

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
201 EAST CHURCH STREET  
MARSHALLTOWN, IA 50158

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## APRIL EPISTLE 2023

A Publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Marshalltown, Iowa

### St. Paul's Staff and Vestry

The Head of the Church, Jesus Christ  
The Bishop, The Right Reverend Betsey Monnot  
Priest in Partnership, The Reverend Richard Graves  
Senior Warden, PJ Colbert  
Junior Warden, Nick Lindborg  
Clerk, The Rev. Brent deSilva  
Parish Administrator, Michael Bayne  
Organist, Sharon Morrical  
Andrew Thelen, Pianist  
Artist in Residence, Hudson Lourenço-Field

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Visit us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaulsmarshalltown](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmarshalltown)

For further information, contact the church at 641-753-6317.



**Women at the Empty Tomb**  
**Fresco Painting by Fra Angelico (1395-1455)**  
**Museum of San Marco, Florence**



And this is very good news, too!

St. Paul's and The Caring Center of Marshalltown have agreed to form a ministry partnership. Beginning May 1, our church will provide space in our great hall for the organization's operations. As host, we will receive a monthly donation of \$600.

We have been looking to host a community group since Head Start left us in 2021, so this new joint venture is an answer to prayer.

Caring Center is a Partner Agency of our local United Way of Marshalltown and the following description of the Center's scope of work appears on their website:

***Caring Center was started in 1989 by churches that wanted to provide clothing and shoes for those in need. In addition to bedding, towels and household items like dishes, cookware, and silverware were added. All items are donated from community members.***

***We use our financial gifts for rent, utilities, insurance costs and to purchase items that are not donated. There is no charge for those in need. We will provide a tax-exempt receipt for those who make donations.***

Less than a year ago, our Blessing Box ministry came into being. With the addition of the Caring Center, we can say that we are truly feeding the hungry and clothing the naked.



**Marshalltown Area  
United Way**

## ***Easter Affirmations of Faith***

Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise."



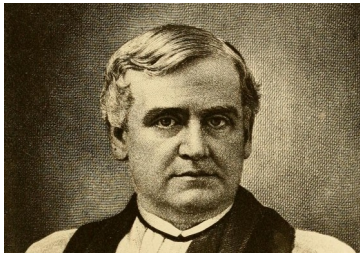
The great Easter truth is not that we are to live newly after death - that is not the great thing - but that...we are to, and may, live nobly now because we are to live forever.



Death is strong, but Life is stronger.



O Risen Christ! O Easter Flower!  
How dear Thy Grace has grown!  
From east to west, with loving power,  
Make all the world Thine own.



**Phillips Brooks** (December 13, 1835 – January 23, 1893) was an American Episcopal clergyman and author, long the Rector of Boston's Trinity Church, and briefly Bishop of Massachusetts. He wrote the lyrics of the Christmas hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem". He is honored on the Episcopal Church liturgical calendar on January 23.



**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

10:15 A.M. WORSHIP

5:30 P.M. ZOOM WORSHIP

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

6 P.M. AGAPE FEAST IN CONFERENCE ROOM

FOLLOWED BY STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7**

12:15 P.M. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**EASTER DAY, APRIL 9**

10:15 WORSHIP

4:00 P.M. ZOOM WORSHIP

## Parish Notices

**ANNUAL MEETING RECAP:** On Sunday, March 19, we held our Annual Meeting following the 10:15 a.m. service. At that time, Chris DeMeyer was elected to our Vestry and we thanked Joyce Bayne for her faithful service as a Vestry member. Additionally, Wyatt DeMeyer was elected as our Convention Delegate and Nick Lindborg as our Alternate Delegate. A variety of reports were given about our financial wellbeing and our life together as a parish.

**MARCH VESTRY MEETING:** On Thursday, March 23, the new officers of the Vestry were elected to serve through the Annual Meeting of 2024: P.J. Joslin, Senior Warden, Nick Lindborg, Junior Warden, and The Rev. Brent deSilva, Clerk.





*“You are the light of the world. . .let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5)*

As we anticipate the coming of Easter, our sacred scriptures and tradition ask us to be light. When Jesus tells us, “You are the light of the world,” he is not giving us a mere metaphor to muse over or presenting us with an intellectual analogy to mull over for our benefit. He is calling us – no, pushing us – into action.

As Jesus’ followers, our light must shine. We cannot hide it. We cannot deny it. We cannot dim it. We are to be light. The timid among us tend to believe “shining” is what other people do. “I’m pretty dull,” they say. “Let someone else shine.”

The bold among us tend to polish their own lanterns a bit too much. “I’m pretty bright,” they say. “I don’t need anybody to enlighten me.” Yet all of us, whether timid or bold, are to be as light. All of us. The God who dwells in unapproachable light dwells in us. We cannot dim the light, and we cannot outshine it. We must simply set it on a lampstand and BE THAT LIGHT.

In order to really shine with the brightness of Easter light, I think we might benefit from doing three things:

First, we must know in our bones who we are. We must know we are dead: dead to this world, to sin and to all the “isms” that darken our world. For we have been buried with Christ in the waters of baptism and the old has been put away. Made alive and new again in Christ, we live in the Spirit, in the inbreaking Kingdom of God, and in the hope of the resurrection on the last day.

We are people who long for, work for, and struggle for that last day. We are people who bring history to an end, who know that on the last day God, in ways only known to God, will “wipe away every tear.” We are people who live out the paschal mystery. Through our remembering and our memorial, we proclaim, in word and deed, Christ’s death and resurrection. We are people of justice, not afraid to enter the dark basement of people’s lives and throw a switch. We share our bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless, and clothe the naked.

Second, we must tell others who we are. To those still in darkness, searching for the light, we must say, “Come join us.” Did you know almost every adult who joins a church joins because someone invited them? Ask. Reach out. Be a light on the path to someone who is struggling to see clearly, a guide to someone who needs a new direction.

And to those who already walk with us, Christians of other traditions, we must say, “We are family – brothers and sisters.” If we Christians cannot get our own house in order and pray and work for the coming of God’s kingdom, how can we possibly invite the world into reconciliation and peace? We can’t allow our scandalous divisions to continue to hide our light from the eyes of those who are looking to us for hope and meaning.

Third, we must worship together. We are not the light of the world by ourselves, in isolation, but called together in assembly as the body of Christ, called to hear our Lord’s living voice through his Word and respond to it by breaking bread and sharing the cup at his Table. Our worship rehearses and forms us in the art of holy and hospitable living. In our care for one another around the Word and the Table, we recognize the light in the person next to us and become proficient in recognizing that same light in every stranger we meet.

That stranger is the Lord, and our reaction to that stranger is the ultimate test of how well we are living out Jesus’ charge: “Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Never settle for the old life, or injustice, or division. Be alive and be one in Christ. Ask. Reach out. Share. Be a light on the path. Shine with Easter light.

Easter Blessings, *Richard*

# *prayer* Requests

Let us pray for those who have asked for our prayers: Orlin Klinkefus, Ruth Davis, Dan and Carroll McInroy, Alice, Brian DeSilva, Betty, Lois, Gary Walters. We pray for all those celebrating birthdays, and for those observing anniversaries.

We pray for all who have died, especially Dorothy Keeler, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

We pray for all those during the month of April who are celebrating birthdays, especially Richard Graves, Doug Joslin, Joe Carter, and Sam Chizek and for those observing anniversaries.

We pray for the clergy and people of every parish in our diocese. We also pray for our companion dioceses of Nzara and Swaziland in Africa, and Brechin in Eastern Scotland.

We pray for leaders in every community and nation we entrust with the authority of government, especially for Joseph, our President and Kimberly, our Governor, that they may be filled with the love of truth and righteousness and seek the common good.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that they will soon know justice and peace in their land.

We pray for all those whose lives have been appallingly ended by the heartless use of firearms, especially the children and staff of Covenant School in Nashville.

We pray for an end to the coronavirus pandemic and pray for all those working world-wide to care for those who have contracted the virus.



# On the Lighter Side

(Through the eyes of Olly, my dog)



The CARTOON KRONICLES





"SO YOU'RE LITTLE BOBBIE; WELL, REX HERE HAS BEEN GOING ON AND ON ABOUT YOU FOR THE LAST 50 YEARS."