

AROUND THE PARISH

April 9, 2020

St. Alban's seeks to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community, committed to sharing Christ's love, empowering people to grow spiritually, deepening our relationship with Christ and living out our faith in the community and the world.

PLEASE NOTE: All events and activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

Mail check to church

21405-82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026

Drop off donation through the slot
in Greg's door.

Bank Bill Pay – ask bank to send check
to St. Alban's

Online donation, go to

www.StAlbansEdmonds.org and click on
"Giving" and then "Donate Now."

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

You can mail a check to St. Alban's with the designation "Food Bank," and your contribution will be made by the church. Also donations may be made directly to the Edmonds Food Bank, c/o Casey Davis, 828 Caspers St, L100, Edmonds, WA 98020.



God of love and mercy, assist me in this time of trouble and anxiety. Ease my burdens. Strengthen my faith. Increase my trust and confidence in Your compassionate care.

Give me the strength I need, dear Lord, to face the difficulties before me, knowing that with Your help, miracles happen, and lives are restored.

I pray for a share in Your healing grace and ask that You surround me with Your comforting goodness, for health in mind and body, and for a heart filled with hope and peace. Amen

PANDEMIC FAITH

Fr. Greg Peters

Dear Fellow Disciples:

I'm using this term, fellow disciples, to be more inclusive of others, not simply the people of our congregation.

Like you, I have been consumed by this pandemic, spending an exorbitant amount of time, effort, and emotional energy trying to navigate its effects on and implications for our congregational life, worship, and ministry. It's a pandemic, therefore a crisis, pervading and altering our lives, our society, our nation, and the systems that make all these run – revealing every flaw, weakness, inconstancy, and disparity.

It's a crisis, but not, at least for me, a crisis of faith. I have absolutely no doubt in God's loving presence in all of this. I do not – not for one minute – think that this is some kind of divine judgment. This is no plague visited upon the world for its sinfulness. True, some of the reactions to the circumstances of the coronavirus – callous denial, faulting others, shifting blame, cavalier disregard, intentional ignorance, profiteering, negligent leadership, disproportionate distribution of supplies, assistance, and medical services – are sinful, but the pandemic is not, not, not divine retribution.

God is in the midst of this, with us. In the suffering, in anxiety, in physical illness, in ICU's, in food banks and voting lines, in isolation, in devastated economies, in loneliness, and despair, God is with us. God may not "fix" this, but God is "in" this with us.

This is what I want to offer as another view of pandemic – Easter faith is pandemic faith.

Easter faith does not deny present circumstances. Easter faith is concrete. Easter faith is in the here and now. Easter faith does not depend on happy times, good fortune, or easy living.

Easter faith is pandemic in that it is not confined or limited in its infectiousness. Easter faith is pandemic in that it takes over every aspect of one's life. Easter faith is pandemic in that it calls us to focus on and (re)discover what is real and true and vitally important. Easter faith is pandemic in that it calls us to serve, well, everyone. Easter faith is pandemic

because it reveals our interconnection – with everyone and everything in the created order.

As Joy is a condition present deep in the soul that prevails regardless of the vicissitudes of life, as opposed to superficial and situational Happiness, Easter faith regards hope as ever-present, life as eternal, love as unconditional. Easter faith is divine; the divine with us, for us, and in us.

Easter faith is pandemic because it binds us one to another through the One who created, redeems, and sanctifies us; all of us; for all time, in all times, in every place, in every circumstance.

I invite you to celebrate this Feast of the Resurrection, however disjointed it is from past celebrations, in all its true glory and real splendor. As Jesus celebrated God's Kingdom every day of his earthly life, as he lived that divine mercy with the lost and lonely of his generation, as our Savior Christ loved that eternity into existence, beyond the grave, let us celebrate Easter every day with your whole life, with your whole being, in all times and in all places.

From the midst of death, Christ is risen, bestowing life.



LIVE STREAMED HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

You will be able to follow along with the services via a live streaming service on your computer. If you can't watch the service live, you will be able to watch the recorded services at your convenience. Please check the Church's website for access to Facebook Live.

If you don't have a Book of Common Prayer at home, there is an online version at this link:

<https://www.bcponline.org>

LIVE STREAMED HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 9, Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm

April 10, Good Friday:

Self-guided Stations of the Cross in
Labyrinth, noon to 7:00pm

Good Friday Service, 7:00pm

April 11, Easter Vigil, 8:00pm

April 12, Easter Sunday, 10:30am

For the most part, services will be led from the Sanctuary of the Church, but because we will be dispersed in our homes, you are encouraged to set up your own altars or special places of worship in your home. Here are a couple links to resources for ideas about doing that.

<https://rowsofsharon.com/2020/03/31/a-household-holy-week/>

<https://files.constantcontact.com/bc60d568001/5813f9fe-39f6-4c06-9139-8499194f7dc3.pdf>

Other things to gather:

Several Candles - Just like at church, they remind of us of the Pillar of Fire that preceded the Hebrew refugees through the 40 years of wandering in the desert.

Wine and Bread for Sunday Eucharists and especially Maundy Thursday.

Hand or Feet Washing Supplies for Maundy Thursday.

A Cross, hammer, and nails for Good Friday

1 Special Candle for the Paschal Candle lit at the Easter Vigil and throughout the Easter Season.

Bells for the Vigil

Flowers for Easter Day



MAUNDY THURSDAY COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life: and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECT

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for who our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

EASTER DAY COLLECT

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen



A GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION

My name is . . . Barabbas. I was supposed to die today but someone went in my place. They call me a murderer but I prefer to think of myself as a freedom fighter. I am so full of hate for the Romans. When this Procurator first arrived in Jerusalem he had his soldiers raise the image of the Emperor knowing that this would be a defilement. I'd kill them all if I could. Instead of executing me the crowd picked another rebel named Jesus. I caught a glimpse of him as I melted into the crowd. I couldn't believe it; there was no hate in his eyes, only love for those who were beating him. As I looked into those eyes I felt sad for those I've killed. I don't want to feel this way!

My name is . . . Pontius Pilate. I am the Procurator of Judea, a hell-hole on the outer edge of the Empire. The rabble here hate me. And why not? When I built them an aqueduct I took money from the Temple treasury to pay for it. A bunch of them protested so I had them killed. Each year at this time I have to leave my house in Caesarea and come to Jerusalem for this festival of theirs. This year they wanted me to execute one of their own, this Jesus. My wife had warned me about him – I wanted nothing to do with him. He has a majesty in his eyes that makes me uncomfortable. I tried to release him – you must see that! In the end, I

washed my hands of this man's blood. I keep washing my hands but I can't get them clean.

My name is . . . Peter. Peter, what a joke! My name is Simon, but Jesus called me Peter because I was his "rock." I don't feel much like a rock. I feel more like dirt. I've always been a strong man, a proud man. People say that I speak before I think and they're right. When Jesus told us that He would be led into the hands of sinners, that His friends would betray and forsake Him, I jumped. "I will never leave or forsake you," I shouted. But when He was led away I ran – I was scared and ashamed. I even denied knowing Him, and when the rooster crowed, our eyes met – those eyes that could look into the soul of a man. But there was no condemnation in His eyes only love and forgiveness. I've never cried before but tonight I've cried my eyes out. Never have I felt so broken or so whole.

My name is . . . Simon. I've come to Jerusalem from Cyrene in North Africa for the festival. There was this commotion and I went to see what it was – a procession of criminals condemned to crucifixion. One of them, weakened from the beatings, stumbled and dropped his cross. Suddenly a Roman soldier grabbed me and ordered me to carry it! I protested, "I'm just an innocent bystander!" It was heavier than I thought and rough – it gave me splinters. Some of the crowd mistook me for a criminal, spitting and cursing. "It's not my cross," I shouted! How could this happen to me? When they raised him up I caught a glimpse of his eyes – there was no resentment there, only willingness. And as He looked back at me the Scriptures came alive in my heart, the Scriptures that told of the One who would bear the sins of many. My sins. He was the One. Oh my Lord Jesus, forgive me! I was wrong! It was my cross I had carried!

My name is . . . well, it's not important. I'm a nobody. I'm one of the countless nobodies of this world. My life has been a series of failures. Finally, I became a thief – failed at that, too. I got caught. And now I'm dying on a cross, a fitting end. Soon I'll be forgotten. The one next to me is different, special. He has done nothing to deserve this. I asked Him to remember me when He comes into His kingdom. Barely able to speak He turns His head and tells me that today I will be with Him in Paradise. In His eyes I see a reflection of myself, not as a nobody but as someone who is worth the agony, anguish and death of God's own Son.

My name is Eric. I stand at the foot of the cross and marvel that in His blood, sorrow and love flow mingled down. In His broken body, every lie I've

ever told, every time I've hurt someone, every opportunity to help someone I've ignored, every sin I've ever committed or will commit, is nailed on that cross. Oh my Lord, could you love me that much?! In your eyes I see my guilt, my humiliation, my shame. You've taken these all on yourself. I know the next chapter in the eternal story – Jesus wins the victory. On this hill they call "The Skull" He crushes the serpent's head but tonight is for remembering His suffering and His love beyond measure!

Eric Hanson



Prayer Labyrinth

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
IN LABYRINTH**

The Stations of the Cross will be available on Good Friday, April 10, from Noon to 7:00pm in the Labyrinth. There will be prayers available that can be taken home or tossed after use for everyone's protection. Because of social distancing needs, people will be asked to use the labyrinth one at a time. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

We are very fortunate this year because we are getting a new labyrinth. After 14 years of use and the grass growing, we lost sight of the path for the labyrinth. Dan Niven, also known as "Dan the Labyrinth Man," offered to start over. Phil McClelland mowed our previous labyrinth, and Dan is going to be establishing new markers with tape and an improved design. Please come check it out.



FACE MASK OPTIONS

In order to further limit the spread of the Coronavirus, one of our fellow parishioners, Maisy Hochstetler, has begun sewing cloth masks. They come in four sizes – from large adult to really small child sizes. Using Discretionary Funds, we have reserved 20 masks for parishioners who need them.

For more information, to order and to arrange delivery, please contact Maisy directly at

425-780-9970. She'll help you get the right size mask. Masks are also available for purchase at \$5 each. Please let her know you're from St. Alban's.

Here is another alternative: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends that everyone wear a face mask when out in public. As a public service, the New York Times published an article with instructions and a pattern about how to sew face masks at home. Interested in making one for yourself, your family or friends, go to [New York Times - How to make a face mask.](#)

CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE

Maryellen Young, Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who has continued to send contributions and pledges. Through March, we are only underrunning our contribution budget by about 4%. If you are able, we welcome your special Easter donation.

Remember pledges are just an intention of giving and our circumstances have certainly changed this year. If you think you need to modify your pledge, please contact our treasurer Maryellen Young at maryelleny@comcast.net or 425-776-2461. This notification will also help us plan for the future.



**IMPORTANCE OF TAKING CARE
OF OURSELVES DURING CURRENT
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

Dan Mullene, Senior Warden

In this time of increasing numbers of those infected with the coronavirus and those who have lost their lives to it, it's only natural for us to be concerned about the health and welfare of those around us, and especially those we love.

If you've flown on an airplane, you have undoubtedly heard the advice that you should secure your own mask first before putting one on your children. Similarly, we all need to take care of ourselves first, so that we can be able and ready to assist those we love and care for in their time of need.

So, it's very important now that we take the time to take care of ourselves as well as others. The toll the current situation may have on us can easily go

unnoticed. We all need to be aware of how we, personally, are feeling.

In a document prepared by the Humanitarian Disaster Institute called "Preparing Your Church for Coronavirus (COVID-19)," the authors offer this advice to help us monitor our own situation:

Pay Attention to Your Body and Your Emotions. It's natural to experience stress and anxiety in the face of a threat we cannot control.

Because every person reacts differently, notice what your body and emotions are telling you:

- Listen to your emotions, noticing any anxiety, sadness, anger, or detachment.
- Listen to your body, noticing any change in appetite, new aches and pains, or feeling particularly hot or cool; and,
- When you notice troubling symptoms, pause to care for your body and mind.
- If you become unable to manage or function well, seek the assistance of a professional.

And please remember that a team of the members of St. Alban's will be continuing to call you and keep in touch with everyone via our phone tree. Please feel free to share any personal concerns you may have about our own health or those residing with you.

With this information, we can all work together to do what we can for one another to remain healthy and strong for the time when we can once again gather together in our sanctuary in person and greet one another with the Peace of our Lord.

LARRY HUDSON

Our brother in Christ, and beloved brother of Joan Longstaff, passed away on April 4 after becoming ill with the coronavirus. For many years, Joan and Larry attended our 10:30am service, and many will remember Larry's smiling face.



THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW EASTER SEASON 2020

Reminder: The study of the Gospel of Matthew offered by The Good Book Club starts with the first reading on Easter Sunday. For a listing of daily readings during April and May, go to

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/readings/>

Forward Movement has produced resources to help with this biblical adventure. You can get more information or sign up to get weekly emails at <https://www.goodbookclub.org>.

Forward Movement (or Amazon) is a source for the book A Journey with Matthew with fifty days of scripture readings, meditations, questions, and prayers.

You can also contact the church office and we can mail or email you the list of readings.

FACEBOOK SERVICE OPTIONS

St. Alban's Eucharist is live streamed on Sundays at 10:30am on Facebook. Find the Facebook button on right side of our webpage to take you to our Facebook page. (Go to the Video tab if you don't see the service.) The service bulletin will be available with a link on the webpage.

You need a Facebook account to watch the service live. However, later Sunday afternoon, a link will be on our webpage that will allow you to watch the service without needing a Facebook account.

There is a link to our audio sermons on our website's homepage (www.StAlbansEdmonds.org) to listen to anytime that is convenient. (Under Worship/Audio Sermon)



A PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK

Jamie Lynn Haskins,
Co-editor, Acting on Faith

God of death and resurrection,
God of the space between, we have walked this Holy Week road before, but never quite like this. As always, palms are behind us, shouts of "hosanna" ringing in our ears. As always, we look toward your death with grief, your resurrection with great hope. As always, you are here with us through it all. Yes, we have walked this Holy Week road before, but never quite like this.

This year nails will pierce the cross, and we will mourn in our homes rather than in our pews. This year your body will be placed in the tomb,

and we will await word from those faithful women as we shelter in place.

This year, resurrection will come (it always comes) and we will shout “hallelujah,” rejoicing in our living rooms, across computer screens, over conference lines, because this year, as in every year, You are still with us.

Yes, we have walked this Holy Week road before, but never quite like this.

May we remember, Holy One, that in every familiar and unfamiliar step, every “hosanna,” every “hallelujah,” every Zoom call and every text, You are with us.

As we walk this Holy Week road remind us-- in death, in resurrection, in joy and grief, in the unknown and the liminal space between, You are still our God, and we are still your people.

Resurrection will indeed come. Amen.

REJOICE

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

APRIL 9 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” One of the hymns often used on Maundy Thursday is #602; its refrain is, *“Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.”* A large part of the faithful steward’s life is in response to both our baptismal covenant and this command to seek and serve others in Christ’s name.

APRIL 11 – THE EASTER VIGIL

The stories told at the Easter Vigil repeat time after time, the many ways in which God has entered the lives of His people in saving and grace-filled manifestations. And He has promised to live in us and through us too, as we allow Him to undergird our daily lives of discipleship. Alleluia! Alleluia!

APRIL 12 -- FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION

Psalm 118 ends, *“On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”* May we strive to be rejoicing stewards, not only in the Easter season, but the whole year through – always thankful and grateful for our many blessings. Alleluia! Alleluia!!

LESSON READINGS

APRIL 9 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

APRIL 10 – GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

APRIL 12 – EASTER DAY

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

