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THE GOOD NEWS

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Rector's Message

WERE YOU THERE?

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson

These three words should sound familiar to anyone who has set foot in a Christian church for more than a moment. Many of us who have been around church for a while could probably recite and sing the entirety of the hymn that begins with those words without ever needing to have a book or program before our eyes. It would probably be pointless because we would want to close those very eyes as we imagine the scenario that each verse evokes in our minds. Depending on our emotional and spiritual state of being at that very moment, some may also be doing their best to hold back the tears brought on by the images we create.



The irony of the questions posed by the hymn is that we know, in no uncertain terms, that the answer to them all is *No, I was not*. Nevertheless, I have preferred to take on these questions, not as an assertion of truth, but rather as an invitation to consider what our own first person presence and testimony might have been. A testimony resulting not from a physical presence, but rather a soul or spiritual presence. The invitation to a deep and personal contemplation of the acts of Holy Week are intended to lead us to a deeply, spiritually connected *Yes, I AM there*, and the eyes of my soul can feel every moment and emotion of each individual present.

Maybe the author of the hymn should have considered writing a follow-up Easter version for us to sing, with a more upbeat musical setting of course: Were you there when they found the empty tomb? Were you there when he said 'Peace be with you.'? Were you there when he broke bread with them? Were you there when he ascended into heaven?

So many experiences of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to which we are given insight by the Gospels. All of them come with the invitation to partake of God's Word Made Flesh through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit that lives within us.

I would like to suggest that, as you observe the conclusion of this year's Lent Season during Holy Week and welcome the celebration of the resurrected life of Our Savior, you hold your heart and soul wide open to live anew the greatest moment of Divine Love.

Be with Jesus, not as a moment in history, but as a personal encounter with the one who created you and loves you. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter.

Spirituality Easter Anne Jensen

Easter, the most important day of the year for Christians, is almost here. It's just around the corner! Have the weeks of Lent slipped by in the busy-ness of life? There is still time to prepare ourselves for a joyous Easter -- we can wholeheartedly enter Holy Week, the oldest observance of what we know as Lent. Starting with Palm Sunday the liturgies of this week move our hearts in a way that we are unlikely to experience in any other setting, opening us to recognize God's immense love for us and our recognition of where we have fallen short. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the



Easter Vigil together are called the Triduum. The words, actions, and music of these three days can and do change lives, bringing transformation to many. Please put these services on your calendar now and join us for this sacred time. It may change your life!



Now Easter! The Lord is risen; Christ is alive, alleluia! We can belt out our favorite Easter hymns in full voice, experience the new light of Christ in us and others, and share Easter dinner with people we love. We have been forgiven, redeemed, and sent out. How are we going to live our lives as joyful Easter people? How is Jesus going to be a model for aligning our hearts with God's loving vision for us and for all of God's crea-

tion?

Senior Warden's Message Suffering and Hope Indira Balkissoon

Lent is a season designed to help us move through loss and grief. My cousin lost his 3 year battle with an incurable degenerative disease recently.

I didn't know what I could do to support his family since they didn't want visitors in his final hours. I was thrown by being considered a visitor and was paralyzed about what I could do to support them? After my cousin was gone how would I have a relationship with his children?

Mother Anne's March 12 sermon on suffering and all the fear we experience in our everyday lives described a thought flow that I found very helpful. Suffering produces endurance -> endurance produces character -> and character produces hope!

God is especially close to us in times of suffering. We open our hearts to God because our need is great.

I understood that my mind was moving in what Mother Anne described as the wheel of fear. If I didn't get a chance to see my cousin, I would lose touch with that side of my family. They appeared to reject me. The wheel turned and turned. I realized that I was not giving myself or my relatives the compassion they deserved. So I took Mother Anne's advice and opened my heart and soul to God and realized that even though my cousin is now gone, I can still find ways to help his family. So I reached out to his son, to express my condolences and immediately found ways that I could support them. In faith we are never abandoned to face hard times alone.

Happy Easter!!!!



Social Justice Circle of Peace Paula Hawthorn

At 7PM on Saturday, April 8, (Holy Saturday), people who are part of Oakland gun violence prevention organizations will be standing in silent meditation around Lake Merritt to honor their loved ones who have been killed in Oakland, and to call for peace. This is the Circle of Peace. St. Paul's will be supporting this effort in two ways: people from St. Paul's can either participate in the whole Circle of Peace program, which begins at 5PM with a press conference, followed by African Drumming, at the Lake Merritt amphitheater; or at 6:30 you can walk with the group of us who will be directly going from St. Paul's to our previously-reserved spots on the Lake Merritt sidewalk as shown below.

What to bring: if you have electronic candles at home, or candles that are not easy to blow out, please do bring them, to light at 7PM.

Note: We will have sandwiches at the church at 6PM for those who are going directly from the Circle to St. Paul's Great Easter Vigil, and candles for those who need them.



April Environmental Stewardship Happy Earth Day! Indira Balkissoon

Though every day is Earth Day, this year Earth Day falls on Saturday April 22 and is an opportunity to reflect on the wonders of God's creation. This can be done through many initiatives that involve rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling, plus planting trees, participating in cleanups, and ending plastic consumption.

You can also join the St Paul's Earth Day activities on Saturday April 22 from 9:30 to 11:00 am. We will be Flying the Earth Day flag, planting a tree and caring for our little pollinator gardens. We will meet in front of the church.

In case you can't make this event at the church try attending another local Earth Day Celebration or try out one or all of the activities below. Don't feel that you have to take on more than you can handle. Just do your best. Every little bit helps.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Conserve water | 6. Switch to LEDs |
| 2. Be car-conscious | 7. Live energy wise |
| 3. Walk, bike or take public transit | 8. Eat sustainable foods |
| 4. Rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle | 9. Plant a tree or two |
| 5. Give composting a try | 10. Give up plastics |

Puzzled about what some of these mean? Want more information? Visit: <https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/save-earth-top-ten.htm>



Social Justice Committee Pantry of Hope

The Pantry of Hope is in need of assistance in the following areas:

1. Assistance in transporting food from the Food Bank on Fridays .
2. Packing bags once a month on the 2nd or 4th Saturday of the month.
3. Assembling bags on Fridays.

The Pantry is also in need of bottles of juice to pack in the twice-a-month bags.

Suggested: Pints size bottles or quart sizes. Need info? Email Carolyn Bolton at

We pack 80 bags for each distribution.

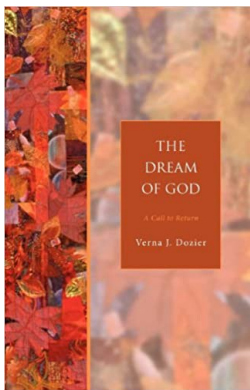
deacon@stpaulsoakland.org

April 28, 2023 will be the only Pantry food distribution this month



Faith Formation

Beyond the Word: A Reading & Discussion Group - Select Wednesdays @ 7pm on ZOOM



A group of 6 gathered to discuss the second half of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* on Feb. 8th. We had a lively discussion about Intercessory Prayers, praying for one's enemies, living in a Monastic Community vs experiencing community on Sundays and learning forgiveness. While reading Bonhoeffer was difficult for all of us, we found good value in seeing things from his very strict Lutheran perspective that gave us all a wider appreciation for the beauty of our Episcopal worship traditions.

We are taking a break during Lent, and will return after Easter with the next book in the series: *The Dream of God: A Call to Return* by [Verna Dozier](#). **We will meet on Wed. Apr 19 & Wed. May 10 at 7 pm.**

If you attended the Absalom Jones service on Saturday, Feb. 11, you heard The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of Missouri, quote Ms. Dozier and this amazing book, in [his ser-](#)

[mon](#). I believe Verna Dozier is a prophet of our times, exploring what it means to be a servant and follow Jesus.

To join us, email pamela.kruse.buckingham@gmail.com. I will send you the orientation document and the Zoom link.

Social Justice Ceasefire Night Walks Paula Hawthorn



At Ceasefire Night Walks, volunteers walk through communities affected by gun violence to spread a message of peace and connect residents with community and social services. Since most shootings in urban communities happen between 8pm and midnight, walkers take to the streets to give words of encouragement to people who may be at risk of being victims or perpetrators.

The Night Walks calendar is [here](#). There have been times when the Night Walk is cancelled. Please contact Paula paula.hawthorn@gmail.com to make sure it is really happening before you go.

Youth and Family Ministry

Carolyn Bolton

Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Grace Cathedral May 21, 2023

A pilgrimage of youth from congregations in the Diocese via foot and public transportation to the Cathedral. Everyone will gather at the Cathedral by 5:00 pm for dinner; the Eucharist and Labyrinth walk starts at 6 pm.. The Diocesan webpage is [here](#). Details and registration to follow.

YOUTH Pilgrimage

JOIN THE ALAMEDA DEANERY YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK ON A PILGRIMAGE TO GRACE CATHEDRAL

Start at your church

Pilgrimages throughout the centuries have involved walking from wherever you are to a cathedral. We invite youth groups to walk or take public transit from their own churches to Grace Cathedral with opportunities for connection along the way.

Meet up with others

Youth from the Alameda Deanery will have opportunities to connect with other groups:

- 12:00pm at St. Augustine's for lunch
- 2:15pm at Jack London Square Ferry Building to take 2:35 Ferry
- 5:00pm at Grace Cathedral for dinner and worship

Arrive at Grace

After a long day of travel, youth and their leaders will arrive at Grace Cathedral for dinner and worship, after having gotten a taste of pilgrimage, and the way that our hearts and minds can be attuned to God in new ways when our bodies are moving in prayer!

QUESTIONS?

maggie@allsoulsparish.org

510-848-1755 Ext. 3

<https://faithinformed.org/pilgrimage-2023>



2023 Episcopal Youth Event

July 4-8, 2023

University of Maryland, College Park

The Episcopal Youth Event is a gathering of youth ages 15-19 from around the world who assemble on a college campus to learn, laugh, and worship together. It is the single greatest and second largest event the Episcopal Church does. Since this event is held only once every three years, for many #EYE23 will be their only chance to attend.

There are scholarships available from the Diocese of California. Contact Caren Miles at DioCal for more information: [Click here to email Caren](#)

To find out more and register: [EYE Registration Link](#)



Holy Week at St. Paul's

Palm Sunday – April 2

Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.

Choral Eucharist 10 a.m.

Evensong 4 p.m.

Holy Monday– April 3

Holy Eucharist 12:10 p.m.

Lent Night Prayer 7:00 p.m. (in-person only)

Holy Tuesday– April 4

No services

Holy Wednesday – April 5

Holy Eucharist 12:10 p.m.

The Service of Tenebrae, 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 6

Holy Eucharist 12:10 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday – April 7

The Service of Good Friday, 12:00 noon-3:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross – 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday – April 8

Circle of Peace, 7- 7:30 p.m. at Lake Merritt. Gather at the Church at 6:30 to walk over – for details see separate article on this activity

The Great Vigil of Easter 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 9

Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.

Festival Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

For Children: Faith Quest and Mustard Seeds 10 a.m.

Easter Potluck brunch and Egg Hunt following the 10:00 a.m. liturgy.

The Easter Potluck is back!

It's been years since we've had a potluck with kids running around the parish hall and adults toasting with champagne.

Father Mauricio says we can have this wonderful celebration again this year. So, get out your favorite recipes or plan to visit your favorite bakery or grocery store. Bring a dish to share with your church family. (Preferably in a serving dish you can take home with you.)

The Vestry will supply the ham and the champagne.

Give your contribution to an usher or bring it to the kitchen before the service. Thanks!



Note: the church offices will be closed the week after Easter

Music

Ben Bachmann, Director of Music

Soon, we will be in Holy Week, a week of services that lead up to the great feast of Easter. If you have never attended what is called the Triduum [Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil] or it has been a while, please consider coming to one or all of these wonderful liturgies. The music is rich and diverse, from the most ancient chants of the church, to music written for modern audiences, some music that is familiar and contemplative, some music that challenges the listener to hear a text in a new way, like the *Four Motets for the Season of Lent* by Francis Poulenc, and “O Vos Omnes” by our own assistant Director of Music, Philip Saunders. We will also sing familiar spirituals and hymns like “Were you There?” and “O Sacred Head Sore Wounded” that mark the season.



The choir will be singing Evensong at 4:00 p.m. on Palm Sunday, please come and invite a friend. This will be a wonderful way to begin the week, the High Holy Days of our Christian way.

At the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy the altar is stripped to its barest elements, and this includes turning off the organ until the Great Vigil of Easter. This means that all the Good Friday music will be sung only by unaccompanied voices.



Hallelujah!

Finally, on Easter morning, we will sing the familiar hymns, and the great word that we save until that day. This year, instead of the choir singing a Communion motet, we will invite the congregation to sing with us the most famous sacred chorus of them all, “Hallelujah” from *Messiah* by Handel. If you aren’t sure of the music, have a listen on YouTube or Spotify. If you have a score for *Messiah* at home, bring it. We will provide a few copies on the day for those that need them.

This will be followed by the second most famous organ piece in the repertoire, the *Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5* by Charles-Marie Widor. You’ll most likely know it when you hear it. I wish you all a Holy Week that is filled with prayer and contemplation, and a very Happy Easter of celebrating the “joy that hath no end.”

Junior Warden Report Richard Larson

It’s another no-news-to-report month on the Buildings & Grounds front.

It seems a pretty safe bet that I’ll have something to talk about next month.

You can reach Richard at rla.designoffice@gmail.com



Clergy

Meet Gary England

Deacon at St. Paul's

You may have noticed a new face among those up at the altar, that of Deacon Gary England!

The Rev. Gary William England was ordained Deacon in the Diocese of Kentucky August 12, 2011, and became canonically resident in the Diocese of California in 2020. He lives in Leona Heights in the Oakland Hills with his husband, John Reliford. Deacon Gary has three adult children, Ana, James, and Adrian and one grandchild, Theodore. Deacon Gary is a native of Alabama and until his relocation to the Bay Area in 2018, he had lived in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee. He is an attorney and is admitted to the bar in all these states and is now Registered In-House Counsel in California. Gary retired as General Counsel of a large private investment firm in June 2018 but continues to work as an arbitrator and as GC and HR Consultant for a few long-term clients.



In addition to liturgical duties at St. Paul's, Deacon Gary is President of the board of trustees for The School for Deacons and is involved in various ministries for DioCal and General Convention.

"I requested our bishop assign me to St. Paul's after seeking permission from Fr. Mauricio and the blessing of long-serving deacon at St. Paul's, The Ven. Canon Carolyn Bolton. I was drawn to St. Paul's because it was apparent to me that from clergy to parishioners, the people of St. Paul's walk the talk of the Love of Jesus in our world."

You may reach Gary at genglandesq@gmail.com

Passings

Constance Strong Jackson

Constance "Connie" S. Jackson, a former St. Paul's parishioner, was born May 12, 1924 in Springfield, Ohio and died February 25, 2023 in Granite Bay, CA. Over the years she lived in Chicago, St Augustine, FL, the Bahamas, Piedmont and Roseville, CA.

She loved to travel, particularly to Hawaii and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. She also took an around-the-world cruise on a passenger/cargo ship that carried 250 passengers. She brought home many wonderful souvenirs from the trip.

For many years Connie was a successful real estate broker in Piedmont and Oakland of the Bay Area and owned her own firm. After Bill's death and her retirement, she moved to Sun City, Roseville, CA where she enjoyed life with her precious Yorkshire Terriers, Daisy and Bella, gardening and playing bridge with dear friends that she met there.

She is survived by her daughter, Kaye Walsh, and two granddaughters, Lara Hodgson and Connie Harris. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Col. William D. Jackson.



Concerts at St. Paul's

San Francisco Girls Chorus Level IV Spring Preview

San Francisco Girls Chorus School

Sunday, April 23, 3:00 pm PDT

Valérie Sainte-Agathe, Artistic Director

SFGC Level IV presents their Spring Preview Concert on Sunday, April 23rd, 2023 at St. Paul's in Oakland at 3pm.

From the top of the mountains to the heart of a flame, Level IV will take you on a journey through hope and reverence with a diverse program spanning from the classical era to the current day. This concert will also be the 2023 debut of the Level IV Ensemble, an ensemble of 12 singers that perform a cappella and unconducted.

Please join us for a reception following the performance!

FREE ADMISSION: no ticket needed. Read more about San Francisco Girls Chorus [here](#)



National Church News

Episcopal delegates to UN women's conference see challenges, find hope in exploring a digital world for women and girls

Photo and Article Courtesy of Episcopal News Service

Episcopal delegates to the 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women spent a busy first week in official meetings, adjacent events and daily worship during the commission's first in-person meeting since 2019. Activities and delegates' work are [centered on the theme](#) of the March 6-17 commission: innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

[Read the full article](#)



St. Paul's Episcopal School News

St. Paul's School goes to Washington.

Big changes are afoot at the middle school. This year, instead of heading south to Catalina, the 8th Grade class will board a flight carrying them east to Washington, D.C., where they will explore museums, monuments, The National Mall, and The Appalachian Trail. Eighth grader Penelope G. made this beautiful image to commemorate the trip.



WASHINGTON D.C. 2023 St. Paul's Episcopal School

Any member of the Parish may attend Vestry meetings, which are at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. The full minutes of the meeting are available to parish members upon request by contacting the parish administrator or a member of the Vestry.

2023 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson Rector

Gloria Balkissoon
Senior Warden

Richard Larson
Junior Warden

Pamela Kruse-
Buckingham
Clerk

Brian Stanke
Treasurer

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2023

Fran Dibble
Brian Stanke
Maura Lane

Class of 2024

Indira Balkissoon
Matthew Schooler
Irene Plunkett

Class of 2025

Pamela Kruse-
Buckingham
Richard Larson
Digger Lautner

DEANERY DELEGATES 2023

Delegates
George Strait
Jeanette Dinwidie-Moore
Dylan Versteeg
Alternates
Pamela Kruse-
Buckingham
Paula Hawthorn
-vacancy-

Vestry Highlights

Pam Buckingham-Kruse, Clerk

The Vestry met on March 28 at 7:00 pm on Zoom

The minutes of the [February Retreat 2023](#) were approved.

Lay Discernment Committee - Cara Meredith and Doug Jensen

Cara is a Parishioner at St. Paul's and is an aspirant to holy orders. She has been working with a lay discernment committee of which Doug Jensen is a member. Formal meetings with this committee are done. Now the work of writing a report and recommendation to send to the Vestry for the April agenda begins. The lay discernment committee is very confident about Cara's call. Cara shared some of her spiritual journey, which includes a teaching career with Young Life and a call from the Evangelical to the Episcopal Church.

Financials - Brian Stanke

• [January and February Financials](#)

The 2022 deficit covered by our investments was \$147,927.

Expenses are slightly higher than budget

Utilities are higher, especially gas. The last PG&E bill was \$7,000. We bill the school for 75%.

Balance Sheet - Year over year, investments are down; we did do a partial paydown of the mortgage last year. \$337,825 is the balance on the earthquake retrofit line of credit.

Buildings and Grounds Report - Richard Larson

• 2023 Priorities

Complete an assessment of the B&G needs

B&G Committee to be formed

Look at roof needs in preparation for solar panels

Rector's Report

• 2022 Parochial Report was approved with 3 edits. For the corrected version, please see a link in the official March meeting minutes on the Church website.

• Continuing Covid-19 Protocols

Masking is highly recommended but not required

Altar Party will remain masked

Ministry Liaisons from Vestry

- Stewardship - Maura Lane
- Membership and Welcoming - Digger Lauter
- Communications Committee - Pamela Buckingham

Next Meeting

On Tuesday, April 25, Mauricio is traveling; the Vestry meeting will be rescheduled.

Note from the Clerk:

The above are not the actual minutes, but rather a synopsis of the meeting. The full minutes will be approved at the April meeting and will then be posted on the Church website. [January and February Financials](#)



Windows of St. Paul's The Excellent Woman Robert Knapp

In a trefoil arch window, a woman stands facing, her arms open in a compassionate gesture.

Who can find a truly excellent woman? One who is superior in all that she is and all that she does?

Her worth far exceeds that of rubies and expensive jewelry.

Celebrate all she has achieved.

Let all her accomplishments publicly praise her.

Proverbs 31:10-31 describes and lauds the excellent woman. Here, she stands in front of her substantial home featuring a tile roof and fancy pillar doorposts. Her hands are down, palms forward in a gesture of openness and kindness. In the lunette, wool or flax is entwined around a distaff, a widespread ancient symbol of wifely diligence:

Her hands skillfully place the unspun flax and wool on the distaff.



Text on Glass: *The Valiant Woman* (Proverbs 31:10, KJV)

Here, “valiant” does not mean “brave,” an adjective applied almost exclusively to men in the Bible. Rather, in King James’ day it could also mean “excellent, worthy.”

Text along the bottom: *Her children call her blessed* (Proverbs 31 :28, KJV)

In 1947, Mrs. G. W. Rodolph and family gave the window that was created by The Cummings Studio, San Francisco (*Oakland Tribune* 1947-03-30).

The Rodolph family was involved in the gift of three windows to St. Paul’s, The Good Samaritan, Cornelius and the Angel, and this one. The family’s history is found at the description of the Good Samaritan window, *The Good News* March 2023.

The described ideal woman is clearly an elite as symbolized by her garb. Indeed, the dramatic setting for the proverb is the mother of fictional King Lamuel describing the ideal woman, assumed to be an elite.

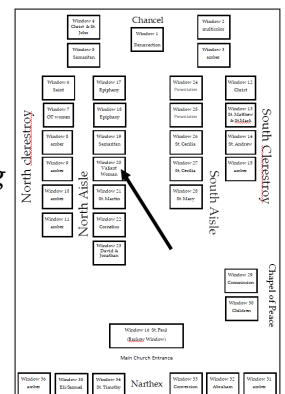


A woman spinning

*She clothes herself in purple and fine cloth
but her status does not keep her from compassion for all.
The woman has traits traditionally associated with men:
She wraps herself in strength, carries herself with confidence, and works hard, strengthening her arms for the task at hand; Clothed in strength and dignity, with nothing to fear, she smiles when she thinks about the future.
She is strong in a wide range of virtues. Her care for her household is paramount, both in the house and on the street in markets and business:
She has a plan. She considers some land and buys it; then with her earnings, she plants a vineyard.
But she thinks clearly and advocates compassion:
She conducts her conversations with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is ever her concern.; She reaches out to the poor and extends mercy to those in need.*

The lily at the upper right and middle left refer to the Virgin Mary, who was lauded as a “valiant woman” in 19th century biblical discussions.

You will find this window on the north side of the church, floor-level.





St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

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Dear Readers:

Currently, the newsletter is not being distributed by regular post. If you know of someone who does not have access to the electronic version, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org. She will make a hardcopy and send it.

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 25th of the month previous to publication. Please send your submissions of no more than 400 words to csknapp@earthlink.net

The Good News is a publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakland, California. Carolyn Knapp, editor, and Robert Knapp, composition and graphics.

From the Editors:

Watch the next *Good News* for

Information about the Visioning Process to develop a MINISTRY ACTION PLAN for St. Paul's

Information about a developing MASTER FINANCIAL PLAN for St. Paul's

Good Friday

*Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?*

*Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter, weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;*

*Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.*

*Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.*

Christina Rossetti, *The Prince's Progress and other Poems* (1866). Rossetti, the sister of the pre-Raphaelite, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, was a prolific poet. We appreciate her genius when we sing "In Bleak Midwinter" at Christmas.

