



Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church

The Sunday News

March 15, 2015

COLLECT FOR THE DAY – THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – YEAR B

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

LESSONS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – YEAR B

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites were set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 3:14-21

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

1. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
2. Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
3. He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
17. Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
18. They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
19. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
20. He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
21. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
22. Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Vestry

| | |
|---|----------|
| Jan Krumel – <i>Parish Life</i> | 664-6256 |
| Pete Sale – <i>Outreach</i> | 928-7835 |
| Laurie Smith – <i>Communications</i> | 360-4438 |
| Mark Stehle – <i>Building and Grounds</i> | 360-4694 |
| John Syme – <i>Worship Support</i> | 770-8317 |

Staff

The Rev. Mark S. Forbes, *Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Sally Brower, *Assisting Rector*
Beryl Frey, *Parish Administrator*
Julie Lynch, *Financial Secretary*
Mark Fowler, *Youth Director*
Stacey Fox, *Children's Director*
Jayne Sprinkle, *Music Director*

Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church

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Office Hours

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

COMMISSIONING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Celebrant: Living God, be strongly present with _____ as she delivers communion to _____.

People: **May hearts be kindled, bodies restored, and hope enlivened. Our prayers go with you.**

THIS WEEK AT SAINT PATRICK'S

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|---------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday, March 15 | 9:30 a.m. | Lectionary Bible Study | Youth Room |
| | Noon | Youth Meeting | Youth Room |
| Monday, March 16 | 6:30 p.m. | EFM | Rector's Office |
| Tuesday, March 17 | 6:00 p.m. | Centering Prayer | Sanctuary |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room |
| Wednesday, March 18 | 9:30 a.m. | Midweek Eucharist | Sanctuary |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Centering Prayer | Sanctuary |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Daughters of the King | Library |
| | 11:40 a.m. | Preschool Chapel | Sanctuary |

Welcome to our Visitors and Newcomers

We are happy to have you with us. This service is part of our ongoing life of worship, learning and service. We are here to deepen our relationship with God and with one another, and to explore how to live our lives more fully and compassionately. Please know that you are invited to participate in all aspects of our worship, most importantly by sharing with us in our common meal at God's Table.

We invite you to continue the journey with us; ask questions, attend our educational offerings, participate in the activities of this community. We invite you to return again next week for Eucharist at 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. Please be aware that we offer a nursery for children ages three and under. The nursery is located just down the hallway in the education wing.

Those persons serving our community this morning:

8:30 - Acolyte/Lector/LEM: Bob Millikin

10:30 a.m. - Chalice Bearers: Jon Ramsey, Wes Bryant; Lectors: Steve Messick, Youth slot; Psalm and POP: Laurie Smith; Acolyte Leader: Steve Messick; Altar Guild: Betty Chalker, Martha Jones, Rick Krumel; Lay Minister of Healing: Linda Bondurant; Ushers: Bob and Peggy Smith, Charles and Jan Lamm; Greeters: Carol Miller; Gaby and Ray Fulton; Counters: John Azali, Julie Lynch; Coffee Hour Team: Barbra and Gordon Bryan; Nursery Volunteer: Lee Ritter; Children's Chapel: Kristen Forbes.

ALTAR GREENERY GIVEN BY LAURIE AND JULIE SMITH

The greens on the pedestal in front of the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Laurie and Julie Smith. They are given in thanksgiving for God's Endless Love.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN STUDY TOPICS AND EXPANSION

In this Sunday's Lenten Study session, Richard Rohr encourages human transformation toward a deeper consciousness of God's presence in all things. This is the profound calling of Christ's Incarnation. In the following week's session (March 22), Richard Rohr encourages a religious paradigm beyond moral legalism to one that embraces transformative sacred experience. Expanding these current offerings, we are adding an additional session on Sunday, April 12th, which is the Sunday after Easter. This session with Richard Rohr will fittingly focus on an enlarged theological perspective of the cosmic Christ.



SOLAS LEIGHIS CONCERT SERIES TO PRESENT KIM ROBERTSON – THIS EVENING

Kim Robertson will perform at Saint Patrick's this evening at 7:00 pm. An acclaimed Celtic harpist, Kim is a composer, performer and recording artist. Her performances feature lyrical, heart-touching music, played with delicacy, grace and skill. Invite a friend and come enjoy this beautiful music. If you are planning to attend, please bring a finger food for the reception. For more details, visit our website at www.saint-patricks.org.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Inspiring and cultivating sacred connections with God and one another
as we embrace diversity of spiritual thought, practice and being.

Inspire-Connect-Embrace-Share

PULSE OF VISION AND MISSION

We are called to share the love of God through *sharing* our blessings with the needy in our broader community. The summary below demonstrates how we *shared* through St. Patrick's Outreach initiatives in 2014.

- ***Angel Tree:*** Provided Christmas gifts to 88 children in Mooresville area by working through community programs.
- ***Just One Can:*** Over 2,300 pounds of food and household supplies provided to the greater Mooresville area.
- ***Mooresville Soup Kitchen:*** Prepared over 2,000 meals that feed those in need within our community.
- ***Room in the Inn (RITI):*** Provided comfort, shelter and meals to 90 homeless adults and children during the winter.
- ***School Backpack Program:*** Provided school supplies, food, haircuts, books and shoes to local school children.
- ***Solace for the Children:*** Hosted two children and an interpreter in our homes while their critical medical needs were met.
- ***North Carolina Diocesan Harvest:*** As a parish we contributed \$5,500 to assist North Carolina migrant farmworkers.
- ***Taste of Wine:*** Supported fun raising that donated over \$1,100 to Mooresville-Lake Norman Christian Mission.
- ***Be the Sermon:*** Worked together to package 10,000 nutritious meals as part of the "Stop Hunter Now" project.

THE SEASON OF LENT: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Why is the seating configuration different for Lent?

Lent is typically a time to reflect upon our separation from God, to reflect honestly upon the gulf of sin which separates us from the presence of God. This seating arrangement symbolizes the separation. The altar, symbolic of God's presence, no longer sits in our midst, but is now spatially separated from the congregation. Also, we no longer witness to the incarnate Christ by looking into one another's faces. Rather, we are now all facing forward, looking across the spatial separation to God's altar.

Why a silent procession during Lent?

Focusing on the reality of sin, the traditional tone of Lent is a bit somber. But only for Monday through Saturday. On Sundays we break the tone and celebrate the Easter event in which we know that sin ultimately holds no sway in God's kingdom. Due to modern culture, however, most of us do not experience the Monday through Saturday Lenten tone. By processing in silence and beginning with the Ten Commandments, we seek to capture a bit of this lost essence.

Why the Ten Commandments?

Reciting the Ten Commandments is a ritual recognition of our shortcomings. In sum, we are deficient in loving God and neighbor with the fullness of our hearts. We do not engage this ritual to illicit guilt, nor to incite us to strive harder (though we should). Rather, we engage this ritual to encourage us to repent--that is, to turn prayerfully to God and acknowledge our dependence on Him for the cleansing of sin, sin being all that which separates us from full love of God and people.

Why is the altar draped in purple?

The altar, lectern, and clergy stoles change color according to the church season. Purple is the traditional color reminding us of our call to repentance--to return our focus to God and away from all those things which distract us from keeping our hearts centered in God. In doing so, we prepare ourselves for the interior blooming of faith, the Easter experience.

Why are we veiling the processional cross during Lent?

The cross symbolizes resurrection, our destined awakening into the fullness of God's glory. Separated from God by sin, the veil reminds us that the power of Christ's resurrection has not yet been fully realized. But take heart....Easter will come!