

Out of Darkness into the Marvelous Light!

Dear seekers of God,

Every year in Lent we embark on the great journey. We enter into the meaning of our existence by following closely the journey of our Rabbi Jesus. He is the one who shows us how to be in union with our Creator God, how to live sacrificially and lovingly as God's healers and prophets in the world.

The journey through Lent, to Palm Sunday (the Sunday of the Passion), and through Holy Week, culminates in great joy on Easter as we proclaim the victory of the God of Life – the wondrous Good News that God's Love is eternally stronger than death. In our sacred space at Christ Church we proclaim the resurrection with a splendid, colorful Easter Garden that embodies St. Paul's image of the New Creation given through the Risen Lord. When we worship the God of Life on Easter, we are indeed new!

But in order to appreciate the profound beauty of that morning, we people of faith must travel through the darkness. How do we do this? By being present – body, mind and spirit – and taking part with our fellow travelers in services that make possible the *experience* of the journey from life to death to new life. These services are listed in this newsletter. I wholeheartedly encourage you to take part, to take leap of faith that calls us out of darkness and into the marvelous Light of Christ.

May we seek the God of Life, together, in Christ.

Celeste Cox+

Rector

The Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) April 17 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

The dual nature of the liturgy for this Sunday is evident from the title. Along with the Great Vigil of Easter, it is one of the most dramatic services of the church year. It begins with the pomp and glory of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with shouts of "Hosanna" to our King. The hosannas soon change to "Crucify him, crucify him," as the Passion Gospel is proclaimed. We are given full opportunity to sing our praises during the procession with palms and, later, to cry our condemnation as the story of Jesus' crucifixion is read in parts by people of the parish. We are all part of this great drama, for it is the mystery of God's redemption of the world through his only-begotten Son. Note: the 10 AM service includes hymns and special music. **At 3:00 PM on Palm Sunday, the Christ Church Choir joins the Choir of Wesley United Methodist Church** (at Wesley, on S. State St) to sing the **Faure Requiem**, a great choral piece commemorating the passion of Christ. Freewill offering requested.

Wednesday in Holy Week April 20 12:10 PM

Informal Eucharist with Laying on of Hands for Healing.

Maundy Thursday Agape Supper April 21 5:30 PM followed by Table Eucharist at 6:45 PM

Parish Hall. On the night before he died, our Lord instituted, at the Last Supper, the sacrament we know as the Holy Eucharist. **Our Potluck Supper is an occasion to gather for an agape meal – a love feast** – as a way to affirm our fellowship as sisters and brothers eternally tied to one another and to Christ Jesus. The informal Table Eucharist allows us to enter into the spirit of The Last Supper and to experience the servanthood of Christ through *optional participation in footwashing*. **Deacon Pat Malcolm preaches: Are you under the influence?** To conclude the service we process to the church for the *Stripping of the Altar followed by Keeping Watch* in preparation for Good Friday. *Keeping Watch* is an opportunity to sit silently in the church throughout the night for quiet prayer and meditation (individuals, couples, families may sign up for an hour or several).

Good Friday April 22, Noon. Join the people of Presbyterian of Dover; Holy Cross; Wesley United Methodist; People's Church UCC and St. Andrew's Lutheran in this solemnly beautiful ecumenical service with special music (from Faure's *Requiem*) by the choirs of Christ Church and Wesley United Methodist. Preacher: The Rev. Don Godwin of Wesley UMC

The Great Vigil of Easter Saturday, April 23, 8 PM This ancient liturgy *takes place in the churchyard* (*wear casual clothes, durable shoes*; if raining, we will be in the church). Includes the Lighting of the New Fire and the procession of the Paschal Candle by the deacon. Our Story of Salvation is told around the fire, with a variety of parishioners (including youth) participating. A cappella chanting adds to the beauty and mystery of this 1st service of Easter. *byoc – bring your own chair if you prefer being seated outdoors.*

Easter Day The Feast of the Resurrection Sunday, April 24

6:30 AM Sunrise Service (churchyard – church in case of rain).

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Easter Hymns & the rector's Easter Sermon. Followed by Easter fellowship, Parish Hall

10:00 AM Festal Eucharist with Easter Hymns and the rector's Easter Sermon. Special music by the Christ Church Choirs – under the direction of Jon Rania. *Children's Easter Egg Hunt follows in the churchyard—byob* (bring your own basket).