



ST. PETER'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

302 MERCHANTS AVE.  
FORT ATKINSON, WI 920-563-3889



## IN-PERSON SERVICES TO COMMENCE MAY 2, 2021 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE PEACE GARDEN

Here is what you need to know:

- Please RSVP, if possible, to the office to come to the service. We will be keeping a list of attendees for contact tracing purposes. (It's much easier for an usher to check your name off a list than to give your name and phone number the day of.) **You can still attend if you do not RSVP, but you'll need to give your information to the usher.**
- Please bring a lawn chair if you can. If you cannot bring one or do not have one, please let us know when you RSVP and we will provide a chair for you. We will have extras regardless.
- Family units will be seated at least 6 feet apart.
- Masks are required.
- Please stay in your seats for communion; Mother Mindy will bring the host to you.
- This is a shorter service with one lesson and no music.
- We will not have fellowship before or after service at this time. Please bask in the presence of your church family while keeping your distance.
- We will continue livestreaming at 10:00 AM with a full service and music.
- In case of inclement weather, we will cancel the 12:00 Noon service. The 10:00 AM Livestream or the recording will be available.
- We need volunteers of readers, ushers, setup, and teardown to make this work. In addition, if you would like to volunteer for tech duties or reading for the livestreamed service, we can place you on the rotation for those jobs as well.
- As always, if you are experiencing any Coronavirus symptoms, please stay home. Symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 within 2 weeks of attending worship, please contact the office right away.

### PENTECOST GERANIUMS NEEDED; PLANTING PARTY MAY 23 AT 2:00 PM

Pentecost is May 23. We are having our annual ingathering of red geraniums to plant around the Peace Garden. Please bring in your red geraniums on May 23rd or drop them off during office hours a couple days before. Our annual planting will be on Sunday, May 23 at 2:00 PM as the next weekend is a holiday weekend.



## The Spirituality of Gardening

by Christine Sine

Here in Seattle spring is in full bloom and I love wandering round my garden admiring the beautiful daffodils and tulips and fruit blossoms. My garden room bulges with salad greens, broccoli, beans and over a hundred tomato plants waiting for warmer weather to be planted out. Like millions of others, the recent pandemic has encouraged us to expand our garden and grow more vegetables. We hope that this year at least 50% of the produce we eat will come from our own yard.

I have so enjoyed watching the growth of the community garden movement which grew in the fertile ground of the 2008 recession and has gained momentum over the last year as people have faced food insecurity and responded with new garden efforts. Also, the encouragement to both meet outside to reduce the spread of COVID and help reduce our stress and anxiety has spurred families and churches to expand their gardens to provide for themselves and their local food banks.

Unfortunately there is often a total disconnect between what happens in the garden and our zoom worship services and now as we head back into church many of us are relieved to leave behind our outdoor gatherings. Yet gardening is one of the most profound acts of worship we can engage in. God's first act after completing creation was to plant the garden of Eden. And in the first sighting of Jesus after the resurrection he is mistaken by Mary Magdalene for the gardener because, as I mentioned in my last post, that is precisely what he is – the gardener of the new creation.

So much gardening activity happens on our knees, in the position of prayer and supplication. I

kneel to weed, plant and harvest and often find myself meditating and praying. If I am troubled by some seemingly insurmountable problem, there is no better place to thrash it out than kneeling in the garden. If I am irritable or depressed, there is no better therapy than weeding.

However there is far more than this that makes gardening a worshipful act. I read about the life, death and resurrection of Christ in the bible, but in the garden I experience it.

Every time I plant a tiny misshapen seed and watch it burst into life from its earthy tomb I feel as though I have seen the Easter story reenacted.

Early Celtic Christians were very aware of this. Often, three days before sowing, farmers would sprinkle the seed with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If possible they would plant on a Friday. The moistening hastened the seed's growth and planting on Friday was always a reminder of the Christ's death and burial.

Planting was always symbolic of the planting of Christ, the seed of the new world in which resurrection life will come for all humankind as well as creation.

We are now in the Easter season, rapidly heading towards Earth Day such a perfect time to not only encourage our congregations to get outdoors, but also to help them make connections between the garden and their faith. Several years ago when Earth Day and Good Friday converged, I wrote a liturgy that brought these observances together. However I found I could not stop there, because the story of God in the garden does not stop there. On the following Easter Sunday I expanded the liturgy into a new liturgy which I called: *Jesus Has Risen, A New Creation Has Begun* to incorporate the resurrection of Christ as well.

There are other wonderful and worshipful



lessons. I read about the faithfulness of God to Israel in the Old Testament, but I experience it every time I watch the rain fall and nourish the seeds that have been planted. I read about the miracle of the fish and loaves but I experience just as profound a miracle every time I am overwhelmed by the generosity of God's harvest. I hold an apple seed in my hand and marvel at the hundreds, if not thousands of apples a seed like this has provided us with over the last 10 years.

In 2008 I wrote a book *To Garden with God*, that reflected on many of the lessons I had learned to that point. However, as you can imagine the learning just keeps going and last year I developed an online course *The Spirituality of Gardening* to help others reflect on their gardens too. In recent years I have even started creating small contemplative gardens that have delighted me with yet more garden lessons.

Perhaps this summer we should not grumble because COVID has forced us to take our worship outside. Maybe we should instead rejoice in the garden experiences and curate a whole new experience for our congregations. The gospel stories come alive in the garden, not just because we understand more fully the agricultural parables which Jesus so often used, but also because the garden is the place in which we can truly anticipate God's promise for the future. In the garden, as we watch the plants grow and bear fruit in their season it is not hard to believe that one day all creation will indeed be made whole, restored and renewed to become all that God intends it to be.

Source: <https://www.episcopalcafe.com/the-spirituality-of-gardening/>

## LAY EUCHARISTIC LEADERS SCHEDULE

### APRIL 25, 2021

Lector: Terrie Knox  
AV Technician: Bob Krumm

### MAY 2, 2021

#### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Eda Wilson  
AV Technician: Bob Krumm

#### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Scott Fernhaber  
Usher: Scott Fernhaber  
Setup & Teardown: Bill C.

### MAY 9, 2021

#### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Cole Jones  
AV Technician: Breck McHenry

#### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Cole Jones  
Usher: Scott Fernhaber  
Setup & Teardown:

## Activities at St. Peter's

### Sunday, April 25

10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
Live Streamed on YouTube

5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
Premieres on YouTube

### Tuesday, April 27 and May 4

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

### Sunday, May 2

10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
Live Streamed on YouTube

**12:00 PM Outdoor In-Person Worship**  
( Please R.S.V.P.)

5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
Premieres on YouTube

### Wednesday, May 5

6:00 PM All-Parish Check-in on Zoom

Vestry Meeting April 21, 2021  
(Via ZOOM)



Present: Mother Mindy, Bev, Bob, Cole, Scott, Breck, Bill, Ginny  
Mother Mindy opened with prayer.

I. New Business

**A. Plan for Re-opening** – Our plan is to have our first outdoor service on May 2 at 12:00 pm. The livestreamed service will be at 10AM as always. We need to have volunteers for various jobs for the outdoor service: **Set-up**, which includes a) setting up an outside Altar, with communion accoutrements, b) chairs, c) awning?, d) sound system (neighbors will let us use theirs. We have an amplifier and a microphone), e) table for bulletins and offering box or basket. We will also need an usher, a reader, and will need to take attendance (just in case we need to do contact tracing). Discussion followed regarding risk of exposure in outdoor setting, with masks and social distancing, as well as what the CDC guidelines are for those who are fully vaccinated and are “exposed”. Bill added that you are not fully vaccinated until 2 weeks after 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine. Bev suggested that we start simply - perhaps we could ask people to bring their own lawn chair. Other ways to simplify – don’t need awning. Bulletins don’t need to be on a table,

Scott offered to read, usher and set up chairs. Ginny asked about rain/bad weather. Cole said that people will understand if we cancel due to bad weather, and most will not come if they see that it’s going to rain. Bev also offered to help set up. Bill said he will be an usher, Cole is scheduled to read May 9 for the virtual service, and will also read for the 12:00 service that day. Bill, Scott, Cole, will be available to for anything that needs to be done. Ginny would like to be on the list of Lectors. Mother Mindy said to let Barb know when you know you are going to be gone so she doesn’t schedule you.

Mother Mindy said she would like to see others volunteer to help with Altar Guild. This week’s Newsletter will have an article about re-opening plans and will have include asking people to volunteer for some of these needs. Bev asked if Communion would include receiving the wine as well. The answer is no. Explanation followed.

**B. Round Table Discussion**– Mother Mindy asked the Vestry members to think about 3 questions: **What is going Well? What is an area for improvement? What is our biggest priority right now?**

Summaries of the Answers to these questions include:

**What is going well?:** Online Worship, great website, music, sermons, vestry communication, and keeping everyone safe.

**What needs improvement?:** reaching out to the larger community to let them know what we uniquely have to offer, ie. a service that is “a-political”; we need to finish getting content on the website; we need to communicate *why* we have been so cautious (to our own parishioners); we need to get new people on the Vestry in order to give our current Vestry a break; sound quality and volume in the nave for those who are hard of hearing.



**What should our Priorities be?** Getting our parishioners re-engaged in worship and getting those who are not parishioners to come and check us out; doing the updates and improvements in the Undercroft in order to be ready for things to start up again.; making sure we have great online services; getting the Agape Essential Cares Ministry up and running (stalled because of the computer set-up that needs to be done).

Mother Mindy summarized people's responses.

**II. March Vestry Minutes approval:** Cole made motion to accept minutes as written. Bob seconded. No discussion. All in favor. No one opposed. Motion passed.

#### **IV. Reports**

**A. Financial Report** – Laurie couldn't access the Endowment. (TMI) so that figure isn't updated. We are a bit behind in income from what we budgeted. But, expenditures are also lower.

Bill moved to accept financial report, Ginny seconded. Discussion: Cole asked about updating the Trust information. Laurie said yes. Diocesan funds and endowments used to be a quarterly, but now we can look into anytime, but she has had trouble getting into the account. Bev asked if it made sense to use some of this money while the market is up. Discussion followed regarding the various funds. The Finance Committee will be consulted about this.

After discussion vote was taken to accept report as submitted. All were in favor of accepting Financial Report. No one opposed.

#### **A. Rector's Report:**

Easter season went well. Thank you to Fernhabers for making the church looks so amazing. She is doing a lot with Homeless Coalition, but this is also getting St. Peter's more visibility in the community. She listed upcoming Sundays in the fall when she will be gone. She has lined up Father Jason Terhune already for one of the Sundays.

**B. Sr. Warden:** Sr. Warden's tele-conference was really great. Look for good things to come from Diocese.

**C. Jr. Warden:** Installed the ethernet cable in the Sanctuary. This will make things easier each Sunday. Air condition Unit/Heat Pump came off the side of the Rectory. Need to be re-installed on the ground. Need to do some masonry work before that is done: apron and doors (Dorothy Doors) to basement. Then Lake Country will come and hook up air conditioners.

Any questions or concerns about the reports?

Mother Mindy Closed in prayer.

Adjournment was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Werner

## MARK THE EVANGELIST (25 APR NT)

The book of Acts mentions a Mark, or John Mark, a kinsman of Barnabas (Col 4:10). The house of his mother Mary was a meeting place for Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12). When Paul and Barnabas, who had been in Antioch, came to Jerusalem, they brought Mark back to Antioch with them (12:25), and he accompanied them on their first missionary journey (13:5), but left them prematurely and returned to Jerusalem (13:13). When Paul and Barnabas were about to set out on a second missionary journey, Barnabas proposed to take Mark, but Paul thought him unreliable, so that eventually Barnabas made one journey taking Mark, and Paul another journey taking Silas (15:36-40). Mark is not mentioned again in Acts. However, it appears that he became more reliable, for Paul mentions him as a trusted assistant in Colossians 4:10 and again in 2 Timothy 4:11.



The Apostle Peter had a co-worker whom he refers to as "my son Mark" (1 Peter 5:13). Papias, an early second century writer, in describing the origins of the Gospels, tells us that Mark was the "interpreter" of Peter, and that he wrote down ("but not in order") the stories that he had heard Peter tell in his preaching about the life and teachings of Jesus.

The Gospel of Mark, in describing the arrest of Jesus (14:51f), speaks of a young man who followed the arresting party, wearing only a linen cloth wrapped around his body, whom the arresting party tried to seize, but who left the cloth in their hands and fled naked. It is speculated that this young man was the writer himself, since the detail is hardly worth mentioning if he were not.

Tradition has it that after the death of Peter, Mark left Rome and went to preach in Alexandria, Egypt, where he was eventually martyred.

It is natural to identify the John Mark of Acts with the Gospel-writer and interpreter of Peter, and this identification is standard in liturgical references to Mark. However, "Mark" is the commonest of Latin first names, and they may well have been separate persons.

Mark's symbol in art is a Lion, usually winged. In the book of Revelation, the visionary sees about the throne of God four winged creatures: a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle. (Compare with the cherubs in Ezek 1 and 10.) It has customarily been supposed that these represent the four Gospels, or the four Evangelists (Gospel-writers). One way of matching them is to say that the man stands for Matthew, whose narrative begins with the human genealogy of Jesus; that the lion stands for Mark, whose narrative begins with John the Baptist crying out in the desert (a lion roars in the desert); that the ox, a sacrificial animal, stands for Luke, whose narrative begins in the Temple, and that the eagle stands for John, whose narrative begins in Heaven, with the eternal Word. How old this correspondence is I do not know. I have seen it in an illustrated Gospel-book from the early 800's. An alternative assignment, which I think to be far more recent, calls Matthew the lion (because he portrays Christ as the Messiah, the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy, "the lion of the tribe of Judah"), Mark the ox (because he portrays Christ the servant, constantly doing the work for which he was sent), Luke the man (because he portrays the humanity and compassion of Christ), and John the eagle (because he portrays Christ as the eternal Word, who came down from Heaven).

Source: <http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Mark.htm>

## PRAYERS

- Parishioner Cycle of Prayer - Cheyenne, Duncan and Linda Marx
- Ministry Rotation Prayer - Flower Ministry
- For those who are sick: Kitty Martin, Jerry Swanson, Jack Schark, Bev, Marilou, Gary, Vickie, Janet, Matt, Michael & Joshua
- Happy Anniversary Chip and Connie Day
- 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](mailto:office@stpetersfort.org), or contact Eda Wilson, our prayer net coordinator, [edesw2@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## ALL PARISH CHECK-IN



Please join the St. Peter's Community in our monthly all-parish  
Check-in on **Wednesday, May 5 at 6:00 PM.**  
You can join via Zoom Link or Conference Call.

April 23, 2021 Newsletter  
**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
302 Merchants Avenue  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested



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office@stpetersfort.org  
www.stpetersfort.org  
Rector: Mother Mindy  
Valentine Davis

## REMINDER: IN-PERSON SERVICES RESUME MAY 2 AT NOON IN THE PEACE GARDEN.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For our in-person services to operate smoothly, we urgently need volunteers to fill important roles. We need Lectors, Ushers, people who to come ahead of time to set-up, others who to stay and clean-up, and others who will help Altar Guild and wash our holy instruments and get them ready for the next service.

The noon service schedule is independent of the 10:00 AM live streamed service, but if you are already scheduled for the 10:00 service and would be willing to serve at both 10 AM and Noon, please let us know. If can fill these urgent volunteer needs, please call or email the office.