

A Grace Note from the Rector
March 28, 2024

Dear Ones,

This evening, we begin the celebration of the most intense days of the church year. The period from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Sunday comprises the Three Great Days (sometimes known by the Latin phrase *Triduum Sanctam*). We step into a time that is unlike the time of our day-to-day life. In a very real sense, the Triduum has a single liturgy. There are many parts, but they are all connected. Some people struggle with the potential confusion between remembering and reenacting events. We do not simply reenact the foot washing or the Lord's Supper on Thursday night, and we do not crucify Christ anew on Good Friday. Instead, we gather to remember what God has done for us in Christ. Here is one of the Collects that we prayed on Palm Sunday.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I encourage you to give yourself the gift of immersing yourself in the liturgical life of these days. While you're giving yourself that gift, think about inviting someone you know to share this holy time with us.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

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| March 28 | Maundy Thursday
Morning Prayer (9am) <i>Online</i>
Holy Eucharist & Foot Washing (7pm) <i>Live/Zoom</i> |
| March 29 | Good Friday
Stations of the Cross (Noon) <i>In person only</i>
<i>The Church will be open for prayer until 3pm</i>
The Proper Liturgy of Good Friday (7pm) <i>Live/Zoom</i> |
| March 30 | Holy Saturday
Morning Prayer (9am) <i>Online</i>
The Proper Liturgy of Holy Saturday (Noon) <i>In person only</i>
The Great Vigil of Easter (8pm) <i>In person only</i> |
| March 31 | Easter Day
Holy Eucharist (9:30am) <i>Live/Zoom</i> |

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Each year, the Presiding Bishop asks us to remember the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East through a gift to the Good Friday Offering. Given the ongoing turmoil in the Holy Land, our support of the life-giving ministries in this part of the world is even more important. See the poster in the Cloister, or give online securely at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/good-friday-offering/>

GOOD FRIDAY SONNETS

I have prepared a **new devotional resource** containing 14 sonnets by Malcolm Guite, one for each Station of the Cross. It will be available all week, particularly on Good Friday. There is a PDF of that booklet attached to this email.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Food Pantry: Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & sauce, mac & cheese.

A BETTER WAY ~ MARCH NEEDS

NEW bed pillows (Walmart has prices as low as \$5), pillow cases, hair brushes, body lotion and disposable razors. Thank you for your ongoing donations!

GATHERING GRACE

Gathering Grace served **95 meals** last Sunday. The next two weekends are busy, so if you have time to **volunteer**, please see Connie or Mary. Remember to bring **candy and/or cookies** for **Easter Sunday**. Donations can be placed in the cheery bunny buckets by the Gathering Grace kitchen.

CARDINALS AND HOOSIERS AND BOILERMAKERS, OH MY!

This year during NCAA March Madness, Grace Village is participating in Campus Ministry Madness, a fundraising challenge between Campus Ministry sites across the country. Help Grace Village reign supreme and/or give to your alma mater to support the transformational work happening at our Campuses nationwide! Give today at <https://campusministrymadness.org> The competition runs **until April 8th!** Help Grace Village rise above the competition with your generosity!

And, that's not all! Mark your calendars, because we'll be having a complimentary "Thank You" lunch open house for all our donors on **Sunday April 7th, between 12-2pm** in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian. Door Prizes included!

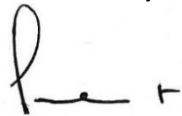
Some of you will have noticed that birthday and anniversary blessings are not offered during the liturgies of Holy Week. They will resume on Easter Day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Tim Lewis (March 28)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless you in these holy days,



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