christmas2017sermon>

[11]http://www.stlukesnorthpark.org/advent_blessings

We welcome the Mathewsons to St. Pauls for this visit.

Let's get together and make Palm Crosses!

The Altar Guild invites all parishioners to join us in the Parish Hall on Friday March 23rd from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. or on Saturday March 24th from 9:00 A.M- Noon to make Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. We will provide breakfast for you on Saturday, and it's a fun time to get to know one another. The crosses are not hard to make so don't be intimidated, and if you don't want to make the actual crosses, there are other jobs we can find for you. Please feel free to invite your friends as well. Bishop Katherine is visiting on Palm Sunday so we anticipate a larger than usual attendance, and we will need more crosses than usual. So we know how much food to plan for breakfast, please let us know if you care planning to come by contacting me - Kathy Kilmer, (760)774-8233 or [12]kmkcc@aol.com, or the church office.

Conference @ Hope Lutheran

Don't miss this important conference: "Where is Our Peace in this Violent World" being held on March 24th at Hope Lutheran Church, 45900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert. Guest speakers are Congresswoman Jackie Speier and our Assisting Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori who was the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church from 2006 to 2015. Early registration is requested due to limited space. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and the Parish Hall.

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?

[13]Print a copy

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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Email: clergy@stpaulsps.org Website: www.stpaulsps.org

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References

1. <http://www.patheos.com/progressive-christian/of-snakes-and-things-john-c-holbert-03-10-2015>
2. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/walter-brueggemann/jeremiah-31-31-34-on-scripture-new-covenant_b_1031455.html
3. <https://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Holy-Week-Worship-schedule-2018-for-A-L.pdf>
4. <http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/>
5. <http://www.harris.senate.gov/>
6. <http://www.ruiz.house.gov/>
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