



It goes without saying that this newsletter comes to you in the midst of an experience that none of us imagined. When we started our Lenten journey this season, little did we know how different our everyday lives would be. We have adapted as best we could to living with new rules to protect ourselves and our community from COVID-19. Faith community that we are, we found new ways of "gathering" together in order to check on one another and to "pass the peace of God" electronically.

As far as we know, locally no one has tested positive for the disease. It is still a difficult time for all of us because of the uncertainty, whether we live alone and whether we have family living near or far. Personally, we are a family of first responders and frontline caregivers and we never take their wellbeing for granted.

In spite of what life has thrown at us, our Hope is in the Lord!

In a week, our liturgical calendar will be filled with observances from Palm Sunday through Easter. During our self-isolation, I hope you will pause, without TV updates, smartphones or Facebook, to reflect on the events that happened 2000 years ago. Each event has meaning and is significant in relation to each of the others that follow. Try to focus on them separately even though we already know the end of the story. Here is one way to look at how the week progressed:

Without Jesus' "triumphal" ride into Jerusalem, there would be no "last supper".

Without the "last supper", there would be no Eucharist for us.

Without the betrayal at Gethsemane, there would be no trial.

Without the trial, there would be no crucifixion.

Without the crucifixion, there would be no entombment.

Without the empty tomb, there would be no resurrection.

Without the resurrection, there would be no witnesses to Jesus' power to overcome death.

By His resurrection and our belief in Him, we have been given eternal life.

Oh, I guess I was wrong. This is NOT the end of the story. By His Resurrection, we too have been reborn. We have a new life in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen, indeed!

Peter McIntosh, Junior Warden

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday, drive thru Palm reception and **live-streaming**.

Thursday, April 9, 5:00 p.m. live-streamed Maundy Thursday Service.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between preserving
their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

By: Cameron Bellm



St. Paul's Live-Streaming of Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday: on **Palm Sunday, April 5th**, **All** are invited to participate in the distribution of the palm. We will be "staying Church," and practicing our physical distancing, as we join together for this worship and fellowship. It will be a **Drive-Thru event**. You and your family will not get out of your car. Fr. Bill will officiate the service. Complete details will be emailed/mailed to you. The **Maundy Thursday** service will be **lived-streamed at 5:00 pm, April 9th** so that **All** will have the opportunity to stay connected and be Church during Holy Week with the parish family. Only Fr. Bill and the necessary Lay persons will physically be present at St. Paul's. On Good Friday and for the Great Vigil, Bishop Sutton has asked that the whole Diocese worship together via livestream from the Cathedral of the Incarnation.

OUR TIME, TREASURE, AND TALENT AND THE CHURCH

Bishop Sutton, at one of the clergy webinars, said rather bluntly, "The Church will definitely take a financial hit" during this COVID-19 pandemic!" (My paraphrase, working from my challenged memory!). Articles are now coming out about this in the various church-related publications too. **The end result may turn out to be a rather profound Maundy Thursday-like "stripping of the altars" experience for many dioceses and parishes, a stripping down to the few things essential.** That is, to the hearing of the Word and rightly preaching it, to the celebration of the Eucharist, and other sacraments, and sharing in these and living them out as best we can.

If the rule of taking care of what is nearest to us in space and time holds true, likely the needs of family will come first, and should, for after all, the family is the body of Christ, the domestic Church. Next, then, might come the needs of our various parish families and their church buildings and campuses. A little further out are the diocesan offices, with their bishops, staffs, and the pastoral needs of the larger diocese. Even further out would be the work of our primate and presiding bishop, Bishop Michael Curry, along with his staff. And we can continue to extend this out, on to the primate of our Anglican Communion as a whole, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to his important work of promoting our world-wide unity as Anglicans and our ecumenical outreach with other communions in the body of Christ, and beyond. If you are feeling a little dizzy, well, I guess that would be normal. And we haven't even mentioned our social and political and global connections, pressures, and obligations! All of these constitute a seamless web, ricocheting off of one another!

Truth be told, we often cannot predict at any one moment which of all these constitutes the greater need which must be met first. But perhaps one of these we can recognize as the greatest priority just now: the COVID-19 pandemic.

Likely you have heard the pastoral advice to the effect that, when it comes to giving to the Church's needs, we should keep in mind the gifts of time, treasure, and talent. The way this is commonly interpreted is to suggest that some people are able to give of all three at any one time, some perhaps of only one or two. "Treasure" is code for "money," and some can give of this rather readily. "Time" is code for how we use our time, and some are more able to give of this to the Church. And "talent" is code for our particular gifts, which we can share, namely, teaching, baby care, youth work, music, worship needs, care of the parish campus, etc. This is

all a time-tested way to think of Church gifting, and it works more or less well, as long as we try to do a bit of all three as much as we can.

I would like to make the plea that we think of ourselves, all of us, the body of Christ, as the most important treasure of all. We need to do whatever we can to nourish the life of this body, in terms of time, talent, and “treasure” in the narrower sense of money.

Most of us “know” the body of Christ in a particularly powerful way in our families and our parishes. It is through these that we come to know the other manifestations of the body of Christ in the larger world.

Please try not to forget our St. Paul’s community during this challenging time. Your time, treasure, and talent is greatly needed and much to be thanked for. And it has been much on display, which has been and is so inspiring.

Your time: staying in touch with one another, phoning/emailing, especially our more elderly and alone; practicing the ministry of intercessory prayers for one another, the “quickest, most direct route to another”; visiting our parish website and Facebook page, and sharing with it; attending the “services” made available, such as the drive-through distribution of palms on Palm Sunday (I will distribute them *with gloves* to each car in the parking lot, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 5, which is Palm Sunday); visiting the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland website for the Holy Week services (to be announced), etc.

Your talent: we need to dig deep and ask ourselves, what are the gifts God has given each of us, which we may be able to share in some way with others? And in these times, without endangering them? Please feel free to share your ideas on our Facebook site!!! Who knows, if this social-distancing continues much longer, perhaps we can set up a group on zoom or Skype and share in weekly prayers and perhaps even the Eucharist online. Why not? Perhaps the Lord is calling us to brave this new digital universe in a more profound way?

Your treasure: as mentioned, your time and your talent are part of your treasure. You – that is the people of God – ARE our greatest treasure! “Behold what you are! We are the body of Christ!” Which is another way of saying: “We are Christ’s Treasure!”

Our money is our “treasure” with a small “t,” so to speak. But still this is very important, and much needed. Our Senior Warden, Jeff Spaulding, and the Vestry continue to ask each of us to follow through on our pledging and other cash donations, to the extent that we can. These times will stretch us, and we may need to give, not from our surplus, but from our necessary funds, like the poor widow Jesus mentioned:

“[Jesus] looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on’” (Luke 21:1-4).

In these times, in a sense we may all be poor widows!

“All will be well, all will be well, all manner of thing shall be well” (Blessed Julian of Norwich),

Father Bill+

Pledge Payment Options

1 Mail checks to St. Paul's. Please remember to including your Holy Week special offerings (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter) building fund, and flower/altar/other donations, in addition to your pledge or regular contribution.

2 Payments can be made through the Diocese.

Directions: go to www.episcopalmaryland.org

On home page - click on "Give to My Congregation"

Scroll down to St. Paul's, Mt. Airy. Put in pledge/donation amount

Fill in bottom of the form. Click on submit payment.

Your name/pledge/donation will be sent to St. Paul's. As usual, St. Paul's will properly record your financial gift.

Stewardship and Scrip: "For a time such as this," when we all have to buy groceries, get gas, go to the pharmacy etc., for your convenience **Scrip is available.**

This is an important way to help St. Paul's financially. Contact Pete McIntosh by phone, 410-984-3363 or email, pjmacin@aol.com, to place an order. The challenge to buy at least \$100 worth of gift cards each month is still on. So during this troublesome time perhaps you can double this amount. Thanking you in advance for your support. Peter McIntosh, Chair.



Bishop Sutton has said, "Stay calm. Stay connected. Stay Church."

Here are a few worship opportunities to help us stay calm (prayerful, mindful, and present); to stay connected (socially and spiritually gathered) and stay/be Church (liturgy, music, prayers, Word, sending-out).

Sunday Eucharist; Morning Prayer; Noonday Prayer; Weekday Bible Study; Evening Prayer;

Compline, can be found www.episcopalmaryland.org; www.edow.org;

www.episcopalchurch.org and at **several local churches websites**, such as St. Andrews, Glenwood; St. James, Mt. Airy; All Saints, Frederick; St. John's, Ellicott City; Christ Church, Columbia. All of these parishes and many more are livestreaming their services. You can find them by googling their name or searching their Facebook page.

Our Presiding Bishop and Primate invites all to join him each Monday morning at ten for "Habits of Grace." This video can be found on the National Church website.

Lent to Resurrection: One way to look at our unfinished Lenten Soup and Study is to say we are in a liminal time. A space between no longer (right now) and not yet. How fitting, our theme: *Mosaic: Broken Pieces Brought Together by God for Service and His Glory* is for this moment. COVID - 19 is providing a space for brokenness and unity as we all come together in service to one another, and indeed the world during this Lent of uncertainty. As Christ has shown us, we know there is Resurrection. So, we may be in an advent pattern right at this moment. In the meantime, we will practice love by maintaining our physical distance and

enhancing our spiritual connections. Our *Mosaic* will become whole/finished when we meet again . . . a joyful rebirth and resurrection.
Pastor Paula Canby and Carrie A. Brown

YOU ARE THE VITALITY OF ST. PAUL’S:

NOW, more than before, we ask you **to review and meditate on the vitality of our parish.** The members of your Long-Term Planning Committee for St. Paul’s have come to understand that God is resurrecting the church community into new life. We see this as part of the life-cycle of this living organization. The committee members have discovered this through prayer, reflection, personal stories and discussion. On December 8th, during coffee hour, Fr. Bill facilitated the discussion as to where St. Paul’s is, right now, on the Life Cycle Chart. At the Annual Meeting a written report of this committee was presented. Please re-read it. Then, with fresh eyes, answer the following questions again.

Where/how are you finding joy at St. Paul’s? Where/how are you finding purpose here? Where/how are you finding your connection to God at St. Paul’s? Are your answers the same as they were before when you were asked these questions; or are they different? **Perhaps, now, having more time at home, you can jot down your answers and revisit them with new lenses as we move through unsettle and yet hopeful times.**

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday, drive thru Palm reception and **live-streaming.**

Thursday, April 9, 5:00 p.m. **live-streamed Maundy Thursday Service.**

St. Paul’s Nearly New Thrift Shop:

Thrift Shop closed till further notice due to COVID-19

Please hold on to your donations till we are back in business.

One stop for all of your apparel/shoes (Infant – Adult) and household needs at bargain prices!
Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 11:30 – 3:00 p.m. Come and see all of our affordable items including, toys, books, CDs and DVDs.

The Thrift Shop needs volunteers to man the store at least one day a month on a regular basis and helpers to sort and restock on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Happy Birthday to:

Kathleen Alexander	April 07
Phyllis Heffner	April 12



Happy Anniversary to:

Jeff & Holly Spaulding	April 22
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Lord, Hear Our Prayers.

Prayers for healing are an integral part of our worship. Especially now, we need to pray for All and call or send a note those who are shut in.

If you have additions/deletions to the prayer list please call or email the Parish Office.

Prayer List

Nancy McIntosh; Sandra & Stanley Napier; Gerlinde Phlaumer-Yeater; Natalie Gahm; Trudi & Dave Lawson; Pat Marquis; Landon Reeve; Bryan Landry; Terri Coates; Susan; Pam; Trish; Ruth; Joe; Sandra; Bill; Phyllis Heffner, Susan Kelley, Jaxon & Nathan Buckley, the Fentons; Erin, Shawn, Peyton, Maddy, Doris Sharp; Jean Ellen Vinson



Prayer for Healing

*Almighty God, you are the only source of health and healing. In you there is calm, and the only true peace in the universe. Grant to each one of us your children an awareness of your presence, and give us perfect confidence in you. In all pain and weariness and anxiety teach us to yield ourselves to your never failing care, knowing that your love and power surround us, trusting in your wisdom and providence to give us health and strength and peace when your time is best; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Pastoral Concerns

Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. Please contact the church office, (410) 489-4411, email: stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net

Vestry Officers & Members

Jeff Spaulding: Senior Warden
Pete McIntosh: Junior Warden
Treasurer: Linda Sharp
Registrar: Nancy McIntosh
Wendy Gahm William Toole
Kathleen Alexander Stephen Jones
Suzanne Bourg Phyllis Weston

VISION STATEMENT

Our Vision is: A community of faith ministering to those in need of justice, reconciliation, hospitality, sanctuary, and growth in their spiritual journey.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is: To carry the good news of Jesus Christ into the community by word and deed and to help all people experience God's presence in their daily lives.



St. Paul's "A Shining Light in the Community"

Prayer List Request Form

Please help us to refresh our prayer list! Take a minute to list those people that you want included on the list and mail to the parish office.

For 3 months _____ Prayers requested for: _____
Long-term _____ Submitted by: _____
Date Submitted _____

Prayer for Healing & Help

Almighty God, you know that we are surrounded by many great dangers,
and because of our human frailty we cannot withstand them.

Give us health of mind and body so that we who suffer under sin
may overcome and win the victory in you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Dear Family in Christ, our friend and brother,

Here is a jewel from our *Book of Common Prayer* (p. 461), which you may find helpful just now:

"THIS IS ANOTHER DAY, O LORD. I KNOW NOT WHAT IT WILL BRING FORTH, BUT MAKE ME READY, LORD, FOR WHATEVER IT MAY BE. IF I AM TO STAND UP, HELP ME TO STAND BRAVELY. IF I AM TO SIT STILL, HELP ME TO SIT QUIETLY. IF I AM TO LIE LOW, HELP ME TO DO IT PATIENTLY. AND IF I AM TO DO NOTHING, LET ME DO IT GALLANTLY. MAKE THESE WORDS MORE THAN WORDS, AND GIVE ME THE SPIRIT OF JESUS. AMEN."

Together in the body of Christ,
Father Bill