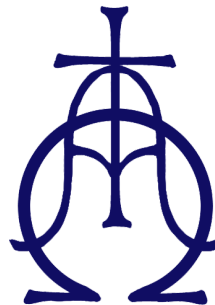


CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH XENIA

NewsNote Vol. 2, No. 19

**Holy Week
Easter Sunday**



**We are back in church!
Please call the church office (937-372-1594) to let us know
so that we can keep track of numbers.**

**We will continue to stream live to Facebook
during our in person worship in the
sanctuary.**

[Link to Facebook page](#)

A message from Rev. Jennifer:

**A Maundy Thursday Meditation
Mark 14:32-36**

**“My soul is devastated unto death; remain here and keep
watch”**

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

I was once asked to name the image of Jesus that was most important to me. I had two images that felt to me to be inextricably linked: the helpless newborn in the stable, and the agonized man in the garden.

The newborn Jesus is the embodied humility and human-ness that the Creator of the Universe took on at the incarnation. English teachers say, "show, don't tell"—this was God showing the world that God would meet us on the ground, and in our terms, putting glory aside for dirty diapers. Incarnation as a little baby is about the helpless vulnerability, the need for others' care, the sacredness of the domestic: a small family, a space in which to sleep and eat and care for a child and keep vigil. This is the way that God makes even the most mundane and the most ordinary into something holy.

One of our Christmas hymns tells the story:

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us, He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles, like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in all our gladness.

And the baby became a child, and the child grew, increased in wisdom and in stature, and was in favor with God and people. The agonized man in the garden is Word made flesh now at other end of the life that began as a helpless newborn. He is living the consequences of a life begun in vulnerability, growing up amidst all the challenges of an ordinary life in family living in an ordinary town. He is living the consequences of having made a decision about *how* to live his adult life: showing God's mercy and compassion to all; to speak the truth; following a path of non-violence; calling out the powerful who do not follow God's path. He is living the consequences of walking the path that follows God's great desire that humanity be One, that we be servants to one another and the world, that we know and accept the cost of the Way of Love.

And then the garden. If the stable is the place where Word made Flesh shows humanity at its most vulnerable, the garden of Gethsemane in where Word made Flesh shows humanity at its most desperate and challenged, facing the cost of embodying a life of love and inclusion, and deciding whether to stay on that path, whatever the horrible consequences—or just to run away.

Each of us, in ways small and large, have to face the consequences of our ideals and decide whether we will choose God's way or whether we'll just do the safe or easy thing. Jesus may have been 100% divine, but he was also 100% human, and that agony and the choice facing him in Gethsemane were real.

I often wonder what changed the disciples. They changed from wishing that they could kick the Romans out of Judea with a messiah-king—that was who they thought Jesus was during Jesus' life—to wishing that they could spread through the world the message of Christ crucified and risen—that was who they realized Jesus actually was after his death and resurrection. Was it knowing Jesus as a friend they admired and knowing the difficulty and cost that made them change their minds and their lives? On this Maundy Thursday, may we remember the decision Jesus faced, and the choice that Jesus made—and the very human, very real difficulties in making up his mind to follow the path of righteousness to the end. May remember that we have daily choices of staying on course even when we see the consequences. And when we are making difficult choices, may the image of Word made flesh, the image of Jesus choosing between life and death, be one that is before us.

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
In-person and live on Facebook
Let the office know

- April 1 Maundy Thursday 6.00 pm**
- April 2 Good Friday 7.00 pm**
- April 3 Holy Saturday 12.00 pm noon**
- April 4 Easter Sunday Two services: 9:00 and 10.30**

We will continue to require masks and distance.
Please let Brad, Becky or Rev Jennifer know if you are planning to come in person!

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March 21-April 5, 2021
Holy Week
Easter Sunday
First Sunday

Preacher and Celebrant: Reverend Jennifer
Scripture Readings for Easter Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24
Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8

*you can find copies of the scripture on our weekly devotional
at the bottom of this note*

**Christ Church Clothes Etc. Outreach:
Clothes for Children in Foster Care**

Clothes, Etc. is continuing outreach to the community--community members can call for an appointment to come and find clothing. A second outreach is also emerging: serving social workers and children who have been placed in foster care. Clothes Etc. is putting together packets of clothing by gender and size--underwear, socks, pants and shirt--and then inviting social workers to make appointments to get packets for the children they serve. If you would like to help, see below...

Older girls: sizes 12-18

Jeans/pants
Shirts/tops
Socks
Sweat shirts
Athletic bras
Coats
Hats
Gloves
New underwear/panties (all other clothes can be used)

Older boys: sizes 12-18

Jeans/pants
Long sleeved warm shirts
Socks
Sweat shirts
Cotton tshirts
Coats
Hats
Gloves
New underwear (all other clothes can be used)

Hygiene Items

Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Deodorant
hairbrush

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++Parish Prayer List++

Please contact church office to update or add names

Prayers for your daily devotions

Healing

Ruth, Amelia, Cynda, Heather, Diana and Peter, and for all who suffer because of COVID-19.

In God's Nearer Presence

Rick Feinour

We pray for comfort and healing for those who grieve.

Pam Feinour and the Feinour family

On-going prayer list.

If a name has been removed from the list that you would like to see here, please let Rev. Jennifer or Becky know.

Barbara, Holly, Madysun, John G, Rev John T, Roxanne, Ken, Lamar, Jess and Tim, Greg, David E, Deb, Heidi

++Christian Formation++

***Weekly Devotional**

Our readings this week include exploration of hunger--spiritual and physical hunger. Suzanne Guthrie's weekly devotional is found at the button below. At the top left hand corner you will find the readings of the week.

Here is the link for the week's readings as well as the devotional **Edge of the Enclosure**

Weekly Devotional

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God's blessing be with us,
Christ's peace be with us,
the Spirit's outpouring be with us,
now and always. Amen.++

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