

ECOTA Lent/Easter happenings

NOTE- due to a Covid outbreak we needed to reschedule our KNO and Pancake Supper events to March.

(Mardi Gras) Pancake Supper – Saturday, March 11th, beginning at 5:30. Great Hall. Join us for dinner and take part in the Pancake Toss. All are welcome. If you would like to have dinner delivered, please let Kathy DeJean know. thedejeans@comcast.net

The Stations of the Cross (SoTC) – *In ancient times, Christians made pilgrimages to Jerusalem, usually during Holy Week. As part of their pilgrim journey, they would walk the route Jesus took with his cross to Calvary, stopping along the way for devotions to commemorate certain events that took place. The service known as Stations of the Cross allows us to trace the last steps of Jesus. As we come to each "Station" we will stop, pray, read scripture, and contemplate the walk of Jesus to the cross.*

In person on Thursdays @5:00pm in the Sanctuary – Mar. 2nd – Mar. 30th

- Virtual Stations of the Cross – The links below offer virtual devotions for your personal or family use.
 - <https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross> (with music and reflections)
 - <https://lessonplans.episcopalchurch.org/online-stations-of-the-cross/> (multiple versions)
 - <https://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/way-cross-video-walk-across-ma-invites-prayer-action-end-gun-violence> (WMA/MA diocese 2022)
 - <https://www.emmanuelgreenwood.org/stations-of-the-cross.html> (SoTC in nature – for families/children)

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8th. Please arrive between 10:30-10:45. Easter Egg Hunt begins at 11:00 on the front lawn. This event will take place rain or shine. We are looking for donations of wrapped candy to stuff in our Easter eggs this year. If you are interested in donating, please feel free to swing by the office during office hours or put it in the box labeled Easter Egg Hunt on any Sunday. **Donations will be collected until March 26th.** We will be looking for **volunteers to stuff the eggs the week of March 27th-March 31st.** If you are available to volunteer, please contact Tanya Woodbury.

Outreach meeting on March 12th after 10am service

Join Outreach on March 12th after the 10am service for a meeting to discuss ideas on the Strawberry Festival 2023. All are welcome to join and share your thoughts or ideas.

4pm Family Worship service postponed

We are postponing our 4pm Family Worship services for the month of March and April. We are offering Church School during the 10am service every Sunday in Lent and Easter if you wish to join us for service in the morning.

Wednesday service change

Wednesday 12:15pm services will be Healing service with Deacon Pat (No Holy Eucharist). Brown Bag Bible Study will follow at 1pm.

Easter Memorials

Easter Memorial forms are available in the narthex and in our weekly email. Please fill one out if you would like for us to honor loved ones during our Easter Sunday service on April 9th. If you have any questions, please call the office 413-562-5461.

Nursery School Begins Sunday, March 5

Nursery School begins this week during the 10:00 service. We are also looking for volunteers to staff the Nursery. Please let the office know if you are interested in volunteering with our youngest members once a month.

Turn over for more information ►

Rummage Sale April 14th & 15th

Rummage and bake sale will be taking place on April 14th (4pm-7pm) and 15th (9am-3pm). We are starting to collect items for the rummage sale. Volunteers are needed to help set up, break down and lend a hand on the day of the rummage sale. If you are interested in helping or donating to the bake sale, please contact Donna Tatlock-Calkins at 413-563-0143.

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 2nd- 8:00/10:00 - Holy Communion

This Sunday before Easter is the last Sunday in Lent. The day commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a blessing of palms and a procession in which the whole congregation carries palms. The day is also marked by reading the story of Jesus' passion (the word used to describe Jesus' death comes from "suffering," which is one older meaning of passion). Some of the Palm Sunday palms are kept and used to make the Ash Wednesday ashes for the next year.

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 6th, 7:00pm - Holy Communion, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar

"Love one another, as I have loved you." This is the new mandate (commandment) Jesus gave to his disciples this night. He washed their feet as a servant, and gave to them, and to us, the Holy Meal of The Eucharist (Communion). Jesus was shaping his disciples in servanthood to one another, the least and the outcast. And this servanthood is grounded on holy fellowship, with God and all humanity at the table he set for us. Maundy Thursday was only the beginning! We are called to be servants, Maundy Christians, every day.

Good Friday – Friday, April 7th, 12 noon and 7:00pm, Good Friday Liturgy

What's good about a Friday when Christ dies? The goodness is found in the Passion story in the Gospel according to John we always read on Good Friday, where the cross is not a defeat, but a victory over the powers of death, sin, and darkness. We leave the church this day in silence. It is an opportunity for each of us to meditate on Jesus' Passion and his great love and sacrifice for each of us. "Love is at the heart of the meaning of the cross. Love is at the heart of the life Christ calls us to live. Love is at the heart of the movement Jesus began and which we live in our own time." Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Right Rev. Michael Curry.

Holy Saturday – Saturday, April 8th, The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00pm

The Great Vigil of Easter is one of the oldest known rites of the Christian church, dating back to the second century. It brings worshippers, literally and symbolically, from darkness into light. Beginning in darkness after sunset on Holy Saturday, the vigil starts with the lighting of a fire, illuminating the darkness. The service is comprised of four parts: The Service of Light; The Service of Lessons; Christian Initiation (Holy Baptism) or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; and the Eucharist (Holy Communion). It has been observed that the four sections of the service can be compared with fire, air, water, and earth, the four primal elements of the cosmos. The vigil's history evokes that sense of the primal, of foundational beginning. The drama and ancient beauty of the Great Vigil of Easter opens for us the mystery and wonder of God in the Risen Christ. Alleluia!

Easter, Day of the Resurrection – Sunday, April 9th, Celebration Eucharist (Communion) 8 & 10am

Easter Day is the annual feast of the resurrection. Faith in Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday or third day following his crucifixion is at the heart of Christian belief. This is the day when we mark that Christ is alive, and through his resurrection, we, too, are given the gift of life. Jesus breaks the bonds of death, breaking them on our behalf. Let the joy of our Alleluias ring!!