



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

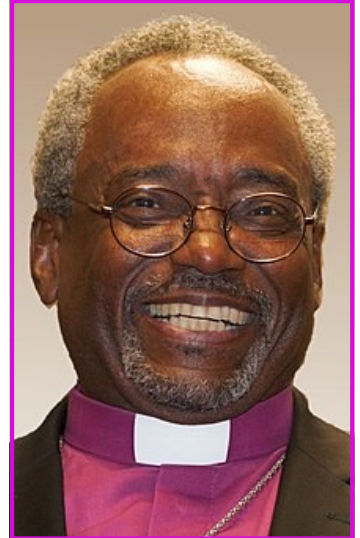
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The Easter Message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

When I get to heaven, and I know it may sound presumptuous for me to say it, but, I live by grace and believe in amazing grace. When I get to heaven I certainly want to see the Lord, but I also want to see dear members of family and friends and those who have gone on before. There are many people I want to sit down and have some conversation with. But of all the biblical people, aside from the Lord himself, when I get to heaven I want to meet Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene, who was one of the people—one of the women who followed the way and teachings of Jesus, and who probably provided much of the funding for his movement. Mary Magdalene – who, with some of the other women, and only one of the male disciples, stood with his mother Mary at the cross as he died. Mary Magdalene who, even after he died, on that Easter morning, got up with some of the other women early in the morning before the day had begun...in the dark, got up to perform the rituals of love to anoint the body of Jesus in his grave.



I want to ask her, “Mary tell me what got you up that day?” “Tell me what got you to go to the tomb early in the morning when it was dark, and you could barely see.” “Why did you get up and go to anoint his body?” Mark's gospel says that you and the other women said to each other you knew that Jesus had been buried in that tomb that had been provided by Joseph of Arimathea with Nicodemus's help. But a large stone had been rolled in front of the doorway into the tomb and one of the women said to the other “Who will roll away the stone for us?” You knew the stone was there. You knew you couldn't move it, and yet you got up and you went anyway. Mary, tell me your secret.”

And I suspect she probably will say “Well, we didn't know how we were going to roll away the stone, but we loved him, and we got up and went anyway. It was hard because it was dark, but we loved him and we got up and we went anyway. Those roads could be dangerous at night, but we loved Jesus and we got up and we went anyway. Who will roll away the stone for us we did not know. But we loved him and we got up and we went anyway. And let me tell you what love can do for you when we got to the tomb. The stone had already been rolled away, and we shouted our hallelujahs, and shouted our hallelujahs! He has risen!

Last year in March, on March 13th to be precise, another Mary Magdalene, her name Barbara Clementine-Harris, bishop of the church, a voice of love and justice and compassion, a voice of deep and profound faith, first woman to be consecrated a bishop in Anglican Christianity, died and entered

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eternal life. This was early in the pandemic. Fortunately for us, Dean Kelly Brown Douglas had worked with Bishop Barbara to make sure that her memoir was completed, and they completed it and she gave it the title from the words of a gospel song that says, and I quote:

“Hallelujah anyhow!
Never let your troubles get you down
whenever troubles come your way
hold your hands up high and say
Hallelujah anyhow!”

Those words characterize the life of Bishop Barbara.

“Hallelujah anyhow!” - in spite of hardship and difficulty;
“Hallelujah anyhow!” - in spite of injustice and bigotry;
“Hallelujah anyhow!” - in spite of war and violence;
“Hallelujah anyhow!”

And that my friends is the spirit of Mary Magdalene. That, my friends, is the tenacity of those who would follow in the footsteps of Jesus and his way of love, in spite of hardship and toil. Hallelujah anyhow! In spite of the fact that this Easter is the anniversary of the assassination and the martyrdom of Martin Luther King, Jr. Hallelujah anyhow! in spite of the fact that these are hard times. Hallelujah anyhow! ...our work goes on our labor for love continues and we will not cease and we will not give up until this world reflects less our nightmare and more God's dream, where there's plenty good room for all God's children. Hallelujah anyhow!

When I get to heaven I can't wait to hear Mary Magdalene and Bishop Barbara tell me:
“He's risen! Hallelujah anyhow!” Amen.

Transcript from YouTube: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/03/31/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-2021-easter-message/>

Lay Eucharistic Leaders Schedule

April 11

Lector: Ginny Laurent

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

April 18

Lector: Laurie McHenry

AV Technician: Bob Krumm

April 25

Lector: Randy Ridout

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

This Week at St. Peter's

Sunday, April 11

10:00 AM Sunday Worship
(Live Streamed on YouTube)

5:00 PM Evening Prayer
(On YouTube)

Tuesday, April 13

6:00 PM The Screwtape Letters Book Study
(on Zoom)

Easter by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

Easter

announces itself
under the cover of darkness
a starlit night
animals rustling in the forests
owls keeping sentry in the trees.

Easter

arises with the sun
the small, slow footsteps of women
carrying tears and burdens
cradling lost hope
wondering what could have been.

Easter

opens to an empty tomb
a discarded blanket
mixed with blood and tears
tossed aside.

Easter

runs with good news
declares to all who will listen
shouts to the heavens
proclaims the goodness of creation.

Easter

is like the sparkling of water in shades of blue and green
the dance of green grass
the opening of crocus flowers
the sound of a frog's chorus.

Easter

reaches from the emptiness
to find our longing
desires
hopes
and pulls us through
the depths of loss
grief
and death.

Easter

shows us
our lives
found
in God.



Easter Flower Memorials and Dedications

Jerry Laurent

Joyce Norlin

Robert Schark

Shirley Schark

In Thanksgiving for Prayers answered

*Many thanks for contributions for Easter Flowers given in memory of and in honor of loved ones—
and thank you to Scott and Judy for decorating our worship space so beautifully!*

DAMIEN and MARIANNE of MOLOKAI PRIEST AND LEPER, 1889; RELIGIOUS 1918



In the 1800's, the Hawaiian Islands suffered a severe leprosy epidemic, which was dealt with largely by isolating lepers on the island of Molokai. They were simply dumped there and left to fend for themselves. The crews of the boats carrying them there were afraid to land, so they simply came in close and forced the lepers to jump overboard and scramble through the surf as best they could. Ashore, they found no law and no organized society, simply desperate persons waiting for death. A Belgian missionary priest, Joseph Van Veuster (**Damien of the Fathers of the Sacred Heart**), born in 1840, came to Hawaii in 1863, and in 1873 was sent at his own request to Molokai to work among the lepers. He organized burial details and funeral services, so that death might have some dignity. He taught the people how to grow crops and feed themselves better. He organized a choir, and got persons to sing who had not sung in years. He gave them medical attention. (Government

doctors had been making regular visits, but they were afraid of contagion, and would not come close to the patients. They inspected their sores from a distance and then left medicines on a table and fled. Damien personally washed and anointed and bandaged their sores.) There was already a small chapel on the island. It proved too small, and with the aid of patients he built a larger one, which soon overflowed every Sunday. Damien contracted leprosy himself in 1885, and continued to work there until his death on 15 April 1889.

Mother Marianne Cope (January 23, 1838 – August 9, 1918), was a Franciscan nun of the Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis, a religious order of the Roman Catholic Church. Born in Heppenheim (Germany) and entered religious life in Syracuse, New York, she worked, lived and died for the lepers on the island of Moloka'i in Hawai'i. She was not herself afflicted by the disease, a fact arguably declared to be miraculous considering her close contact with the patients over the course of several years.

At the age of three her family moved from Germany to the United States, settling in Utica, New York. After joining the Franciscans, she spent nearly a decade as a teacher and then principal in newly established schools for German immigrants. She was also a founding member of two of the first Catholic hospitals in the United States.

In November 1883, Mother Marianne, then Provincial Mother, traveled from Syracuse to Honolulu with six other nuns to answer a call for aid to the Hansen's disease sufferers. In 1888, she moved to Kalaupapa to help the ailing Father Damien of Moloka'i. When the famed priest died, Mother Marianne Cope took over the care of the patients of Kalaupapa. She remained there until her death in 1918.



Source: http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/damien_marianne_molokai.htm

ZENAIDA, PHILONELLA, AND HERMIONE—UNMERCENARY PHYSICIANS, c. 100, c. 117

Zenaida (Zenaida of Tarsus) and **Philonella** (d. circa 100) were traditionally the first Christian physicians after Luke the Evangelist, and the first "unmercenaries" (physicians who would not accept fees from their patients). They are particularly venerated in Eastern Christianity.

Zenaida and Philonella were sisters, born into a well-educated Jewish family and said to be cousins of Paul the Apostle. On entering the philosophical academy at Tarsus, they devoted themselves to the study of medicine, and when they completed their studies moved to the mountains around Pelion near Demetriada in Thessaly. This was a region renowned for its healing springs and shrines to Asclepius. The physicians who practiced there catered to the wealthy, charging exorbitant amounts for their services, and augmented their incomes with the sale of magical amulets and charms.

The sisters set themselves in opposition to the prevailing custom. On locating a cave with a mineral spring, they set up a chapel and cells for themselves, and opened a clinic where they treated all who came to them regardless of their ability to pay.

Philonella devoted herself to experimental medicine, using methods approaching that of modern scientific methods, and worked hard to separate effective medicine from superstition. **Zenaida** was particularly interested in pediatrics. Both sisters devoted their lives to prayer when they were not working in their clinic.

Traditions vary about their deaths. According to one account, the two were stoned to death by pagans on the same night. According to another, both met peaceful ends, with Philonella surviving her sister by some years, deepening her spiritual devotion and becoming known as a wonderworker.

Hermione was born in Caesarea of Palestine early in the first century, a daughter of Saint Philip the Deacon. Inspired by a true understanding of the gospel, she studied the philosophy of medicine in her native city.

She bought a house and founded a medical clinic, devoted to the treatment of the poor and the homeless. Joined by her sister Eukhidia, she added rooms for these homeless ones and for poor travelers who were ill. Thus was established the first of those hospital-hostels or xenodukia, which would become so much a part of the Orthodox Christian tradition. While ministering to the physical illnesses of those who came to her, she also nourished them with the gospel.

During the reign of Emperors Trajan and Hadrian, she was arrested. In spite of her old age she was subjected to tortures to force her to renounce her faith.

http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/zenaida_philonella_hermione.html

A Defining moment.....and the blessing that followed

Back in the Fall, when our country was in a very bad place with our Covid numbers, we decided we should not do our beloved Annual Cookie Cupboard....but, the McHenry's had an idea for a way to do it safely, a plan was submitted to the Diocese, and it was approved. We quickly put the word out and the wonderful people of St. Peter's responded with an abundance of delicious cookies. We advertised in the Daily Union Special and it was seen by a woman in LaGrange, who, in spite of the fact that she had Covid, really wanted to get some of the baked goods, if we could manage a safe, no-contact transfer of cookies and payment. Breck took the call and told her to come. In the interval of time that she was on her way, those working the sale decided we should put together a very generous amount of cookies, and not let her pay. Here is her story, which she left in our mail box with a cash contribution and a reminder to us all that little acts of kindness make a world of difference!

Hello!

This is from a grateful person from LaGrange. Members of your church gave me a large box of Christmas cookies as part of a fundraiser. They were amazing - both the group of people and the cookies! I am sorry I am so late but I never completely forgot about giving to this church!

Thank you!

Be safe and healthy



Joe and Jake
Flecks' mom

P.S. I forgot a very important part of this note. I told this group of people that I was suffering with COVID!

PRAYERS

- Parishioner Cycle of Prayer - Ginny Laurent
- Ministry Rotation Prayer - Food Pantry Ministry
- For those who are sick: Kitty Martin, Jerry Swanson, Jack Schark, Bev, Marilou, Gary, Vickie, Janet, Matt, Michael & Joshua
- Happy Birthday Laurie McHenry
- Diocesan search for next Bishop
- Prayer for difficult times (coronavirus)



To add someone to the parish prayer list, please e-mail the office at: office@stpetersfort.org, or contact Eda Wilson, our prayer net coordinator, edesw2@gmail.com.

If you someone you know and love has Covid-19 we would like to pray for them. Please email Eda and she will add their name to the prayer list.

This prayer was developed by the Diocesan Standing Committee to pray as the search for our next Bishop progresses:

Gracious and loving God in whom we live and move and have our being, We pray for your guidance and wisdom that we may faithfully follow your calling in our own lives and as we as the Diocese of Milwaukee discern the calling of our twelfth bishop. We give you thanks for the service of Bishop Steven Miller in the life of our diocese and for the blessings that marked his ministry among us. We also pray for his family during this time of transition. We pray for those whom you have called to serve on our Standing, Search, and Transition Committees, and we pray also for those who will respond to your call to enter into discernment with us to be our next bishop. Give us all listening and prayerful hearts for this most important task. This we ask in the name of the One who said, "Come, follow me." Amen.

Prayer for a Time of Pandemic Illness:

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, in this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the Church and the world. For all affected by the coronavirus pandemic around the world.

For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. May barriers that divide be brought down and bonds of trust strengthened, to benefit the entire human family.

Grant to our nation and its leaders, public health officials and government the will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

April 7, 2021 Newsletter

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

302 Merchants Avenue

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested



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EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

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www.stpetersfort.org

Rector: Mother Mindy

Valentine Davis

ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

To Lead Each Person into a Living Relationship with Jesus Christ,
Train Them as Disciples, and Make Jesus Known to Others.