

E-News for the Week of Sunday, March 20 *Palm Sunday*

Readings

Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke (booklet provided at service)

Participants

Celebrant: Rev. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Julie Valliere

Communion Assistant: Julie Valliere

Lector: Ben Harrison

Liturgical Assistant: Audrey Stone

Greeters: Marilyn Johnson and Suzanne Furst

Ushers: Charlie Cutting and Jake Hansen

Coffee Hour: Eranthie Yeshwant

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 3/16

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi (RENTAL)

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Contemporary

Thursday, 3/17

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Quilter's Group

Saturday, 3/19

8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Dutch Mill Restaurant

Wednesday, 3/23

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Bells

Thursday, 3/24 Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Friday, 3/25 Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship Service

Sunday, 3/27

7:30-9:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Early Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Late Worship Service

Click [HERE](#) for a long-range calendar.

Services in Lent

Palm Sunday (**March 20**) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Maundy Thursday (**March 24**) 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, stripping of the altar

Good Friday (**March 25**) 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae service of scripture readings, prayers, and hymns, ending in darkness

Easter Sunday (**March 27**) 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Worship services with Holy Communion; Pancake breakfast by Church Council from 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Upcoming Birthdays

3/21 Stephen Wisloski

3/16 Ben Peake

3/17 Maya Menzel

3/18 Abby Kelley

3/21 Jessica Hill

3/22 Donna Pittman

3/23 Joseph Gonyaw

3/23 Robert Jenkins

3/23 Anneliese Koenig

Pastor's Message

Dear Ascension folks:

As we enter into Palm Sunday, I commend a wonderful webinar series. It offers ten short "Stations with Reflections, Meditations, and Blessings," given by excellent theologians and pastors on being in communion with Jesus during Holy Week. Go to Work of the People/The Way of the Heart (<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/bundle/the-way-of-the-heart>; there is a small monthly subscription fee).

The Education Committee invites everyone to be with the children at 9 am to make pretzels prior to worship (see announcements on pretzel making in both the "Sunday School News" and "Hark..." sections below. Another wonderful opportunity for worship later in the day is at All Souls Interfaith Gathering, Shelburne, which features the Rev. Kim Hardy "From Palms to Passion: Sunday Music and Service" from 5 to 6 pm.

A few other details about Palm Sunday and Easter. We again purchased eco-palms, which have fronds rather than the long stems you may have been used to. Purchasing them "helps support the harvesting communities and families that harvest and select the palms, and your purchase helps protect the environment by protecting the rainforest in which the palms grow." Go to <http://lwr.org/getinvolved/fairtrade/eco-palms> for more information. Also, the organ needs repair. The repair person will arrive April 18th; thus we will use the keyboard for Easter, hopefully augmented by other instruments. The Spirit of Easter Day will carry us all.

Meanwhile, I do hope that you will be able to stay with your Sabbath practices developed during Lent during the next weeks.

Many blessings,

Pr. Nancy

P.S. A parishioner sent this to us, and it is well worth watching. "Interview with God" <https://www.youtube.com/embed/moBvLFbFdJ4>

From the Office

Easter Flowers * TIME SENSITIVE*****

It's time to order Easter flowers! Plant orders are time-sensitive, so please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex this Sunday to place your order. Plants are \$12 each, with a choice of lilies, daffodils, or tulips. **Please submit payment (note it is for Easter flowers; checks may be made out to Ascension), and send names of those you wish remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin to the office no later than Monday, 3/21.**

Sunday School News

Children

Our Lessons:

We have been very busy on Sunday mornings as we study about Jesus. We learned how he gathered his disciples. We learned about some of Jesus' miracles. And we learned some of Jesus parables, or stories he told to teach lessons. We also are learning about the season of Lent, using the Resurrection Easter Eggs. Some of that is sad. The children have learned about Palm Sunday, as the time when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. The children learned that Jesus died on the cross and arose from the dead, leaving an empty tomb.

We are learning some prayers and know that we can pray to God anytime we want. We also know that God loves everybody all the time, and forgives bad decisions, especially when we ask forgiveness and are truly sorry, and make better decisions. Some of the big kids, who play piano, are learning to play some prayer songs to teach the other kids. Molly Fry played "Be Present at our Table Lord", which we sang with her.

Sometimes, in trying to describe the Holy Spirit, I talk about the "Little Jesus" who lives inside us in our hearts, and I learned that one child, at home, pulled his shirt away from his body and shouted down into it, "Hey Jesus, where are you? Come out." We learn in bits and pieces, and that's okay.

Here's what coming up:

PALM SUNDAY: Pretzel making and Palm Procession. Okay, it may not sound like the two go together, but this is the reason for the tradition. Legends tell us that German monks, and probably Martin Luther, used pretzels as incentive for children to learn their prayer and lessons. Upside down the pretzel looks like arms folded across the chest in prayer. So Ascension, with some Germanic roots, has a tradition of pretzel making across the generations on Palm Sunday. The children have been learning a lot, and Lent is a lot to take in, so they deserve this reward. After the children and participating adults complete the task, the children will "reenact" Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, as they lead the Palm procession into church.

PRETZEL DOUGH recipe below. Please mix it up and bring it along as you join us on Palm Sunday at 9 AM

1 pkg (2 1/2 tsp) dry yeast

1 1/2 cups warm water

1 tsp salt

1 Tbsp. sugar

4 cups flour

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add salt and sugar, and blend in flour. Stir until thick and then knead on a floured surface for a few minutes until it is well integrated and smooth, adding slightly more flour if needed. Place in a zip lock bag or covered container with

room to expand. Bring with you on Palm Sunday at 9 AM or drop off in SS fridge in advance. (cop out option: Fleishmann's makes a pretzel mix, ha ha!) Note: If you want to make pretzels at home with the family, take the extra step of dipping formed pretzels into boiling water with baking soda in it, then salt and bake at 400 for 10 to 12 minutes. They will brown better that way.

EASTER: Egg Hunt and Breakfast

Easter Sunday, the Sunday School will have an egg hunt at 9 AM, regular SS time. The Rock Stars, and parents will hide eggs while the Rising Stars and SuperKidz gather to hear the story of Easter and Christ's resurrection, through reading "Lily's Easter Party" or "Benjamin's Box" (both based on Resurrection Easter Eggs) or "The Easter Story", and will make an Easter Cross. Then the younger classes will be directed to age-related areas for their egg hunt. The eggs will be stuffed with small toys, SS bracelets, stickers, and candy. Before and after the egg hunts families may join in the church wide Easter breakfast. We encourage families to remain for church with the children. Coloring pages and Sunday papers for kids are available to help them keep busy during church.

How you can help: If you wish to donate a bag of egg-stuffing candy please do so by Palm Sunday, so we can get it into eggs. Easter morning some Dads may wish to help hide eggs for the older kids. Also at breakfast, there will be a free-will donation to help cover some of the costs of breakfast provided by the members of your Church Council, and, hey, extra hands are always welcome.

CHURCH NURSERY: Beginning April 3, we wish to have childcare in the play area during church, for the convenience of parents. We hope to have two adults sign up each Sunday. on a sign-up sheet posted. The space is well-equipped and cheerful. Volunteers will be needed.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL APRIL 17, due to school break.

Lydia Wisloski SS Supt. lwisloski@aol.com 238-5206

Adults

The class is reading Pope Francis I Encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home as the Bishop has suggested. Anyone can join at any time; you can purchase a book from Pr. Nancy or read the Encyclical on line for free. No class preparation is needed, as we read aloud and discuss each paragraph.

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast alert: our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 19th** but note the meeting location change! We will be at the "DUTCH MILL RESTAURANT" on Shelburne Road. The meeting time will remain at 8:30.

See you at The Dutch Mill on Saturday, March 19th!

Volunteer Dough Makers Needed for Palm Sunday Congregational Pretzel Making!

The Sunday School is seeking help for our annual congregational Palm Sunday pretzel making on **Sunday, March 20th**. We need volunteers to make pretzel dough ahead of time at home. Please drop off dough in the church's kitchen fridge the week prior to Palm Sunday or bring it with you to church by 9:00 the morning of Palm Sunday. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the recipe!

Thanks so much! ~The Educational Ministry Team

Request for Candy Donations for Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

Looking for Easter Bunnies to help supply candy for eggs for Ascension's Sunday School Easter egg hunt on Easter morning. We are looking to fill about 300 eggs. If you are able to donate, please label candy "Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt" and place on the counter in the kitchen **by Saturday afternoon, March 26th**. Thank you! ~The Educational Ministry Team

Women's Retreat 2016

Yippee!! The Women's Retreat is on! April 28-May 1. Checks should be made to Blue Gentian Lodge. (You can put them in the offering plate.) \$165 **by Sunday, March 27**. Please tell Bonnie if you have a specific roommate in mind. Books for retreat will be handed out on Sunday, April 3.

Questions? Ask Bonnie @ bonnielomb@gmail.com.

Church Service Childcare

The Educational Ministry Committee is going to provide childcare during the regular worship time beginning Sunday, April 3rd. We need help from the congregation to fill this important need. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex now! We are looking for 2 adults to cover each Sunday service. This is a great chance to sign up with a friend and spend some time together while providing childcare so that parents and care givers can have a more focused worship experience.

Quilter's Group

All are welcome to join with the quilters at Ascension in the assembling of mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts are tied rather than quilted hence no sewing skills are required. The process is simple and moves along quickly when many hands are involved. The group meets the first and third Thursday of the month 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Next meeting is **Thursday, March 17!**

Name Tags

Dear Parishioners. Newcomers to Ascension would like us to wear our name tags. Please find them in the library, or ask the office to make you a new one.

Coffee Hour

The 2016 coffee hour list has been posted. Please sign up!

Additional News and Opportunities

Medal of Science Winner at St. Michael's College **TONIGHT, MARCH 16******

St. Michael's will be hosting Dr. William Julius Wilson as one the spring Peace and Justice speakers. Dr. Wilson is an award-winning sociologist (he is one of only two sociologists to have received the National Medal of Science) whose influence extends beyond academia to the White House (Clinton and Obama have both cited his writings) and popular culture (he was the inspiration for the second season of the popular TV series, The Wire.) According to best-selling author and Georgetown sociologist Michael Eric Dyson, "Wilson virtually invented contemporary urban sociology and reinvigorated the study of the ghetto poor." National Book Award Winner Ta Nehisi-Coates (Between the World and Me) calls him an intellectual deity, a "gawd." Here is the link to a recent Associated Press article which recounts Dr. Wilson's past accomplishments and current projects (at 80, he is hard at work on a new study, "Multi-dimensional Inequality in the 21st Century".) Hope to see you on **March 16th, 7:00 p.m.** at the McCarthy Recital Hall at St. Michael's College!

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/0db96b7c1afb42c8b04ee07183688a9b/80-wj-wilson-scholar-race-and-class-looks-ahead>

Joanna Macy's Film the Great Turning - All Souls March 17

March 17, 2016, 7:00 PM

Systems thinker, environmental activist, scholar of Buddhism and deep ecology - Joanna Macy offers a beautiful glimpse into what she calls the "essential adventure of our time: the shift from industrial growth to life-sustaining civilization."

Join All Souls "Green Team" at 7 PM on Thursday, March 17th at All Souls (291 Bostwick Farm Rd, Shelburne, VT 05482) for an alternative St. Patrick's Day outing to watch this short, inspirational minute film, followed by facilitated discussion. All are welcome! The event is free of charge, but there will be an opportunity to make optional donations in support of the Family Room.

Music and Spirit Service at All Souls Interfaith

Please Join us this Sunday for our Music & Spirit Service "From Palms to Passion" with guest speaker Rev. Kim Hardy. **Sunday, March 20th**, 5:00-6:00 p.m., All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Road, Shelburne. Questions? Email asig@allsoulsinterfaith.org or call 985-3819.

Gun Violence Forum

"Gun Violence: Is it a problem in Vermont? How do you feel? What do you know?" is the title of an event at the Ohavi Zedek Synagogue on **Sunday, March 20**, from 3-5 pm. A panel of experts will share their knowledge followed by discussion. The public is welcome to attend. Ohavi Sedek Synagogue is located at 188 North Prospect St. in Burlington. Ascension co-sponsored a prayer and remembrance vigil on guns and the common good this past December. This event is an outgrowth of that vigil.

Poverty Is Sexist: Report

NOWHERE on Earth do women have as many opportunities as men. NOWHERE. Read the latest information on the status of women, and how by lifting women out of extreme poverty, we can end it sooner. A copy of the report is in the Narthex or download it yourself at:

http://one_org_international.s3.amazonaws.com/international/media/international/2016/03/05003440/PovertySexist_2016.pdf

Benefit Silent Auction

Silent Auction benefiting Vermont Interfaith Action, Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP), and other social justice ministries. **April 29, 2016** at St. Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry St, Burlington.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the bidding begins (including light refreshments)! Bidding ends at 7:30 p.m. and the entertainment begins (including delicious desserts)!

Tickets are \$15 at St. Paul's online: stpaulscathedralvt.org (through 4/26), \$20 at the door. Students 12-18 years old are \$2. Children under 12 are free! The first 50 ticket-buyers will be automatically entered into a special prize drawing!

Winners take home your treasures that evening. Come, bring friends, and have fun... all while helping our neighbors!

COTS Walk

The Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) is putting out a call for walkers for the annual COTS Walk, scheduled for **Sunday, May 1**. Check in is at 1 pm with the walk starting at 2 pm. Visit www.cotsonline.org for more information or to register.

Battery Recycling

There have been a few newspaper articles recently announcing a new recycling program for batteries. Until now the advice has been to put alkaline batteries in the trash. Starting January 1, 2016, you can now give your single-use, alkaline batteries new life by recycling them through Call2Recycle at convenient locations across Vermont. For more information, click here: <http://www.call2recycle.org/vermont/>

[Volunteer at the Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity ReStore](#)

The ReStore is Habitat's thrift store where profits from the sale of donated goods are used to build Habitat for Humanity homes in Chittenden County. Volunteer duties include receiving and sorting donations, pricing and stocking shelves, assisting customers and so much more! If you would like to volunteer at the ReStore, please email volunteer@vermonthabitat.org or call 318-7533 for more information.