



Father Allan's Reflections...

“Now there is rejoicing in heaven; for you were lost, and are found; you were dead, and are now alive in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

From the Reconciliation of a Penitent, (BCP p 451)

Ah, the signs of springtime are returning to our glorious valley! Perhaps, too soon or perhaps, a “calm before the storm” as winter offers its last gasp with a whopper of a storm. Time will tell. Nevertheless, Lenten journeys have encouraged many to begin a “spiritual” springtime: to see signs of new life and new growth within our hearts *and* our minds. In the words of that great Easter hymn, “Lent’s long shadows have departed” – well, at least they are *starting* to depart. “Almost, but not quite” might be a more honest description of this particular time of year – a time that holds such great hope and promise even though winter still clings to the air.

“Almost, but not quite” is an apt description of our spiritual journeys, too. Our time of reflection throughout Lent is drawing to a close, the heartbreak of Holy Week is looming, as is the glorious promise of Easter. We know we have been forgiven and have the assurance of eternal life in Christ. And yet, there are times of doubt, times when we realize we’re not quite there yet. Times when we recognize that God’s work in us continues and yet, is far from complete. Sometimes we wonder, “Am I *really* forgiven? Will I *ever* get there?”

One of the most beautiful, strengthening, cleansing, encouraging but, underutilized sacraments of the Church is the *Rite of Reconciliation* (BCP pp 446-448). Some call it “Confession” but it really is much *more* than that. It is about assurance, about embracing God’s grace and forgiveness. It is about claiming the Holy Week and Easter promises Christ offered us and the whole world at a great price. It is a gift that, sadly, often goes unopened. It is a gift that is especially meaningful as Lent ends and Eastertide looms.

As your Lenten journey draws to a close with all its questions about your worthiness before God, questions like: am I really forgiven, am I ever going to “get there,” I invite you to let *Reconciliation* be a part of your Holy Week observance this year. There is nothing more powerful, comforting, and assuring than embracing with absolute certainty the words that conclude this rite, “Now, go in peace. The Lord *has* put away *all* your sins.” Thanks be to God. (BCP 451)

With prayers for a blessed Lent and reconciling Holy Week for all, I remain,
Yours in service to the Gospel,

Allan +



Birthdays

1 Dan Shepherd	17 Mike Galleher
2 Suzie Long	18 Henry McGuire
3 Max Dean	19 Barbara Pariseau
3 Radie Armstrong	19 Jennifer Henigin
4 Karen Radenbaugh	19 Kazuko Ehrhardt
4 Joby Bell	20 Lisa Griffin
4 Bud Gerber	24 Jim Toomey
5 Daniel Love	27 Bob Bondi
10 Sibyl Pressly	27 Chuck Canady
10 Joseph Underwood	27 Alana Starkey
14 Gena Rankin	28 David Yates
16 Art Yergey	

Anniversaries

March 4
Anne and Clint Iles

March 5
Gerri and John Persad

March 8
Janice and John LaCapra

March 11
Faye and John Cooper

March 22
Deborah and Mike Galleher

March 24
John Goodrich and Mary Willis

March 30
Judy and Ted Nye



Prayer List

Please keep these people in your prayers:

For Healing: Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Laura B., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Shirley N., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Roberta T., Gail T., Julia M., Charlie S., Walter B., Randy M., John M., Shane B., Terry S., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Terry W., Jody V., Patty D., Bill M., Lynn V., Andrea M., Bonnie R., Adam H., Sheila W., Betty H., Charles III, Mack G., Janis B., Anna Jane R., Joe H., Tony W., Rebecca H., Steve S., Nick H., Pat & Linda H., Dee O., _____.

For those in Harm's Way: All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, all who serve in the Peace Corps, for Chris B., and all health & relief workers throughout the world.



ACE: Adult Christian Education Update
Lenten Weekly Christian Education Classes:
Sundays at 9:45 am – Skiles Hall
“A Good Enough Lent”

This series utilizes “A Good Enough Lent” curriculum designed by author Kate Bowler. This 40-Day Companion for Lenten devotions invites participants to read, reflect, and pray. Download a copy at: <https://katebowler.com/lent/>

Lent lasts for a full 40 days, but Sundays don’t count. They are a day off from whatever you are abstaining from during Lent, a day to remind us that we are made for both—grief and joy, sorrow and delight. Our Sunday classes will encourage attendees to reflect upon what they are learning about themselves and the world throughout this season, about God’s grace, the importance of community, and how together with grateful hearts we “Bless this Lent.”

Contemplative Worship Service

March 5, 2024

The March Contemplative Service will be held March 5 at 6pm in the Chancel. A time for sitting in God’s presence, sharing prayer, music, and silence as we listen for and discern God’s call to each of us. Please join us in the Chancel and invite a friend. For those joining the service by Zoom, please go to the parish website: <https://holycrossvallecrucis.net/parish-news>. Due to the uncertainty of the weather in Winter, please check your email for any changes on the day of the service.

Coffee’s On

March 9th at 10am by Zoom

It’s not quite the weather yet to gather on the front porch of the Rectory, so we’ll gather by Zoom for a time of support, reflections on our spiritual journeys, and prayer for each other and those in need. Come join us from whichever state you’re in at the moment. Zoom link on website: [www.holycrossvallecrucis.net/parish-news](https://holycrossvallecrucis.net/parish-news).



Don't forget...your ECW now meets the second Sunday of every month at 12:45 pm in Skiles Hall. **Our next meeting is Sunday March 10th.** Please join us!



It’s “March For Diapers Time”!

Beginning **March 1**, ECW will be collecting **all sizes of children’s diapers** to donate to the *Children’s Council*. Last year, we collected almost 2,000 diapers! Help us surpass that number this year by placing unopened packages of diapers in the collection box in Skiles Hall. We’ll be collecting the entire month of March.

The Episcopal Women's History Project (EWHP)

JOIN THE EWHP 2024 LENTEN SERIES - THURSDAYS AT 3PM (EASTERN TIME);
2PM (CENTRAL); 1PM (MOUNTAIN); 12PM (PACIFIC)

On Thursday of each week of Lent a story will be told about an Episcopal woman who made a difference in the world and the church. The Zoom lecture series will start at the same times: Eastern--3:00 PM; Central--2:00 PM; Mountain--1:00 PM; Pacific--12:00 PM. Each Thursday during Lent, including Holy Week.

If you want to participate, please click on the following link, and register.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZcrceitpzMtH9SPdexPSmEZv9iva2d8-ETb#/registration>

You only need to register once, and then you will receive a link to log into the zoom session every Thursday. (Same zoom link for every session). If you have questions, please email Jo Ann Barker at joann.barker@gmail.co. Please visit the website at ewhp.org

4) MARCH 7, 2024: TULA H. LACEY

Tula H. Lacey and the leadership of Zion Episcopal have reviewed reports from project volunteers and have created a Memorial to the Children of God Enslaved by Zion's Founding Families.

In the words of Zion's leadership: We know that at least 43 members enslaved by Zion's founding families. These children of God were taken far from their African homeland. They had dignity that was denied. They deserved justice that was withheld from them. It was wrong.

5) MARCH 14, 2024: CHRISTINA BRENNAN LEE talking about UNSUSPECTING MYSTIC: MARY RINGWALD

Mary Ringwald simply wanted to enjoy, her husband and her children, to know more about her own deep relations with God and opportunities to learn how to help others to help other people and groups to know themselves and their relation to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Learn things she never suspected.

6) March 21, 2024: PATRICIA ALLEN talking about THE REV. MOTHER RUTH

Mother Ruth graduated from St. Hilda's College, University of Toronto. In 1949, Sister Ruth and Sister Edith Margaret, both of the Sisterhood of St. John's, were granted a leave of absence by their Community to begin new work in New York City. In 1950, they opened St. Hilda's School. The school eventually the expanded from Nursery through grade twelve under St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's School in 1952.

7) MARCH 28, 2024: MARY STANTON talking about JULIET HAMPTON MORGAN

Juliet Morgan was a librarian and civil rights activist in Montgomery, Alabama. Juliet was in a prominent family and was from a seventh-generation Southern. Among her friends were Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald and Tallulah Bankhead.

Don't Forget!

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 10, 2024

Remember to turn your clocks ***FORWARD*** one hour
before retiring on Saturday evening March 9^h so that you arrive in time for
the *Prelude*, and *not the Postlude* on Sunday morning.





The Clans of Ireland invite the good people of Holy Cross to a St. Patrick's Day celebration Saturday evening, **March 16, 2024**, in Skiles Hall at 6:00 pm.. A full Irish dinner will be served with plenteous drink and mischief.

Reservations are \$35 per person. Proceeds go to the ministry of the ECW in honor of our beloved Saint Patrick, St. Thomas, St. Scott, St. Allan McCaslin and St. Pan McCaslin. For reservations call Claire McDonough at 828-266-3542 **prior to March 10.** *Seating is limited.*



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

The first **Men's Night Out** gathering of 2024 -- our eighth consecutive year! -- will be a dutch treat cocktail hour and dinner in the mainfloor private patio area at **Lost Province Brewing Company**, 130 North Depot Street in Boone, from **5:45 p.m. to 7:30 on Tuesday, March 19.**

***Men's Night Out** is an opportunity for men from within the parish and in our community to enjoy having an evening of fellowship together. We're very flexible, so feel free to bring a friend... or two! On street parking is FREE after 5 pm every day, as are all public parking lots. Please RSVP by noon on Monday, March 18 via email to KeithTMartin@gmail.com or by text or phone to (704) 608-2755 so that we can reserve the appropriate number of seats at the restaurant.*

NOTE: If you do not drive at night, need a ride to and/or from MNO, or are without reliable transportation for whatever reason, please let us know. We have participants from all over the High Country who would welcome your company and be happy to pick you up and deliver you safely home. **Please join us!**



Mission Outreach

Our team of 8 "call takers" is in full swing. Thanks to Niki Craig, Sis Kinney and Beth Johnston for joining our crew. Trainer-Mentor Suzie Long's last training session of her long career with MOC was with Sis Kinney last month. This resulted in a very busy first week for Sis, who was on the mark, asked the right questions and had a very successful week taking calls.

Thanks to Ahren Koenig for taking on the MOC spreadsheet. Nancy McInnes, who kept the "heart and soul" of our call takers work in tip top shape for years is retiring out of that position. Thank you, Nancy, for your service and for continuing to follow up with the spreadsheet during this transition.

We have a fine team and welcome any of our church members to join us in this important ministry. It takes one week every two months to receive calls and disseminate funds. So, six times a year a member takes calls. Once a year we go over the grant applications for funds from our beloved Valle Fair. In October, we award the funds to grant applicants during the church service

Congratulations and many thanks to Susie Long for her service to MOC which spans three decades! She is a guiding light for MOC and will always be so for us. Many thanks, as well, to Judy Bondi who served as MOC chair for many years. Her wisdom and experience are still part of the team as she serves as a "call taker" and trainer of new members.

If you feel moved to join our team, please contact any one of the members. We welcome you!

The Beauty of Holy Week

The following is a “primer” on the rich beauty and diversity of Holy Week Worship Services. Come and encounter once again the redemptive grace of God retold and relived through stirring liturgies.

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday (8:30 & 11:00 am)

Note: We gather in Skiles Hall for the Liturgy of the Palms and, with shouts of “Hosanna!” process together into the Church in commemoration of our Lord’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The recitation of the Passion Story (St. Mark) concludes this stirring service.

Holy Wednesday (5:30 pm) - “Mary’s Way of the Cross”

Our Daughters of the king present this unique remembrance of the Stations of the Cross offered from the perspective of Mary, the mother of our Lord.

Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm)

“*Mandatum*” (Latin for *commandment*) is the origin of the *Maundy* Thursday name. We hear St. John’s account of the last supper and demonstrate the *new commandment* to love one another by washing each other’s feet. (*Wear hose and shoes that are easily removed.*)

The Holy Eucharist follows and concludes with a solemn procession of the consecrated bread and wine to the Garden of Gethsemane (Skiles’ Altar) where it will remain through Good Friday

Following the procession, the Sanctuary is stripped of all ornamentation. Every item that witnesses to the life of Christ is removed so that the building is empty, stark and lifeless. The altar is washed with vinegar and water (i.e., gall) as the kneeling congregation prays aloud Psalm 22. This is a very dramatic and spiritually enriching service.

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil (8:30 pm – Midnight)

A silent prayer vigil in observance of our Lord’s time at Gethsemane begins at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service and continues through midnight. *If you have not already done so, please sign up on the notice posted in Skiles Hall.* The *Prayer Vigil* invites all to join with our Lord in prayer for the whole state of Christ’s church and the world.

Good Friday (12:00 Noon)

We gather at 12 Noon to walk the traditional *Stations of the Cross* in commemoration of our Lord’s journey to Golgotha and ultimate execution. This is a poignant devotional service whereby we behold and contemplate the wonder of our salvation wrought at so great a price.

The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday (7:00 pm)

The Good Friday liturgy focuses on our Lord’s death and yet, it is *not* a funeral service. Our ceremonial is stark, direct, powerful, and its meaning unmistakable. There is a marked simplicity to our liturgy as we contemplate St. John’s account of the Crucifixion. A series of ancient prayers for the whole world are offered followed by biddings to silent prayer. The service reaches its climax when all gather to commune together from the reserved Sacrament of Maundy Thursday.

Holy Saturday (9:30 am)

A simple service of Morning Prayer with appropriate prayers and canticles is offered in the Chancel.





Observing a holy “Holy Week”

The observance of Holy Week is one of the great riches of the Christian Church. Sadly, some church traditions jump from Palm Sunday right to Easter Sunday (perhaps with a passing glance at Good Friday) and in so doing, miss out on the incredibly enriching journey of Holy Week.

In the Episcopal Church tradition, Holy Week is far *more* than a retelling of *past* events. Our liturgies invite us to be physically present in Jerusalem and watch the events of the world’s salvation unfold before our very eyes as if for the first time. Episcopalians *don’t simply recall* Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, we are there to *participate in it* and welcome Jesus into the city. We *don’t simply remember* the Last Supper when our Lord washed the feet of all present, we, too, *are present* to wash each other’s feet and share the bread and wine. We *don’t just contemplate* Gethsemane, we go there and kneel in prayer with our Lord. *We see the crucifixion* for ourselves and, because we are present at the Tomb on that first Easter, we hear for our own selves the good news of the resurrection.

It has long been said one cannot fully comprehend the meaning of Easter without having walked the “Way of the Cross” with our Lord through the events of this most wondrous and holiest of weeks. To that end, Holy Cross offers a unique opportunity for God’s people to gather together, to engage, to witness, and participate in our Lord’s Passion in preparation for the celebration of his most glorious resurrection. *All are encouraged to be a part of the greatest story ever told.*



Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

(8:30 & 11:00 am)

Bring a favorite bell and prepare to ring in, and proclaim, the resurrection of our Lord! Glorious music, bells, and joyful shouts of “*Alleluia Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed*” resound as God’s people gather to offer the Holy Eucharist with royal pomp and splendor in celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

A superb All Parish Brunch in Skiles’ Hall hosted by the ECW follows the 8:30 am service.

Come and Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!





Looking Ahead ... Schedule of Services in Holy Week



March 24 – *The Sunday of the Passion*

8:30 am Gather in Skiles Hall for the Great Procession into the Church,
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and the recitation of the Passion Story.

9:45 am Crafting of Palm Crosses (*Skiles Hall*)

11:00 am Gather in Skiles Hall for the Great Procession into the Church,
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and the recitation of the Passion Story.



March 27 – *Wednesday in Holy Week* – 5:30 pm

“Mary’s Way of the Cross”

Gather for this unique opportunity to participate in walking the Stations of the Cross offered from the perspective of Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.



March 28 - *Holy Thursday* – 7:00 pm

The Maundy Thursday Liturgy

with foot-washing and celebration of the Lord’s Supper,
the Solemn procession to Gethsemane and Stripping of the Altars.
Silent vigil before for the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 pm – Midnight.



March 29 - *Good Friday* – 2 Services

12 Noon: Walking the Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm: The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday



March 30 - *Holy Saturday*

9:30 am Morning Prayer – gather in the Chancel



March 31 - *Easter Sunday*

“The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ”























Bring a bell and ring in the glorious news of our Salvation!


8:30 am Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II with special music

9:45 am All Parish Easter Brunch!

11:00 am Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II with special music

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>(From March 3: Radie Armstrong and Max Dean's birthday)</i></p>					1 Dan Shepherd's birthday	2 Suzie Long's birthday
<p><i>(From March 10: Sibyl Pressly and Joe Underwood's birthday)</i></p>						<p>9 10 am Coffee's On via Zoom</p> <p>Don't forget to set your clocks forward for tomorrow</p> 
<p>3 8:30 & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>  <p>9:45am ACE</p>	<p>4 8:00pm "Online Compline</p> <p>Joby Bell, Bud Gerber & Karen Radenbaugh's birthday</p> <p>Anne & Clint Iles anniversary</p>	<p>5 6pm Contemplative Worship Service at Holy Cross</p> <p>Daniel Love's bday and John Persad's anniversary</p>	<p>6 5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing Service</p> 	<p>7 8:00pm "Online Compline</p> 	<p>8 Janice & John LaCapra's anniversary</p>	
<p>10 8:30 & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>  <p>9:45am ACE</p> <p>12:45 ECW</p> 	<p>11 8:00pm "Online Compline</p> <p>John & Faye Cooper's anniversary</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13 5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing Service</p> 	<p>14 8:00pm "Online Compline</p> <p>Gena Rankin's birthday</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16 6pm Skiles Hall Clans of Ireland Dinner</p> <p>Art Yergey's birthday</p> 
<p>17 8:30 & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>  <p>9:45am ACE</p> <p>Mike Galleher's birthday</p>	<p>18 8:00pm "Online Compline</p> <p>Henry McGuire's birthday</p> 	<p>19 5:30pm Men's Night Out</p> <p>Barbara Pariseau, Kazuko Ehrhardt, and Jennifer Henigin's birthday</p> 	<p>20 5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing Service</p>  <p>Lisa Griffin's birthday</p>	<p>21 8:00pm "Online Compline</p> 	<p>22 Deborah and Mike Galleher's anniversary</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)</p> <p>8:30 & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>  <p>9:45 Crafting Palm Crosses</p>	<p>25 8:00pm "Online Compline</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27 5:30pm "Mary's Way of the Cross"</p> <p>Bob Bondi, Alana Starkey and Chuck Canady's birthday</p> 	<p>28 7:00pm Holy Thursday service (Holy Eucharist & Footwashing)</p> <p>8:30pm Silent Vigil</p> <p>David Yate's birthday</p> 	<p>29 Good Friday</p> <p>12pm Walking the Stations of the Cross</p> <p>7:00pm The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday</p> 	<p>30 9:30am Holy Saturday Morning Prayer</p> <p>Judy & Ted Nye's anniversary</p> 
<p>31 Easter Sunday</p> <p>Bring a bell!</p> <p>8:30am & 11:00am Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>9:45 Easter brunch</p> 	<p><i>(From March 21: Jim Toomey's birthday</i></p> <p><i>John Goodrich & Mary Willis' anniversary)</i></p>					



Notes from the Attic — Dedy Traver

Tom Eshelman, former Director of the Valle Crucis Conference Center, did an amazing job of cataloging the history and photographs of the Valle Crucis Mission School. Tom shared with me some information he had received about Ida Ten Eyck O'Keefe who was an art teacher at the Mission School during the 1930's. (And yes, she was the sister of Georgia O'Keefe!) Some of us had heard a story that there was a mural that had been painted on a wall in one of the Mission School buildings. Tom had been over every inch of wall space in the buildings but no mural! The information Tom received was an article from the Charlotte News (circa 1934) and copies of photographs of "The Mural". It turns out that the mural was 200 feet by 3 feet and was evidently painted on about 14 pieces of canvas! The mural depicts the history of Valle Crucis Mission from Daniel Boone, Asa Gray the botanist, Valle Crucis Abbey, the Indians, the school teacher at the Mission who fell in love with the miller and married him, mobilizing for the Civil War to the Valle Crucis Mission Church! There were also some photos of the corn husk dolls made by children in the first grade at the Mission School. And a photograph of original designs painted on furniture by students in the fourth grade in 1934. No one knows what happened to the mural but we do have copies of the photos in the Ives Log Cabin so please stop by the cabin to look at these amazing photos! Below are excerpts from the newspaper article.

America Tired of French Art, Avows Teacher Miss Ida Ten Eyck O'Keefe, Art Teacher, Here From Her Valle Crucis Studio

"American people are tired of the French influence in their art. They want to see the genuine American influence now. And just as the middle west has built up a tradition of modern art for itself, so can the south." It was Miss Ida Ten Eyck O'Keefe, art teacher and painter of murals from Valle Crucis, who made that statement here in Charlotte, where she had come to see the famous Samuel H. Kress collection of Italian paintings at the Charlotte Woman's club. Miss O'Keefe is herself a distinguished artist and is the sister of Georgia O'Keefe of New York, whose canvasses have won her the distinction of being one of the foremost of modern American artists and one whose work is in demand at all the modern galleries. At Valle Crucis here in North Carolina Miss Ida O'Keefe has been studying the folk background and traditions of the state and then translating them into the realm of art. What Professor F.H. Koch at Chapel Hill has done in folk drama, Lamar Stringfield in folk music and Richard Chase in folk dance, Miss O'Keefe is doing in painting. The murals she has already painted for the Valle Crucis Abbey picture the early Indians in North Carolina, the wild life and the flowers, then later scenes of the folk history of the community. "In Charlotte there are events and objects equally as interesting," she said. "Recently the Midwest has come to the forefront in art through such painters as Grant Wood and Curry. Since the depression America has paid much more attention to art and its artists than ever before, and the government has even started to encourage art. Now it is time for the south to make itself known as an art center." Miss O'Keefe was especially interested in the Mint Art Museum in Eastover, which she visited with Mrs. Harold C. Dwelle. "This museum should be made a center of art activities for the south," she declared. "With it as a starting point, you could develop a wonderful native art, encourage the genius in the community and begin to build up an art reputation like that now possessed by the Midwest." Discussing the new interest in art, Miss O'Keefe pointed out that even commercial objects were being made more beautiful and artistic. "In New York," she said, "the people are demanding that their spoons and pots and pans be artistic. And if the south does not develop artistically and culturally, soon the manufactured objects refused by people in such centers as New York because they are ugly will simply be dumped into the south. Art education through the Museum would be of great value in teaching the community to value beauty."



“Enlarge our hearts and with compassion fill us to love, to serve, to follow you alone.” (Rosalind Brown)

Thoughtful March greetings to one and all! As we journey through the season of Lent, we enter a “month of many colors”. We begin the month in Lent, traverse all of Holy Week, and land in Easter! Here are the musical highlights to note at our upcoming March services.

Sunday, March 3 brings our Holy Cross Handbell Choir as we play the Offertory anthem that day. The music is a meditative setting of a familiar Lenten hymn, *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*. Terry Kirkland arranged this traditional hymn for two octaves of bells. The first verse features the melody in the upper notes, while the second verse elongates the melody and shifts it between the lowest bells and the inner voices. A simple ostinato accompanies the melody to complete the hymn and set the tone for contemplation. This hymn appears as #498 in our *1982 Hymnal*.

Sunday, March 10 marks the arrival of an anthem originally scheduled for January 21: *Bless the Lord, O My Soul* by Mikhail Ippolitof-Ivanov. Here, the composer brilliantly captures the tight harmonies, rhythms, and musical movements of Russian Orthodox church music in a choral setting of Psalm 103. [Note that services on January 21 were cancelled due to snow/ice.]

March 17 is both the fifth Sunday in Lent and St. Patrick’s Day! We debut a new anthem, *Hymn of St. Patrick* by Dwight Beal. This paraphrase of the *Prayer of St. Patrick* offers a contemporary setting with Celtic music influences. The piece begins in the key of D minor, transitions to F Major; then returns to the D minor theme. The anthem creates a very solid and appealing adaptation of the text, for which the composer generously provided free scores! He had a simple request: that the music be encouraged for inclusion in the CCLI listing (Christian Copyright Licensing International). I was happy to honor that call, and guess what? CCLI is now reaching out to him! We are in for an Irish musical treat on this special Sunday!

March 24 begins Holy Week with Palm Sunday and the anthem, *Hosanna to the Son of David*. This traditional opening antiphon for the day is composed by Tomás Luis de Victoria, a master of Renaissance polyphony. The antiphon, a brief sentence from scripture (Mark 11:9-10), sets the stage for the liturgical moment of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. The composer intricately weaves the SATB voices together in a seamless fashion. Each part develops from a prior entrance, with texts presented at different times and in various rhythms before culminating in a grand cadence.

Maundy Thursday occurs on March 28. The Offertory this evening is a seldom-sung hymn, *You Laid Aside Your Rightful Reputation* (WLP #734). Contemporary English poet, Rosalind Brown, penned the text. The music was written by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry. A well-known British music scholar and composer, Parry was an influential teacher of several musical elite, including R. Vaughan Williams, Host, and Elgar. He passed away in 1918, a victim of the Spanish flu pandemic. This hymn marries a Maundy Thursday text (Jesus’ command to love and serve), with a carefully crafted tune. The chordal structure and melody are reminiscent of Johann Sebastian Bach, whom Parry studied thoroughly.

March 29 is Good Friday and the choral anthem brings an updated version of a famous hymn with Gregg Sewell’s *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*. This reflective setting begins with a series of ever-ascending melodic intervals. This gentle uplifting points toward a secure faith, despite a very difficult text. Accompanied by rich, flowing harmonies, the music conveys assurance and peace—a vital message for this solemn day when God chose to save us from our sins.

Easter Sunday finally arrives on March 31 and we celebrate at both 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with full Choir, Brass, and Organ! The Offertory on this joyful day is *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing* arranged by Robert A. Benson. This quintessential anthem of Easter celebration is enhanced by energetic brass parts in dialogue with the Choir and organ. Once again, we are blessed to welcome an All-Faculty Brass from ASU: Dr. James Stokes (trumpet), Mr. Brent Bingham (trumpet), and Dr. Joseph Brown (trombone)!

March brings hope, renewal, and peace. May you feel God’s presence within you, beside you, beneath you, and above you.

-----Elaine Kallestal



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Diocese of Western North Carolina
The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin, Rector

Elaine Kallestad, Choir Director/Organist

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Andrea McDonough (2024), Senior Warden

Walter Browning (2024), Patty Dilley (2024), Craig Adams (2025), Tav Gauss (2025), Darby Logan (2025),

Doris Boulton (2026), Terry Fulton (2026), Angela Williams (2026)

Officers

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer

Dedy Traver, Clerk

Church of the Holy Cross

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March Newsletter