



**ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

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



Holy Week 2021

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday

10:00 AM Virtual Service Livestreamed
Pick up Palms in front of Red Doors

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday

6:00 PM Virtual Service Livestreamed
Gethsemane Watch by Appointment
Please RSVP to Mother Mindy for a watch time.

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday

12:00 PM Virtual Service
Livestreamed or Premiered

Saturday, April 3 – Easter Vigil

Streamed from All Saints' Cathedral,
Milwaukee, Bishop Lee Presiding
Table
Time to be Announced

Sunday, April 4 – Easter

10:00 AM Virtual Service Livestreamed
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM Easter Visitations
(Receive Communion and have time for private Devotions)
or Drive-Up Reception of Communion
Please RSVP to the office for a time to arrive.

RSVP Information

*email office@stpetersfort.org
or call 920-563-3889 to RSVP to the office
email mothermindy@stpetersfort.org
to RSVP to Mother Mindy*

In Person Services Scheduled to Resume May 2, 2021

With the newest changes in diocesan guidelines, we have more autonomy with regards to in-person services. The Vestry had a detailed discussion about when and whether to start meeting in person. There were certain aspects of the guidelines that drove our discussions, namely: we are limited to 30 minutes in person, ventilation is paramount, and we want to continue to welcome everyone. Below I discuss some of the rationale that went into our decision making with regards to those guidelines.

In the thirty-minute time limit, we can have what I call a "Simple Eucharist." A Simple Eucharist has only one reading, the gospel, no music, and usually the Kyrie or Trisagion instead of the Gloria. The sermon would have to be kept to 5-7 minutes. It's doable, but it is not optimal. Because our in-person services will not be optimal, and because we are committed to continue our digital presence and livestreaming, we will continue to have the 10:00 AM livestream service. The livestream is especially important because sacred music is an integral part of many people's spirituality and the only way we are able to have sacred music is through the livestream. When we regather in person starting in May, in-person services will start at noon, and they will likely be in the Peace Garden.

Ventilation is one of the biggest concerns with our guidelines. Any public service indoors will have to be held with the windows and doors

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open and the fans going. The best ventilation is outdoors, so our plan will be to start our services outdoors in the Peace Garden. By noon the grass should not be as wet with dew. If there is inclement weather, we will still be livestreaming at 10:00, so there will be a virtual service regardless.

As far as welcoming everyone, back when this pandemic began it was recommended that the elderly and those with underlying conditions not be in public. When we had discussions in the beginning, we decided that we did not want to exclude any of our population, so if our elderly couldn't be in service, we would wait until everyone could come together. Now the tables have switched. Most of our elderly members and those with underlying conditions are vaccinated, while those who are younger and children are not. We are going to stay consistent and not meet until everyone can safely come together. With the disease count falling and the vaccine being offered to more populations, waiting until May seems like the prudent, consistent, and most inclusive way to pave the path forward.

I look forward to starting our May services and seeing you in person. Until then, if you would like to receive communion, have conversations, or just need to see your priest, I am available. Do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Blessings always,
Mother Mindy

Lay Eucharistic Leaders Schedule

March 28—Palm Sunday

Lector: Laurie McHenry

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

April 4—Easter Sunday

Lector: Eda Wilson

AV Technician: Bob Krumm

April 11

Lector: Ginny Laurent

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

This Week at St. Peter's

Sunday, March 28

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

**Palms Available Outside the Red Doors for
Pickup**

5:00 PM Evening Prayer
(On YouTube)

Tuesday, March 30

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

See Page One for Holy Week Schedule

BEING VULNERABLE - Laurie Gudim

As I read today's Gospel lesson I was struck once again by how vulnerable Jesus is. "My soul is troubled," he says, and he wonders whether he should ask his Father to save him from this hour. But it is this hour for which he has come — both to Jerusalem and to his incarnation as a human being.

For me, one of the hardest things about the Holy Week observance is the constant reminder of this vulnerability of Jesus. He isn't protected at ALL. He is beaten, humiliated, tortured and killed. "Like a lamb to the slaughter," we say. And it is the bald truth.

It's upsetting because I personally would like to be LESS vulnerable. Since Holy Week last year, I have spent a lot of time facing my mortality. And like so many others, my life has been altered drastically. I'd like to be able to say that the disastrous changes are over for awhile, that we can get back to some sort of normalcy — or at least safety. But that's not really in the cards.

To be alive is to be vulnerable. There are thousands of things that can maim or destroy living beings. So much can go wrong for any of us at any moment. Our lives can be forever altered by something as simple and ordinary as stepping into the street in front of our homes.

Furthermore, the very act of becoming is quite risky. Physical birth involves the ripping open of cells to implant genetic information and create something brand new. And then there is the

uncertainty of gestation followed by the tearing open of the womb to bring the new creation into the world. Spiritual birth involves the destruction of cherished values or concepts in order that new understanding can emerge. It's a process laced with sorrow and sometimes terror. The old community must sometimes be abandoned, the old attachments shattered. Most difficult — images of God must be cast aside.

Finally, emotionally, to be healthy, we have to be vulnerable. To love is to be vulnerable. That which we cherish will lacerate our hearts.

God, God's very self is vulnerable. How else can God be loving? How else can God create? The being who made stars and galaxies and the planets in their courses is woundable by each of us.

So, as a follower of Jesus I am doomed to be, again and again, that little seed that falls into the ground and dies. As I open myself to the stranger, to all the oppressed, and to the ways humans are changing the planet, my self-understanding will need to be reformed again and

again. Am I a racist? No. Well, yes, actually. Am I consuming too much of the earth's resources? No. Well, actually, yes. And so forth, over and over.

There is the mystery of Holy Week — the mystery of life — and the mystery of my own becoming who I most profoundly am.

.Source: <https://www.episcopalcafe.com/being-vulnerable/>

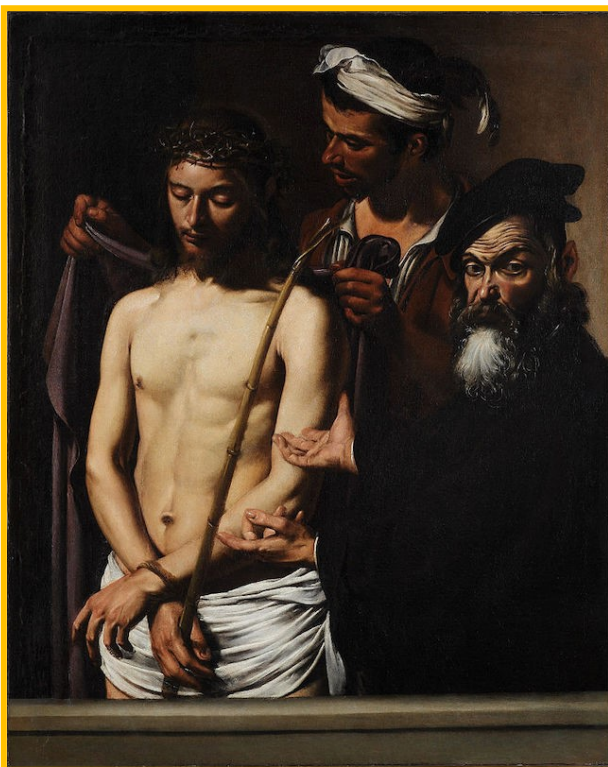


Image: Ecce Homo - Caravaggio, 1605

Vestry Meeting March 17, 2021 (On Zoom)

Present: Mother Mindy, Scott Fernahaber, Breck McHenry, Cole Jones, Ginny Laurent, Bill Cannon, Bob Krumm.

Absent: Bev Wille



Prayer – Mother Mindy opened in prayer

Minutes – Bill moved to accept minutes as presented, Scott seconded.

No discussion. All in favor of passing the minutes

New Business-

Outreach and discretionary Funds –

Outreach - Mother Mindy noted that Virginia did such an amazing job with the Outreach. She has stepped down from that. She was phenomenal at getting matching funds and getting the word out (in the paper). Should we be looking for a new lay Outreach Coordinator, or should the responsibility fall back to the Priest? Scott said we would need to find someone who feels called to it. At one time Georgia Mode did it. Cole said that for now it should go back to Mother Mindy....and when someone feels called and is appointed, then it can migrate to that person. Mother Mindy suggested that we have a job description written up. The consensus is that it would be good to have a lay person as Outreach Coordinator.

Discretionary Funds – Mother Mindy runs out of Discretionary Funds really quickly because of the needs in our community. She tries to hook people up with the Homeless Coalition and other community resources. Scott suggested that without an Outreach Chair, Mother Mindy should be able to use some of them. Bob wondered if we should double the amount of her discretionary funds. Normally, we have the fund raisers that replenish the Outreach Fund, but, these either did not happen or were not as lucrative due to the pandemic. We need to know how to determine how to best use our funds. Mother Mindy suggested when she is out of funds in the Discretionary Funds, she sends an email out to the Vestry describing the situation and asking if she can use some funds, then if there is a quorum in agreement, she can obtain for that particular need. Cole suggested we increase Mother Mindy discretionary amount. Cole made motion to increase the priests discretionary fund from \$1,200 to \$3,600/year. Discussion followed: Ginny asked what the big recipients that usually give to: Hospitality Center, Haiti Project, Episcopal Relief and Development, Nashotah House. When Virginia took over as Outreach chair, she refocused it to local needs: Fort Community Foundation, Homeless Coalition, God Touch Ministry, Christmas Neighbors. Mother Mindy said there is a difference between Outreach Funds and Discretionary Funds: Discretionary Funds are to help the poor – Gas, rent, food. Mother Mindy is very careful in questioning people to make sure they are not scamming the church. Cole made a friendly amendment that we make this increase to \$3600 for this year (2021) only, and we should evaluate after a year and decide if this amount should be repeated in future years. Scott Seconded this friendly amendment. Vote was taken and all were in favor.

Parochial Report – Communicants in good standing needs to be revised. If this item is revised Bill moved to accept the parochial report. Seconded by Ginny. All were in favor.

Holy Week and Easter Plans – Cameras can be moved a bit, but Maundy Thursday stripping of

altar will be not easy to do. Also, Bob will be limited by what he can lift.

Mother Mindy asked Breck if he can do the camera work for the Maundy Thursday. He said yes. Ginny asked if this will be online, Yes.

We can also stream Good Friday. Mother Mindy suggested setting up a Stations of the Cross along the sidewalk. It was suggested that weather could be a problem.

Easter Vigil will be from the Cathedral, led by our new Bishop Lee.

Easter Sunday – still virtual. especially due to having to be only 30 minutes if we are in person. We can do the same thing we did for Christmas...schedule people to come in for a brief period of time, receive the sacrament.

Breck asked about the Thursday night (Maundy Thursday) Watch. Questions were asked about using different areas of the church so that no places are used more than once. Mother Mindy noted that it's not the surfaces, it's the droplets in the air.

Breck suggested that we have a "watch" in which people sign up to spend time in prayer during a certain time period, but in their own home. Another thought: have 5 minutes in the church, then do the rest of their vigil at home, or in the garden. Mother Mindy said if anyone wants to write up a plan for this, she would send it on to the Diocese. The elements needed in a plan: door of entry, door of exit, amount of time in the space, how the space will be cleaned, restrooms, hand sanitizer, masks. Mother Mindy will email Bill Dunlop from the Diocese to ask him how other parishes are doing the Gethsemane Watch.

To summarize: All are in accord that Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday will all be virtual. We will have scheduled individual visitations and reception of the Sacrament as we did at Christmas.

Breck suggested getting less flowers. Mother Mindy said that if there are extras it would be nice to bring them to shut-ins. Ginny noted that many people like to give money in memoriam for Easter Lilies.

Reopening – When the Diocese said they were relaxing the criteria for having in-person services, Mother Mindy was elated. But, the problem is now the more vulnerable are the younger people who are not vaccinated. The question is not "can we?" ...but, "should we?"

Scott said the simplest things to do is to wait until we can do it outdoors. Bill said that in a month we should have a safe "case-burden-rate" for the county.

When we do start doing outdoor services, we may have to move it to a later time in the day due to wet grass.

Mother Mindy suggested a target date of May 2 to do in-person services. Per guidelines, these will be 30 minutes, "simple Eucharists". She questioned each Vestry Member as to their comfort with this target. All were in favor.

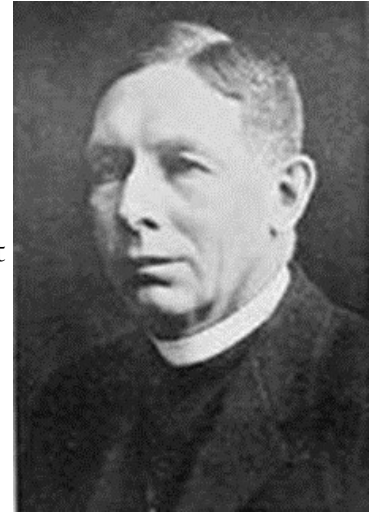
Cole moved to adjourn and Breck seconded. All were in favor.

Mother Mindy Closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHARLES HENRY BRENT - Missionary Bishop (27 March 1929)

During the Spanish-American War (1898), arising from a dispute over Cuba and Puerto Rico, the United States also acquired Guam and the Philippines. (For a brief note on the subsequent history of these territories, see Kamehameha, 28 November.) In 1902, the Episcopal Church appointed Charles Brent (at that time serving as priest in charge of a slum parish in Boston) as Missionary Bishop of the Philippines. He arrived on the same ship with the American Governor, William H. Taft, and carried with him the unofficial but very real prestige of the American establishment.



Brent could easily have confined himself to providing a kind of ecclesiastical "home away from home" for American officials and others stationed in the Islands. Equally, he could have devoted himself chiefly to efforts to convert the Roman Catholics, both of Spanish and of Filipino ancestry, whom the previous government had left behind. Instead, he directed his efforts toward the non-Christians of his diocese: the pagan Igorots of the mountains of Luzon, the Muslims of the southern islands, the Chinese settlements in Manila, all areas in which he made considerable inroads and established thriving Christian communities.

He began a campaign against the opium traffic, and served on several international commissions devoted to stamping out international traffic in narcotics. During World War I, he was the Senior Chaplain for the American Armed Forces in Europe. He declined three elections to bishoprics in the United States in order to continue his work in the Philippines, but in 1918, he accepted the position of Bishop of Western New York. His experiences in the Philippines had aroused in him a strong concern for the cause of visible Christian unity. He wrote:

The unity of Christendom is not a luxury, but a necessity. The world will go limping until Christ's prayer that all may be one is answered. We must have unity, not at all costs, but at all risks. A unified Church is the only offering we dare present to the coming Christ, for in it alone will He find room to dwell.

He helped to organize the first World Conference on Faith and Order, which met in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1927. He died there in 1929, being 67 years minus 12 days old. The following prayer, written by him, is widely used today:

Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love upon the hard wood of the Cross, that all men everywhere might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe us with thy Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of thee; for the honor of thy Name.

The writer James Thayer Addison called him "a saint of disciplined mental vigor, one whom soldiers were proud to salute and whom children were happy to play with, who could dominate a parliament and minister to an invalid, a priest and bishop who gloried in the heritage of his Church, yet who stood among all Christian brothers as one who served."

http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Charles_Brent.htm

PRAYERS

- Parishioner Cycle of Prayer - Brian and Terrie Knox
- Ministry Rotation Prayer - Office Staff
- For those who are sick: Kitty Martin, Jerry Swanson, Jack Schark, Bev Wille, Marilou Haight, Gary Allen, Vickie Davis, The Bills Family
- Happy Birthday Angel Terry
- 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.

March 24, 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

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.