



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Mid-April – May 2022

A Publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
201 East Church Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158

St. Paul's Staff:

The Head of the Church, Jesus Christ
Priest in Partnership, The Rev. Richard Graves
Junior Warden, Nick Yancey
Organist, Sharon Morrical

The Bishop, The Right Rev. Betsey Monnot
Senior Warden, P.J. Colbert
Parish Administrator and Sexton, Michael Bayne
Artist in Residence, Hudson Lourenço

Email: stpauls50158@msn.com

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsmarshalltown
For further information, contact the church at 641-753-6317.



Ames Chamber Artists to Perform at St. Paul's
Thursday, May 19, 2022
7:30 p.m.

As part of our Fine Arts Program, we are pleased to announce the performance of the Ames Chamber Artists (ACA) on Thursday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m.

After a long Covid break from performing, ACA is back on stage, bringing the classic sound of choral music to enlighten and entertain audiences.

Founded in 1988, ACA has commissioned 16 pieces by 15 different composers, and has performed over 350 choral works. In 1995, the Iowa Choral Directors Association invited ACA to perform as guest artists at their summer symposium in Mason City. Collaborations with the music department at Iowa State University include the Ames International Orchestra Festival Chorus performance with the Warsaw Philharmonic in 1997, the Holiday Festival of Music on two occasions, the ISU Celebrity Series in 2003, and for the residency of composer Libby Larsen in April 2006. ACA has joined forces with the Central Iowa Symphony twice, in 1998 and again in March 2003.

This concert is free and open to the public.



Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Message March 30, 2021

"Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive." (Luke 20:38)

This past year has, undoubtedly, been one of the strangest we have ever known. The Covid-19 pandemic transformed the way we live around the world. It has been a year of much loss, grief and suffering for many all over the globe, made worse by our inability to comfort one another in the usual ways. We have been confronted with our mortality and our fragility as human beings, but also with our interdependence and interconnectedness.

In His life and death on the Cross, Jesus enters into the pain, uncertainty and confusion that are a part of human life. He lives amongst the sick, the broken and the suffering. He ministers to the outcast and the marginalized. There is no space between us and the God who comes to live among us. God has been close to us in our suffering this year, He has heard our cries, and He has felt our pain. We have not suffered alone.

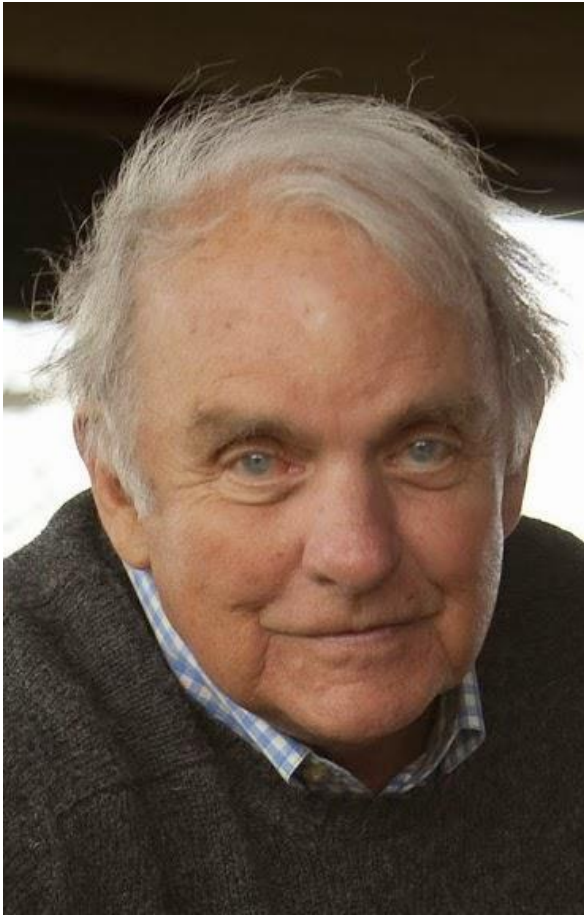
In Christ's passion and death, He experiences the depths of humanity. As the Father raises Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit a new day dawns for the world. Death is conquered and overcome, and the one who was dead but is now alive transforms despair into hope and hatred into love. By His resurrection, He calls us all to eternal life with Him. He reveals the truth: that death lies to us. It does not have the final word.

Across the world we look towards the promise of the vaccine, and rebuilding society after the tumult of the last year. We take our places as salt and light in the world, remembering that, as Christians, we are called to keep our eyes fixed not on 'normal' life, but on the eternal life Jesus promises us in His Kingdom. That is our ultimate hope and our salvation. May we find comfort and hope in the God who died for us, and may we proclaim His name in the confidence that He is risen indeed.

+Justin Cantuar:

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

(Note: The Archbishop of Canterbury is generally regarded as the spiritual head of the Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is a part. Anglican means, "of England" and all the independent churches worldwide who belong to our communion trace their roots to the Church of England).



Christmas has a large and colorful cast of characters including not only the three principals themselves, but the angel Gabriel, the innkeeper, the shepherds, the heavenly host, the three Wise Men, Herod, the star of Bethlehem, and even the animals kneeling in the straw. In one form or another we have seen them represented so often that we would recognize them anywhere.

We know about the birth in all its detail as well as we know about the births of ourselves or our children, maybe more so. The manger is as familiar as home. We have made a major production of it, and as minor attractions we have added the carols, the tree, the presents, the cards. Santa Claus, Ebenezer Scrooge, and

so on. With Easter it is entirely different.

The Gospels are far from clear as to just what happened. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. Matthew alone speaks of an earthquake. In the tomb there were two white-clad figures or possibly just one. Mary Magdalen seems to have gotten there before anybody else.

There was a man she thought at first was the gardener. Perhaps Mary the mother of James was with her and another woman named Joanna. One account says Peter came too with one of the other disciples. Elsewhere the suggestion is that there were only the women and that the disciples, who were somewhere else, didn't believe the women's story when they heard it. There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of "fear and great joy." Confusion was everywhere. There is no agreement even as to the role of Jesus

himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

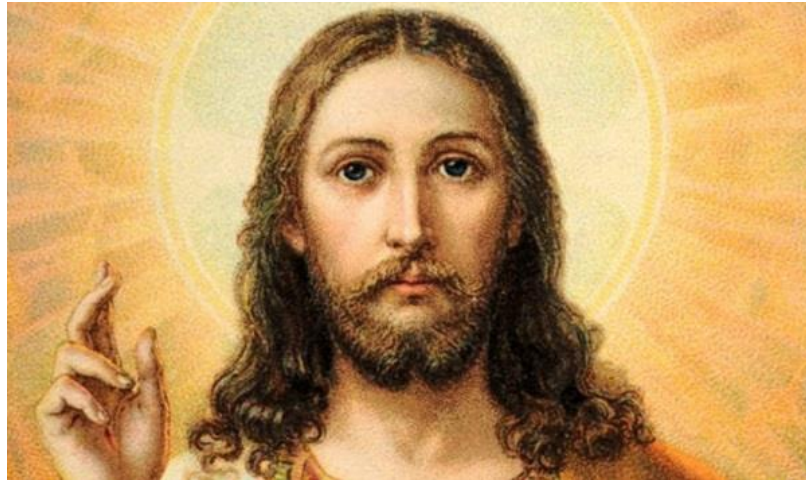
It is not a major production at all, and the minor attractions we have created around it — the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs — have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much nor subtract much. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it.

It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah* sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death.

(Note: Written by Frederick Beuchner~originally published in *Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Word*. Frederick Buechner (pronounced BEEK-ner) is a 95 year old Poet novelist, short story writer, and theologian from New York City, New York. He is the author of more than thirty published books and has been an important source of inspiration and learning for many readers).



Where is Jesus now – for us?

The above question seems to me to be the central question of Easter. When this most important and profound Holy Day arrives, too often we think of Jesus way back then. What happened on that day he rose, who he appeared to, spoke to?

While these questions are important and our Gospel accounts provide us some answers, if we only consider them, we are likely to miss Jesus' presence to us in the here and now.

Easter is not the property of the past, but God's future showing itself in our present. Jesus is alive in us now, still showing up in us and our world as a redemptive and merciful force that brings love out of hate, freedom out of bondage, life out of death.

What I am saying is that our lives are a testimony to the risen Jesus. How we, by faith, in the world, the choices we make, what we give ourselves to, demonstrate that Jesus is not dead, but living.

Easter isn't something we remember. It's something we live and breathe.

For us, Jesus is now!

Blessings, Richard

CHURCH NEWS

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, 4:00 p.m. Zoom and 6:00 p.m. Agape Dinner

Good Friday, Noon at Church and 4:00 p.m. Zoom

Easter Day, 10:00 a.m. Church and 4:00 p.m. Zoom

JESSE DEMEYER is performing *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* on the Piano at the morning service.

- **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY** occurs every Thursday at 4:00 p.m., except Maundy Thursday. Do join us for this hour-long engagement with Scripture and with one another guided by the Holy Spirit.
- The **VESTRY** has had a change in the Senior Warden position. At the March meeting, **P.J. COLBERT** was elected to serve as Senior Warden, replacing **JOYCE BAYNE**. The next meeting of the Vestry is slated for Tuesday, May 10, at 5:00 p.m. If you have anything to place on the agenda for this, please let **SR. Warden P.J. COLBERT** or **FR. RICHARD** know.
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** will be delivered on April 27 and May 25 – thanks to the ministry of **GLEN DAVIS** and **SHERYL READOUT**.
- **PARISH POTLUCK, MAY 5:** We will gather at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. **NANCY STONE** is providing the main dish, a taco casserole, so please bring a side dish, salad, or something else to share.
- **ST. PAUL'S** is hoping to form a facility-sharing partnership with a not-for-profit to better serve our community. If you know of any group that might be interested, please speak to **FR. RICHARD** or **MIKE BAYNE**.



FOR MARRIAGE

*As spring unfolds the dream of the earth,
May you bring each other's hearts to birth.*

*As the ocean finds calm in view of land,
May you love the gaze of each other's mind.*

As the wind arises free and wild,

May nothing negative control your lives.

*As kindly as moonlight might search the dark,
So gentle may you be when light grows scarce.*

As surprised as the silence that music opens,

May your words for each other be touched with reverence.

As warmly as the air draws in the light,

May you welcome each other's every gift.

*As elegant as dream absorbing the night,
May sleep find you clear of anger and hurt.*

As twilight harvests all the day's color,

May love bring you home to each other.

*John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space Between Us, page 136,
Doubleday, 2008, First Edition, USA*



Let us pray for those who have asked for our prayers:

Orlin & Sally Klinkefus, Colleen & Ellis Harmon, Ruth Davis, Scott, Eleanor Stegmann, Dan and Carroll McInroy, Bob & Nancy Petersen.

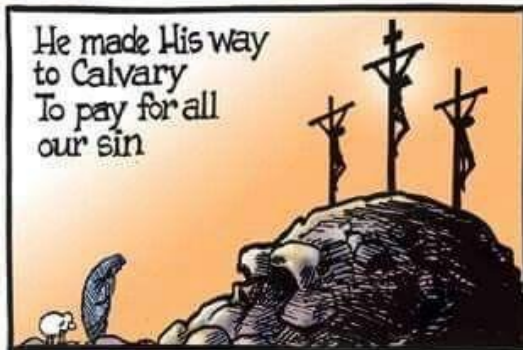
We pray for all those celebrating birthdays, especially Mary Thomas, Sam Chizek, Glen Davis, Scott Hubbard, Macy Hubbard, Jonathan Hull, Hannah Carter, Griffin Mayo, and for those observing anniversaries, especially, David and Karen Bursley.

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 our companion diocese of Brechin in Eastern Scotland.

We pray for all who suffer under the weight of this pandemic and strength for those who labor for our health. We pray for leaders in every community and nation, especially for Joseph, our President and Kimberly, our Governor, that they might seek justice, promote unity, and care for all those they serve.

We also pray for the people of Ukraine: God of Peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those who have power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all we pray for all your precious children, at risk and fear, that you would hold them and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

The Lighter Side



garyvarvel.com





HAPPY EASTER

