Lent, Holy Week and Easter

See page 5
FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

Emerging With New Questions

In church life March is almost like a new year. With a new Vestry church leadership shifts, new roles are assigned, and most importantly our leadership discerns what the next steps are. Last year at the Vestry retreat the themes of going deeper, turning outward and ensuring that we had adequate resources emerged as significant themes.

In many ways our original plans were upended by the pandemic, as we navigated the uncertainties about the immediate future, personally and as a church community. But in some, our priorities were deepened and expanded.

This year’s Vestry will be navigating how we build on the lessons learned in the past year to strengthen our ministry with one another for the sake of others.

How do we continue to stay connected? As we regather in person, how do we also use the tools and gifts we learned about deepening spirituality and building community online? How can we worship and learn in new ways, expanding the ways people connect with God and each other?

How do we take our enriched engagement around racism and our expanding awareness of other cultures and learn to engage those realities in new and life giving ways? How does a community like ours continue to learn and be a voice for all those on the margins?

How do we use our new awareness to be a truly inclusive community?

How do we proclaim the good news in ways that connect with people who have no experience, or a bad experience, of church? How do we share how being a part of church can matter? How can we shape all we do together so that it really does make a difference in people’s lives?

In some ways these are always questions we carry. But as we emerge from this most unusual year perhaps we have a chance to carry forward the kind of reset we were forced to make for the sake of new ways of sharing and being good news for each other and the world.

And not questions for the Vestry only, but for all of us. Because it is through all of us being willing to go deeper and turn outward that the Spirit can work. And so, this month let us hold one another in prayer in a special way as we emerge into the post-pandemic world.

On the Path with you,

Thomas

Vestry Retreat Highlights

The Vestry completed its annual retreat February 19 and February 20. Unlike previous years when we have gone to the Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg, this year our retreat was accomplished via Zoom, yet another “new normal” in this time of COVID-19! Our retreat provided time for our members to become better acquainted, explore topics of racial justice and healing, look at the work of the Welcoming Ministry and how to continue to build on what has been done this past year. Time was spent on financial issues as well and continuing the work to reduce the budget deficit.

Our first regular Vestry meeting will take place on Monday, March 1. The Vestry generally meets the first Monday of each month from 6pm to 8:30pm. We will continue to meet via Zoom until it is safe to gather in person.

I look forward to the May/June/July issue of On The Path and being able to give you a more detailed look at some of the specific tasks/areas the Vestry is working on.

Yours in peace,

Kathy Martin
Sr. Warden
Plans For Regathering in 2021

Over the last few months, a working group of the Vestry and the Vestry itself has consulted with the rector to develop a framework and general plan for regathering in person as safety, good health practices, common sense, public health guidelines, Diocesan guidelines, and the limitations of our own facilities will permit. This has been a challenging process because the pace of the COVID-19 pandemic has been uncertain and fluid. In particular, the early flattening of the curve we were fortunate to experience in San Mateo County allowing some early, small outdoor in-person gatherings at St. Paul’s was followed by second and third waves of COVID infections, hospitalizations, and ICU admissions. Now with COVID vaccinations underway and continued masking and social distancing, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. But it will still take a while for us to have “new normal” in-person gatherings at St. Paul’s.

We all know how important it is to gather in person on our campus to worship, sing, and build community together with the myriad of services, programs, and activities that make St. Paul’s so special. Although our virtual offerings have exceeded expectations in terms of content, quality, and participation, we are committed to return to in-person gatherings of our St. Paul’s community as soon as it is practicable, which unfortunately will not be by Easter. We will also, of course, continue to build on our experience with virtual programming.

After much discussion, the rector and Vestry have agreed on a framework for regathering that would follow the color coding framework adopted by the State of California and would fall into two time periods, 1) between Easter and Memorial Day, and 2) after Memorial Day. Thus, if the San Mateo County COVID status is purple (widespread COVID), all worship and group meetings would be virtual only. If the County color coding improves to red (substantial), after three weeks St. Paul’s would consider a small outdoor gathering of 25 people or less, socially distanced, for worship one Sunday a month before Memorial Day and more frequently after Memorial Day, and small groups of 5 or less for meetings. If the color coding improves to orange (moderate), after three weeks St. Paul’s would consider outdoor, and possibly indoor, gatherings of 50 people or less (25% space capacity) for worship and small groups of 10 or less for meetings. And if the color coding improves to yellow (minimal), after three weeks St. Paul’s would consider both outdoor and indoor gatherings of 75 people or less for worship, or 50% space capacity for both worship and small group gatherings. Thus, for colors orange and yellow, indoor gatherings will be considered depending on the COVID situation at that time and the limitations of our own facilities, which will take into account room size, safe spacing and appropriate ventilation.

Remember that this is a framework only and subject to change, but it is also a good starting point to plan for regathering based on sound scientific information and public health guidelines. In the meantime, our virtual programs and our commitment to our shared faith and community will continue to sustain us.

St. Paul’s Outlook for Regathering In Person

No in person activities planned before Easter

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<td>Small groups</td>
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*Will move to next color tier 3 weeks after county
**Will stream/record in person services for virtual attendees
***Indoor services dependent on conditions and facilities
# Cover

Top: Ash Wednesday preparations with seeds.

Bottom: A seedling sprouting.

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A Prayerful Joyous Pilgrimage Through Holy Week and Easter
Virtual online services • On campus self-guided prayer
• At home activities and practices to enter fully into Holy Week
Palm Sunday, March 28 through Easter Sunday, April 4

Little could we have imagined last year, as we just entered into our careful shelter-in-place, that we would be celebrating another Easter without in-person worship. While we are hopeful and optimistic that we will again be able to gather in person, we are not quite ready to gather in the large numbers that Easter brings.

But we can make a particularly meaningful spiritual pilgrimage online, on campus and at home. You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in all these ways or in the ways that seem most helpful to you.

Online liturgies for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter
Join online as we move prayerfully throughout Holy Week. Special prayer and music will provide time and space to allow the Spirit to be at work in these transformative and healing days invite all to offer themselves in the loving movement from death to life.

A Campus Pilgrimage
Throughout Holy Week you can visit St. Paul’s campus to pray and meditate on the journey from death to life. Throughout the campus special places will be prepared that invite contemplation on Jesus’ journey, and how God is at work in your life as well. New prayers and places appropriate for each of the Three Days (Thursday through Sunday) will guide you in a particular way each day.

Online Retreat on Zoom
During the Three Days (Thursday through Sunday) a guided retreat will be offered with one of the pastoral staff offering prayerful meditations and an opportunity for small group reflection.

Easter in the Garden
Celebrate part of your Easter Day by entering a garden of beauty at St. Paul’s. Take a moment for prayer in the Church and be uplifted by joyful music as you pray. Smell the sweet fragrance of the flowers of Easter, drink in the beauty of the windows and the stillness and holy presence of our sacred space.

At Home Practices and Activities
Create a sacred space and time at home! Look for suggestions and materials for meaningful ways your home can be a sanctuary of grace and peace. Practices and activities for children and adults can make this an amazing Holy Week and Easter.

Look for the Easter mailer or check our website for more details.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28 – posting by Saturday, 4pm

Maundy Thursday – posting by 6am

Good Friday – posting by 6am

Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday, April 4 – posting by Saturday, 4pm
Lent, Holy Week & Easter Day Music Offerings
Choral Music and Voluntaries

March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent
Patricia Van Ness | A Great Host
(Psalm 68:11b)
Elizabeth Kimble | Agnus Dei
Judith Weir | The Tree of Peace for organ

March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Patricia Van Ness
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Anne Casscells & Susan Ketchem, cantors
Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
Wonderous Love
Betty Jackson King
Spring Intermezzo for piano

March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Patricia Van Ness | Have mercy upon me (Psalm 51:1-13)
Premiere
Patricia Van Ness
Cor meum est templum sacrum
 Choir of St. Paul’s, virtually
Johann Sebastian Bach (born this day in 1685) | Passacaglia in c minor, BWV 582 for organ

March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday
Jonathan Dove | Sanctus
Carl Rüti | I wonder as I wander
Samuel Barber | Adagio for Strings, transcribed for organ

April 1, 2021
Maundy Thursday
Melissa Dunphy | A new heart
Craig Phillips
Peace is my last gift

April 2, 2021
Good Friday
Sarah MacDonald | Crux fidelis

April 4, 2021
Easter Day
Jonathan Dove | Gloria
Simon Lindley
Now the green blade riseth
Cecilia McDowall
I know that my redeemer liveth
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Alleluia (from Exsultate jubilate)
Charles-Marie Widor
Finale (Symphony 6)

UNDERWRITING THE MUSIC OF EASTER DAY

Sunday, April 4

This Easter Day, we look forward to 40 singers from the Choir of St. Paul’s and our 1929 Skinner organ joining virtually to offer choral music in celebration of the joy of the Day of Resurrection. The festive online liturgy will include the Easter hymn Now the green blade riseth, the Gloria from the Missa brevis by Jonathan Dove, and the Choir School singing the Alleluia from Exsultate Jubilate by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The creation of a virtual choir offering entails countless steps, from the groundwork of a track(s) recorded by a small group of singers and the organist, to the recordings of individual videos by each singer listening to this guide track, to the engineering of the composite audio and video. Samples of virtual choir offerings made during the pandemic by the Choir of St. Paul’s are found in the Virtual Choir playlist at www.youtube.com/SusanJaneMattshews. Although hidden to the listener, the engineering labor and skill required to keep the choir’s offerings thriving during this unique period are substantial. Engineering costs have been underwritten by the Choir School.

You are invited to help underwrite the engineering of the three virtual choir offerings being prepared for Easter Day. All sizes of donation are gratefully received. You may underwrite the engineering of one virtual choir offering for $1000. You may sponsor the engineering of one singer’s video for $25, a quartet of singers for $100, an octet for $200, or the videos of the twenty youth of the Choir School for $500. Underwriters will be acknowledged in the Easter Day bulletin, and you may also include a memorial or thanksgiving dedication.

Deadline for listing a dedication in the bulletin is March 15. Please mail your donation and dedication text to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 415 El Camino Real, Burlingame, 94010. Checks may be made payable to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church with a note for Easter Music.

Thank you for your consideration. Supporting Music at St. Paul’s now will help ensure the availability of resources for that great day when the live music of the Choir of St. Paul’s may resume.
Easter Flowers Donations

Although we won’t be gathering in groups for worship inside the Church, we will have it open for certain hours on Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday. Consider making an Easter Flowers Donation so that the Church can be filled with flowers in celebration. Any amount is gratefully appreciated. Checks should be made out to St. Paul’s and mailed to the church – 415 El Camino Real, Burlingame 94010. Please indicate the donation is for Easter flowers. Dedications can be included with the check or emailed to mtorres@stpaulburlingame.org as well as any questions. The deadline to have your dedications included in the Holy Week and Easter Sunday booklet is Monday, March 15.

Post or Send Pics of Your Seedlings Sprouting & Growing!

We would love to see your seeds sprout! Please send pictures to info@stpaulsburlingame.org or post pictures on our social media:

- www.FaceBook.com/StPaulsBurlingame
- www.instagram.com/StPaulsBurlingame
- twitter.com/StPaulsBGame

If you get real ambitious, post videos at:
- www.YouTube.com/StPaulsBurlingame

WEDNESDAY 4:30pm HEALING PRAYER VIGIL
Led By Our Healing Ministry

Meeting ID: 926 5019 0999
Passcode: 024222

April will be our one year anniversary of our weekly Prayer Vigil. At 4:30pm we stop and pray a healing liturgy for our nation, for the climate and the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 and systemic racism.

A candle is lit to remind us of the Light of Christ, even in the darkest of times. A bell is rung to quiet our minds and open our hearts to the stillness of being held in the arms of the God of redeeming love. The spirit gathers us and is felt — even through a screen.

Thanks especially to Leslie Smith, Penny Newall, Alexandra Subramanian, Jennifer Minihan, Bev Hock, Gayle Miller-Janton, Mayah Hegre and all those who have joined together this year. We remain committed to holding the vigil until we can gather in our sanctuary of our Church.

All are invited to join us Wednesdays, 4:30pm Prayer Vigil time as a part of your Lenten Examen practice. Use this link to join https://zoom.us/j/92650190999 or by calling 669-900-9128. Meeting ID 926 5019 0999 with passcode 024222. Our gatherings are all about praying and we finish within 20 minutes.

Also, use this prayer for your Lenten Examen practice:

In this time of ongoing crisis, as deep wounds in our national life have reopened, let us remember who we are in prayer.

Let us seek wisdom to know our calling to bring peace and justice.

And let us seek to be in a kind of prayer that empowers us to be Christ in this world. Amen
Lenten Examen for Children

As a way for children to practice the Examen for Lent, The Rev. Julie Graham will be sending weekly updates on Sunday evenings with a simple teaching involving the seeds that were delivered on Ash Wednesday along with a prayer and a practice for your child and yourself.

Please tell your children that I'm waiting for my seeds to grow! Here’s what we did for Week One of Lent –

The Lent Examen Week One for Children

Say this to your children as you plant your seeds or as you examine your pot if you've already planted them:

"Lent has begun with Ash Wednesday. We placed Ashes on our forehead or on our Labyrinth or both."

Used the seedling pot in the Examen box (or seedlings you already have) to mix the rest of the ashes into the potting soil or plain old dirt from around our yards. Make a hole one inch deep and plant the sweet pea seeds. A little water, place in the sun and ... wait.

It takes such patience! How are we going to remember to take care of this plain old pot of dirt each day?

Is it getting enough water or too much? Is it in a sunny enough spot? Waiting and waiting and ... nothing yet.

Lent is spring and new life budding, but some days it's not doing anything to catch our attention.

It takes faith that God is using the soil, the sunlight and those little bitty dots of seeds to make flowers. But wait, God needs our "cooperation" which means our help. Because God needs our help, he needs us to put soil into a pot and to plant the seeds one inch into the soil. God needs us to add just the right amount of water. God needs us keeping faith in this plain pot of dirt to become something beautiful.

This week practice PATIENCE

Patience means waiting when someone or something seems too slow or boring or they don't understand. Patience is a way to help God create a new life. Patience is a way to LOVE other people.

Prayer for the week

Pray the following prayer each day with your Examen purple cloth, cross and candle and yes, add your Compassion Circle Labyrinth from the fall if you still have it:

"Dear God,

Thank you for needing us to make your seeds grow into flowers.

Help us to have patience which is a way to love other people and these little seeds."

Practice for the week for parents

Have your child check on the pot each day.

Point out to your child every time they practice patience this week. For instance, say "(Name) look at you waiting in line so quietly, that's practicing patience. Or you are being so patient right now with your sister who doesn't understand – patience is a way to love."

If you would like to receive the Examen handout for the rest of Lent. Email jgraham@stpaulsburlingame.org to get on the list.

Feel free to use week one for yourself, for you to have patience with yourself and your child. Use it again and again! Each week has a new prayer, practice and teaching.
The Samaritan House Main Event
A Virtual Gala
Thursday, March 25 • 6pm
Go to SamaritanHouseSanMateo.org & Look for it Under News and Events

We still have the caterer
We still have the band
We can’t be together
But together we can …
FIGHT POVERTY. LIFT LIVES.

The evening will feature an inspirational program, live and silent auctions and Fund-A-Need, as we honor the people, foundations, corporations and partners who are dedicated to our mission to preserve the dignity, promote self-sufficiency and provide hope to our neighbors in need in San Mateo County. Login for the best virtual gala of the year! Go to SamaritanHouseSanMateo.org and look for it under News and Events.

Free Little Library Story

While checking the Free Little Library’s inventory on February 9, Bev Hock found a note inside the library that said:

Thank you for this Little Free Library!

We appreciate all of your librarian efforts!

Many thanks,
Your Neighbor!

Thanks to Bev Hock of our Healing Ministries Team, we are quietly ministering to our neighbors with our Free Little Library on the Occidental Avenue side of our church, near the Parish House. Spreading the Love! One book at a time. Be sure to check it out, if you haven’t yet.

The Circle Continues to Meet Virtually

Charlotte continues to host Circle Zoom gatherings on Fridays, 10:30am. Here’s the Zoom information:

Meeting ID: 963 9278 7157
Passcode: 162184
Call in by phone: (669) 900-6833

Thank you to all members and friends who have inquired about Rummage donations. We remain unable to accept these donations until further notice.

Stay Safe!

The Ladies of The Circle
Lent Delivered to Homes

Thank you to the following people for spooning ashes and seeds into little bags for us to start Lent in our Homes!

Bob Niehuser
Penny Newall
James Hurrell
Lisa Borgeson
Virginia Pegley
Betsy Holquist and Clay Holquist
Kim Koivisto
Chip Blundell
Alexandra Subramanian

Margi Power
Mary Page Platerink
Edith Foothorap
Leslie Smith
Jackie Simoncini
Linda McLaughlin
Cariad Thronson

Above: Thank you to Michele Bosschart, Janet Laurie and Kay Filak who helped with spooning ashes and seeds into little bags for us to start Lent in our Homes!
Left: A bag before it was filled.
A GREAT HOST OF WOMEN COMPOSERS IN MARCH
By Susan Jane Matthews
Director of Music

The music offered in St. Paul’s online services during March celebrates Women’s History Month, lifting up the voices of Women composers who have persisted to share their song. You may listen to the growing collection of videos in the playlist A Great Host of Women Composers at www.youtube.com/SusanJaneMatthews.

Here is an introduction to two of the composers whose music we will be highlighting:

Betty Jackson King (1928-1994)

Born in Chicago, Betty Jackson King studied there at Roosevelt University, and taught music throughout her life in the Wildwood, New Jersey public schools. A prolific composer, she was President of the National Association of Negro Musicians from 1979 to 1984. Spring Intermezzo is from Four Seasonal Sketches, composed in 1955.

Patricia Van Ness (b. 1951)

Cor meum est templum sacrum
Choir of St. Paul’s, sung virtually
Have mercy upon me (Psalm 51)
Premiere recorded by chamber group of singers from St. Paul’s
March 21, Fifth Sunday in Lent

We continue a collaboration with Maine musician Patricia Van Ness as St. Paul’s composer-in-residence. Composer, violinist, and poet Patricia Van Ness draws upon elements of Medieval and Renaissance music and has been dubbed a modern-day Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179). Her works explore glimpsing the divine through beauty, and have been sung throughout the world, including by Chanticleer (USA) and The King’s Singers (UK).

Patricia Van Ness’s most well-known choral work is Cor meum est templum sacrum (My heart is a holy place), for which she wrote the English text and then had it translated into Latin for her musical setting. This mesmerizing work reflects on how the way of God, the way of life, may be found within our hearts.

Her current project is to set all 150 Psalms to music (www.patriciavanness.com/genre/psalms). Have mercy upon me (Psalm 51), for 5 voices, will be the fifth of her psalm settings that the Choir of St. Paul’s has premiered. Patricia Van Ness’s music will also be offered in the services on March 7 and March 14, including the recording of A Great Host (Psalm 68), one year after it was premiered at the service for International Women’s Day, the last service held inside St. Paul’s in 2020. Look for the separate playlist highlighting music by Patricia Van Ness recorded by the Choir of St. Paul’s.
ANNUAL CONCERT OF THE ST. PAUL’S CHOIR SCHOOL
The Fleeting Year ~ A Musical Calendar
Saturday, March 6

4pm Concert  youtube.com/StPaulsBurlingame
5pm Reception  https://zoom.us/j/6363798338

The twenty youth of the Choir School (grades K-12) invite you on a journey through the seasons of the year, and of life. Hear an eclectic program of three centuries of music reflecting on Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter by composers from around the world.

This musical calendar gives to you a playing picture of the 525,600 minutes of the fleeting year through music from Antonio Vivaldi in Italy, Fanny Hensel in Germany, Rentaro Taki in Japan, Benjamin Britten in England, Sarah Quartel in Canada, to George Gershwin, Betty Jackson King, Jonathan Larson, and Melanie DeMore in the United States. Music will be performed from St. Paul’s by soloists and ensembles, and also virtually with the full choir.

A 5pm Zoom Reception follows with presentation of Choir School awards.