

EPISTLE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, Ohio

Helping all people find a connection to God's community.

April 2021

Dear Friends,

Several years ago I noticed a trend in our country. It was April, and in the church we were celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In our country, however, cries of grief and anger followed the sounds of violence that had erupted in some locations.

That particular year saw the massacre at Virginia Tech. I checked some history, and found that April also included Columbine, Oklahoma City, and several other acts of terrorism. I remarked to my congregation that it seemed that evil was working overtime to counter our proclamation of new life and resurrection.

This year, it seems evil has gotten a head start on us. In fact, I have just read that the year 2000 saw the highest murder rate in recent history. And, as April begins this year, we remember the most famous murder in human history.

That's what the crucifixion of Jesus was—murder. It was born out of a conspiracy between religious and political leaders, who both sought to eliminate a thorn in their respective sides. Rome went along with it because of its fear of Jesus being seen as a new king, threatening their worship of the emperor as the bringer of peace. Religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus because he revealed their teachings to be self-serving and not really what God intended.

Both sides, religious and political, exhibit what we now call identity politics. If one is self-identified as the giver and keeper of peace, but chooses to achieve it through oppression, then there really is no peace. And if the other says to be included you have to be just like them, but that gets challenged by none other than God-made-flesh, then you have to eliminate the threat, even if it represents what you've said you wanted all along.

During the Easter season, we'll hear again the stories of the early church from The Acts of the Apostles. We'll also hear from one of the letters to the early church not written by Paul. This year, it's First John. Next year, it's Revelation. Fun times ahead, folks.

We're not sure who wrote the three letters of John, but they have some similarity to themes from the Gospel of John. In the first letter, a major theme is Love. Not the emotional feeling, but the very real activity of God shown toward creation itself. In fact, I believe (gotta love that paradox!) that when we love, or feel love, or act lovingly in some way, it is a sign of God's presence among us. "God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God in them." (1 John 4:16b)

We will hear a lot of the First Letter of John during the seven Sundays of Easter. I invite you to spend some time reading the whole letter, and the other two, which are shorter. Use it as inspiration and meditation. Then use it again as a mirror. Will we see ourselves reflected in the words of the letter? If so, then read it again in gratitude for God's presence. If not, then, as John teaches us, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and we turn again to him in repentance so that we can join him in the renewal of life we celebrate in his resurrection.

It's the best way we have to counter the evil around us. Sadly, it seems we have a lot of work to do.

--Wayne+

A Statement of Mission



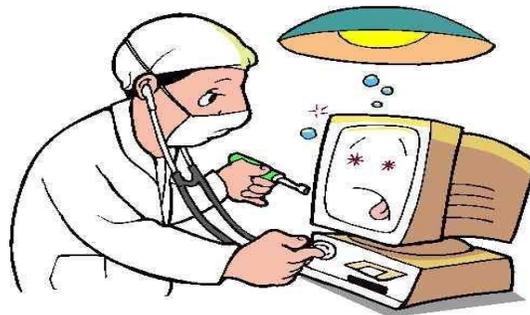
As Episcopalians in the
Diocese of Southern Ohio,
we commit to:

- † Know the common story
Deut. 11:18-21
- † Proclaim our common
faith
Matt. 28:19-20
- † Pray our common prayer
1 Thess. 5:16-19
- † Drink the common cup
Mark 10:38
- † Serve the common good
Matt. 25:37-40

In the name of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ.
This is our common
ministry.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

In the pre-digital era of television, we would sometimes see a pattern on the screen telling us of technical difficulties. We've been experiencing some of those with our streaming services. In order to avoid these as much as possible, we will move to recording the service, and then upload the recording for viewing on Facebook. It's not ideal, but with interruptions in internet service and other unplanned difficulties (such as upgrading software, which has happened), this seems to be the best way to be consistent. As more folks are receiving vaccinations for the Covid-19 virus, we are opening up to more in-person services, but will continue to stream these services as well.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Good Friday, April 2

Easter Sunday, April 4

Pentecost, May 23

Trinity Sunday, May 30



LITURGICAL NOTES

During the Easter Season, we'll be doing some familiar things in new ways. We'll start singing a bit more during worship, adding the sung *Sursum corda* and Sanctus, sung *a cappella*. We'll do the same at the Fraction. At the Sequence, instead of singing a hymn, we'll use parts of a hymn that includes the refrain, *Alleluia*. The refrain will be sung solo, then by all, then we'll sing a verse or two in the manner of the historical Gospel Acclamations still in use in some traditions.

We will also try a different way of receiving Holy Communion, including the cup. The bread will be distributed at the foot of the chancel steps as we have been doing. Then, those who wish to receive the wine may move up the steps toward the altar, where a Lay Eucharistic Minister will pour consecrated wine into an individual cup and give it to you. Those who desire the cup but cannot manage the steps can have it brought to you in your pew. You will then move toward the Sacristy to consume the wine, and through the sacristy where a receptacle will be available for the cup. This way we can respectfully dispose of any remaining wine in the cup by returning it to the earth, while observing some safe practices made necessary by the coronavirus pandemic.

Masks will continue to be worn, and we ask that movement continue through the sacristy, then out through the lounge and back into the nave. It might take a bit of fine-tuning as we go on, but it will be how we define normal for awhile.

Date/Proper	Readings	Assistants	Flowers*	Offertory
April 1, 2021 Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1, 10-17 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Peter Hemer, Lector	none	Kim Bohler
April 2, 2021 Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1-19:42	Kim Bohler, Lector Marlene Harvey, Passion Narrator Chris Nelson, P. Reader	none	none
April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Mark 16:1-8	Marty Davis, Lector Jan Dunwoody, LEM/ Prayers Peter Hemer, Usher	Jan & Chris Nelson	Kim Bohler
April 11, 2021 Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	Chris Nelson, Lector PJ Brumbaugh, LEM/ Prayers Dick Mote, Usher	Mara Cox	MaryAnn Cornell
April 18, 2021 Third Sunday of East- er	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36-b-48	Peter Hemer, Lector tba, LEM/Prayers Peter Hemer, Usher	Karrie Quigney	tba
April 25, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>Good Shepherd Sun- day</i>	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Kim Bohler, Lector tba, LEM/Prayers Dick Mote, Usher	Duane Johnson	tba

*Please notify the office of flower dedication by noon on the Tuesday before the Sunday listed.

St. Paul's has two resources for information on the internet. Our webpage, www.stpaulsgreenville.org, has issues of *The Epistle* available, as well as other information about the parish. On Facebook.com/episcopalgreenvilleohio, you can find worship services available for viewing for most Sundays, and other information that we share from time to time.

On that Facebook page, a private group has been formed so that we can share information that doesn't necessarily need to be shared with the wider public. One of those things is a video recording of our Annual Meeting, held on February 21. In order to view this, or anything else that might be added to the group page, you must respond to an invitation. And in order to get the invitation, Facebook protocols require you to have recently "liked" the St. Paul's page. Then we can click on your name and send the invitation, which you can then accept and gain access to the group page.

We are also exploring using this same process for things like Bible Study or other meetings. We can use this page which will allow invited persons to join in the discussion, and participate by video or chat during the live meeting. However, you must be a Facebook member to do this, and that differs from being able to view services on the main page.

We could also set up a Zoom account to get a wider audience, but Zoom is time-limited to 40 minutes for each meeting unless we buy an institutional subscription. If you are interested in any of these possibilities, please let Fr. Wayne know so that it can be arranged and invitations sent out.

April 2021

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
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TO CONTACT US

Office Hours

10 AM – 3 PM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

937-548-5575

www.stpaulsgreenville.org

Amy Addis, Church Secretary

office@stpaulsgreenville.org

The Rev. E. Wayne Rollins, Priest-in-Charge

wrollins@stpaulsgreenville.org

Home phone 937-459-4906

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

201 S. Broadway Street

Greenville, OH 45331