



THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

EASTER CHEER: PEACE BE WITH YOU

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

On the second Sunday of Easter each year the gospel reading is a *pericope* (extract of a scriptural text) that includes story of Thomas' encounter with the resurrected Jesus some days after his resurrection and after he already visited the other 10 disciples. This particular face to face between Thomas and Jesus takes place a week after the resurrection. The visit in Thomas' absence occurs on the very day the resurrection is said to have taken place. In the morning he speaks to Mary Magdalene at the tomb, and that evening he visits the disciples. In John's version this was a very busy resurrection day for the disciples and I presume, very unsettling. When they wake up in the morning Jesus is dead, not long after, they hear that the body is not in the tomb. A little while later Mary Magdalene tells them she has spoken with him. That night he appears to them, behind closed doors and breathes the Holy Spirit upon them; John's Pentecost has happened.

As I read and meditate on John 20: 19-31, I realize that a very important piece can easily go overlooked. Jesus' double offering of peace: *Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you."* Though they had heard Mary Magdalene's story of her conversation with the risen *Rabbouni* (as she calls him in verse 16), they locked themselves in the room because of fear, so the first offering of peace was not met with the spirit in which it was given. It is only after he shows his pierced hands and wounded side that they recognize him and rejoice. The second greeting receives a different response. It is easy to read this portion of scripture, even starting from Jesus' entry to Jerusalem, through crucifixion and his resurrection

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THE ST. PAUL'S SWARM

By Alice Brilmayer

You may have guessed by now that I'm not good at organizing a team and delegating responsibility. I just assume that, if I remind people about potluck celebrations, food will appear and will magically end up on the serving table for us to enjoy. The first always comes true—the food does appear. Somehow I haven't figured out the magic for getting it served. That's where my swarm comes in.

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PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

Please continue to support the work of our pantry by contributing items to its inventory.

April

Bottles of juice

May

Bottles of juice

June

Bottles of juice

Bring your donations to church and place them in the offering basket in the narthex.

Thanks!

FROM THE ST. PAUL'S ARCHIVES

Edited by Liz Hook

By early 1998, the end was in sight with our reconstruction and retrofit following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. In February the scaffolding came down from the church interior. The work to retrofit the office building and Parish Hall was finished, and March 23rd was estimated to be the date of total completion.

Work parties were organized to get the church and other buildings ready for the rededication of the church scheduled for April 28th. The pews were moved back into the Nave and needed cleaning and polishing, and the organ was freed from its protective box.

The only major project not done was replacement of the floor in the Nave and the Narthex due to lack of money. Because water was seeping through the concrete it was also decided not to put in carpeting. That saved much money. And so the floor was waterproofed. The choir was thrilled with the decision as they loved the new sound in the church sans carpet.



Rev. Gail and Subdeacon Ed Ford escort Bishop Swing to the door of the church.



Flo Hurley paints wood work in the office building.

Interesting Vestry minutes tell us that the Vestry estimated that it would take about 15 years to raise enough money to replace the floor. I believe that would be 2018. We still have time!!

On April 28, 1998, Bishop William Swing led a procession around the church, then knocked on the door with his crozier, entered and began the impressive service of rededication, followed by a gala reception in the courtyard and the Parish Hall. We were back!!

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Our all volunteer choir rehearses the morning of the Rededication Service.

New fiberglass Celtic Crosses replace the original, more dangerous Concrete Crosses.



While volunteers are busy cleaning and polishing the pews, Sharon Pilmer, assisted by Andrew and Emily, clean the chancel.

2016 OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson – *Rector*
 Elizabeth (Liz) Hook – *Senior Warden*
 William (Bill) Davis – *Junior Warden*
 Thomas (Tom) McGarrell – *Treasurer*
 James Kadleck – *Clerk*

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2016
 Elizabeth (Liz) Hook
 Thomas (Tom) McGarrell
 Sharon Pilmer

Class of 2017
 William (Bill) Davis
 James Kadleck
 Yuri Sikkema

Class of 2018
 Alice Brilmayer
 George Strait
 Sandra Anderson

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 2015

Delegates

Izabella (Bella) Sempari
 Scott Buckingham

Alternates

Pam Buckingham
 Sheila Sims

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MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

SPECIAL MUSIC IN MARCH

Sunday, April 3, Second Sunday after Easter/Thomas Sunday

10:00am, Choral Eucharist

No choir today.

4:00pm, Evensong

Chapel College Ensemble of Men & Boys, Christopher Kula, Director.

Evensong is a short Anglican service combining the end-of-day monastic offices of Vespers and Compline. Since the latter part of the 16th century, England's greatest composers have contributed to the rich musical tradition of this uplifting and beautiful liturgy.

Sunday, April 10, Third Sunday after Easter

10:00am, Choral Eucharist

Holy is the true light by Harris, *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem* by Stanford, *Prevent us, O Lord* by Byrd, sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Farr, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco, Director.

Sunday, April 17, Fourth Sunday after Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday

10:00am, Choral Eucharist

Christ, who knows all his sheep by Michael Rose, *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord* by Mechem, and *My shepherd will supply my need* by Thomson, sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Farr, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco, Director.

3:00pm, Concert

Contra Costa Collective

The Contra Costa Collective performs *Rejoice in the Lamb* by Benjamin Britten. Vocal and piano soloists from

the Contra Costa College School of Applied and Commercial Music perform classical pieces, Dr. Stephanie Austin, Director. Pianist: Jennifer Griest. Organist: Paul Ferris. FREE and open to the public. Support young talent and bring your friends!

Saturday, April 23, Concert

2:00pm, San Francisco Girls Chorus School, Level IV

A Saturday Serenade with Level IV of the SF Girls Chorus School. Dr. Anne Hege, Conductor. Dr. Susan Blinderman, Accompanist.

A free, fundraising concert for family, friends and supporters of the Chorus School.

Sunday, April 24, Fifth Sunday after Easter/The Rector's 50th Birthday!

10:00am, Choral Eucharist

If ye love me by Tallis, *And I saw a new heaven* by Bainton, *Behold, the Tabernacle of God* by Willan, sung by St. Paul's Choir; David Farr, Music Director. St. Paul's Bell Choir; Paco, Director.

8:00pm, Compline

Gregorian chant, polyphony of Byrd, Tallis, Victoria, in candlelight. Compline, a service of psalms and prayers, has been sung 'at the close of day' in monasteries, convents and churches for many centuries, and is one of the best-loved services of the Church. With St. Paul's Choir; Dr. David Farr, Director.

Newsletter contributors sought

We are interested in hearing from writers and photographers; please email us if you would like to donate your talents.

The deadline for each edition is the 15th of the month previous to publication.

Please send your submissions of no more than 500 words to: halice@pacbell.net.

SAN FRANCISCO GIRLS CHORUS SCHOOL

Saturday, April 23, 2016—2:00 p.m.



SAVE Stands-Ins against gun violence

SAVE (Soldiers Against Violence Everywhere) Oakland is taking a non-violent stand against the rampant murders in our community by having “Stand-Ins” from 11a.m. – noon near where a person was recently killed. Please contact Paula Hawthorn, 510-601-8388, if you would like to participate. Upcoming dates and locations are:

- 4/9/16
Fruitvale and 12th Ave.

Contact Save@Truevine-Ministries.com to be put on the email list for future Stand-Ins.

CONTRA COSTA COLLECTIVE



Rejoice in the Lamb by Benjamin Britten

Sunday April 17, 2016 - 3:00pm

EASTER MESSAGE 2016

“This world does not need another fairy tale”

I actually love fairy tales and I used to enjoy reading them to our children when they were young and little. Now to be sure those were the more sanitized fairy tales but there was something good about them, a way of confronting what was tough in life with genuine hope. But they were fairy tales.

This week called Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus entering Jerusalem and offering His life in the ultimate act of sacrificial love. Good Friday, the experience of betrayal, the experience of friends abandoning you, the experience of injustice and wrong, criminal self-centered conspiracies. And then beyond that Holy Week, the resurrection from the dead. This is not a fairy tale.

The truth is even as we speak this Holy Week, we do so not only in the shadow of the cross but we do so in the shadow of those who have been killed in Brussels, of those who have been wounded and maimed, of those who weep and mourn. And of a world mourning, and not too sure how to move forward. And this world does not need another fairy tale. This week’s story of crucifixion and resurrection is not a fairy tale.

Some years ago in the last century George McLeod, the founder of the Iona Community, had fought in the First World War, a war that he came to realize was fought for no good reason. He eventually became ordained, and founded the Iona Community, and at one point he said this about this faith that we hold as followers of Jesus:

I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the centre of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves, on the town garbage dump, at a crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. It was the kind of place where cynics talk smut, thieves curse, soldiers gamble. That’s where he died. And that’s where we as Christians ought to be and what we as Christians ought to be about.

This week called Holy, the season called Easter, the remembrance of death and the realization of resurrection, this is not a fairy tale, but the revelation of ultimate reality. Now the truth is it’s easy to dismiss or discount whether by conscious conviction or by unconscious resignation to dismiss this as naïve, nice, but naïve. It’s easy to dismiss it whether consciously or unconsciously as a great hope, a wonderful ideal, but not realistic in a world like this. Maybe, parts of us I suspect wonder, maybe the strong do survive, maybe might does make right, maybe you better look out for number one. I suspect we all share those feelings once in a while.

But, I have to ask myself a question. It’s not my question, it’s Dr. Phil’s, “How’s that workin’ out for ya?” How’s that workin’ out for the world? The truth is, the way the world very often operates is not working out. It’s not sustainable. It’s not the way to life. Jesus has shown us the way. He has shown us that unselfish, sacrificial love, love of God, and love of the other, is

WORSHIP ROTA

ONLINE

The current rota for the Sunday worship services is posted on the St. Paul’s

Web site at :
http://

www.stpaulsoakland.org/RotaSchedule

The rota includes the names of readers, sub-deacons, intercessors, and lay Eucharistic ministers.

New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Fr. Mauricio or the Ven. Carolyn Bolton to volunteer or if you have any questions.

the way to life. That, my friends, is the ultimate reality. And that's not a fairy tale.

When Jesus was executed, He was tried and convicted of crimes He never committed. He willingly gave His life. Not for Himself, but for others. And in so doing, He showed us what love looks like. That's what we call the Way of the Cross. And that Way is the way of life and hope. And when He died, His closest followers feared that maybe the strong do survive. Maybe might does make right. And maybe we better look out for number one. 'Cause maybe the world has won.

But three days later, something happened. Unexpected. Undreamed of. Unheralded. Three days later their world turned upside-down which is right-side up. God raised Him from the dead. And you could almost hear God thundering forth in that resurrection. Love, in the end, love wins! Love is the way! Trust me! Follow me! Believe in me! This resurrection is real! This is not a fairy tale!

So go forth into this world. Don't be afraid. And don't be ashamed to be people of love. And go forth into this world and help us to change it from the nightmare it often is into the dream that God intends. A blessed Holy Week, a blessed Easter, and go forth into the world. Amen.

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

ST. PAUL'S SWARM

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As soon as I'm up in the kitchen, people show up with offers of help. Bread gets sliced. Salads are conveyed to the parish hall. Things get heated in the microwave. All because people care enough to pitch in without being asked.

This is especially true at big feasts, like David and Ed's wedding reception and the Easter potluck. Both times I found so much food in the kitchen needing attention, I almost said a bad word. But then, suddenly the space filled with so many people we were almost tripping over each other. And both celebrations were a spectacular success.

People invariably thank me for the feasts as if I'd cooked all the food and arranged for it to be served. Not so. It's a joint effort of many hands, both in the cooking and in the presentation. The next time you want to thank me, thank the person next to you at the table, instead.

I don't want to try to name everyone in my swarm because I'd no doubt forget someone. But I do want to thank you all for making the past crazy schedule a wonderful experience. If you cooked, if you came in and asked "Can I help?", if you removed empty dishes from the tables, if you poured champagne, if you helped with cleanup, you were doing the Lord's work, and I love every single one of you.

Now on to Pentecost!

Dear Readers:
In an effort to reduce paper waste and printing/ mailing expenses, we are asking anyone who gets the on-line version of The Good News and no longer needs a paper version mailed to his or her home to let us know. If you don't get the newsletter online and would like to, or if you want to take yourself off the snail-mail list, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org. Many thanks.



St. Paul's

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Services

SUNDAYS

8 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*
10 a.m. *Choral Eucharist*

4 p.m. *Evensong*
(*First Sundays, Oct.-June*)

8 p.m. *Compline*
(*4th Sundays only*)

WEDNESDAYS

12:10 p.m. *Holy Eucharist*
(*with Healing prayer on*
the 1st Wednesday of the
month)

PEACE BE WITH YOU

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and question the disciples regarding their failure of clarity to see what was developing right before their eyes. However, if we are truly honest with ourselves we would have to admit that this is a very real example of the human experience. I often hear in the news the phrase: *it all happened so fast*. I believe that when uncommon things happen to common folks those things tend to happen too fast. The commonness or uncommonness of experience and folks depend greatly on each individual's life experience. When a surgeon says "this is a routine procedure" I

believe the patient, who feels like a deer caught in the headlights, is entitled to say "there's nothing routine about it to me."

As you celebrate your joy in seeing the risen Lord, remember that there are still many in the world living with great uncertainty. Offer God's and your peace as often as you can and maybe someday their sorrow will turn into joy and they'll be better able to receive and accept peace as uniquely offered by God's grace.

Happy Easter!
