Leaving Egypt

Beloved people of St. John’s,

We are about to enter into the most powerful week of our sacred year: the time we walk with Jesus through his betrayal, death, and resurrection. We call this the “Paschal mystery,” and it is the DNA of the way of Jesus. Our task as we move toward this week isn’t so much to make sense of it, because how can you make sense of something as grisly and awful as the crucifixion of an innocent man—let alone the scientific impossibility of resurrection? Our task is far greater than dealing with questions like those. It’s to recognize that this story is about the endless power of God to make all things new—even situations in our lives that are hopeless and beyond redemption. Situations, not just in the abstract, but in your life, and in mine.

The year my ex-husband and I divorced, which was a very painful experience, I worked through that pain through a variety of efforts to make meaning of it. I ran a marathon, and bought a motorcycle, and got a tattoo. At the time, I had long since left the church, and was about as far from the way of Jesus as a person could be. As I was contemplating what tattoo to get, trying to imagine what symbol I’d continue to relate to for the rest of my life, I finally came up with the phoenix: the bird who dies in the fire, and yet again and again rises alive from the ashes. A phoenix whose tears wept healing for others. This was something that I could cling to: the idea that life could emerge out of death.

In all the great spiritual traditions, humans have tried to express their experience of God making all things new where there had been no hope. Pagans celebrate this every spring equinox, when the light finally is greater than the dark again, when new sprouts come up from the thawing earth. Followers of the Way of Jesus have our roots in the Jewish tradition, where Christ’s death and resurrection are linked with Passover. A Jewish rabbi with whom I studied said once that the meaning of Passover could be expressed in two words: Leaving Egypt—the great liberation of slaves long subject to oppression and genocide. The word Egypt in Hebrew is mitzraim, which comes from the root word tsar, meaning, among other things, “a narrow place.” Egypt, to the Hebrew mind, always meant the narrow place where in order to survive one had to worship false gods; one had to live in the narrow fertile strip surrounding the Nile in an ocean of desert; one had to give one’s effort for that which kept one alive but not thriving; one could live, but only as a slave, cramped and dehumanized and cut off from joy.

Jesus’ death and resurrection are always about leaving Egypt. They are always about God’s work to liberate us from that which keeps us stinted: whether that be images of God that are too small because they are based on judgment and shame, or social conditions that keep some trapped in generational poverty while others consume without restraint. Holy Week reminds us that we can’t liberate ourselves from the narrow places in which we so easily get stuck; we can’t resurrect the dead. We can walk with one whose identification with the love of God was so complete that he was willing to take on the entirety of human suffering and violence in order to transform us from the inside.

Faithfully,

Lisa
Lent continues...

Beloved St. John’s community,

During Lent, you are invited to use Living the Way of Love: A 40-Day Devotional. This booklet offers short daily reflections and opportunities to engage one of these seven practices. They are still available in the church office for $12 (scholarships available upon request).

Lisa

We’re inviting anyone willing to write a short reflection on one day of this practice, and email that (preferably with a photo) to Shane Sanders Marcus, who will post it to our Facebook and Instagram pages. We’d love to chronicle our Lenten journeys in this way. (St. John’s reserves the right to edit entries for length and content).

Brown Bag Eucharist Tuesdays throughout Lent at 12:15pm
We offer a weekly Eucharist in which you are invited to bring your lunch. Every Tuesday in the Chapel. During this service, during the liturgy of the Word, we eat our lunches, have a lively conversation about scripture, offer our prayers verbally to God, and then continue with the liturgy of the table. We conclude by 12:50pm so people can get back to work.

Morning Prayer Wednesdays throughout Lent at 7:00am
Morning prayer will be held in the chapel each Wednesday during Lent. Light breakfast after the service. All are welcome to attend during this season of reflection and renewal. We read Scripture and prayers, sing a canticle, and share reflections on the readings. Contact Jane Gilgun for more information.

Living the Way of Love Discussion Group Wednesdays throughout Lent at 7:00pm in the Spirit Room downstairs
Join Peter Stebinger, Episcopal priest and newer St John’s member, in a weekly discussion about our daily Lenten devotional, Living the Way of Love.

Lenten Evensong Sundays through April 7th at 4:00pm
Join us in once again welcoming our special guest music ensemble, Lumina, in a short evening sung service featuring original choral music by composer and Lumina artistic director Linda Kachelmeier, along with hymns and prayers, in the Chancel with candles and incense.

If you’d like to dedicate flowers on Easter Sunday in honor of or in thanksgiving for those you love, you’ll find flower offering envelopes in the pews and on tables in the church or gathering space, or contact Rachel or the office at 612-922-0396. For the names of your loved ones to be included in the bulletin, we need to receive them by Monday, April 8th.
Holy Week at St. John’s

Palm Sunday, April 14
8:00, 9:00, 11:00am ~ Holy Eucharist
We begin the services 9 and 11am in the Parish Hall with the Blessing of the Palms, and then process into the Church with joyful expectation. The 8am service will have the traditional passion reading, the 9 and 11am services will have a passion play adapted from the readings.

Labyrinth, April 18, 12n-10pm; April 19, 9am-10pm; April 20, 9am-11am
Walk the labyrinth in prayer during Holy Week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the Parish Hall. The labyrinth, a 30 foot canvas replica of the one in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France, is a circular path to the center. To walk it is to walk a pilgrimage or to embark on a journey. It can take 30-45 minutes to walk in and back out again. An attendant will be on duty to answer your questions. All ages are welcome at any time. Come once or several times. Come alone or with a friend or your family. Come and follow a pathway to prayer. Come, walk the labyrinth.

Maundy Thursday, April 18
7:00pm
We will observe the symbolic ritual of foot-washing done by St. John’s Pilgrims. The service also includes the stripping of the altar, as well as a recollection of the Last Supper and an opportunity for contemplative prayer in the chapel after the service.

Good Friday, April 19
7:00am, 12:00noon, 7:00pm
Good Friday is the most somber day of the Christian calendar and is a time to acknowledge the power of darkness that Christ was willing to face on our behalf. The 7am service is a small service in the chapel where the remaining elements from Maundy Thursday are consumed.

Holy Saturday, April 20
3:00pm: Walking After Jesus
Children and families are again invited to follow Jesus through Holy Week, immersing ourselves in the gospel stories of the Triduum and meeting several different Biblical characters along the way. It’s a great way to learn and experience different elements of the Easter story. We find Jesus with our first Easter Communion in the chapel.

8:00pm: Great Easter Vigil
We begin outside, gathered around a fire, for the lighting of the Paschal candle, then process by candlelight into a darkened church for the reading of the ancient stories of salvation. As we approach the good news of Christ’s resurrection, the lights are raised and we celebrate the first Easter Eucharist.

~ End of Lent Celebration~
In the St. John’s tradition, we will have an appetizer/dessert/chocolate reception after the Saturday night Easter Eve service. Parishioners bring appetizers, cheese and crackers, chocolate, or desserts and St. John’s will supply the wine, beer and non-alcoholic drinks. Please bring your contribution to the kitchen before the service. Please consider helping with set up for the event. Contact Mary Corlett.

Easter Sunday, April 21
8:00, 9:00, 11:00am ~ Holy Eucharist
The Festival Eucharist marks Christ’s triumph over death - our living reminder of the mystery and miracle of faith. Join us for this joyful celebration. Note: the 11:00am service will have incense.

Bring an appetizer or dessert to our End of Lent celebration!
Local Outreach Ministries

Our Savior’s Shelter Meal
Friday, April 12th, 3:30pm

3:30pm: Meal/ salad preparation  
(3-4 people needed)
5:45pm: Deliver and serve the food  
(5-6 people)

We will again cook and serve a wonderful meal at Our Saviour’s Shelter. Please take a moment to see if you might be able to help! Come to the church at 3:30pm OR come to the church at 5:45pm. Please consider doing a shelter meal and helping us out. Thank you! If you have questions, please contact Steve Schewe.

Affordable Housing Workday
Saturday, April 13th, 8:30am

St. John’s is in the eighth year of partnering with Urban Homeworks (UHW) and their affordable housing work. UHW acquires duplexes and small apartment buildings, usually through foreclosure. Our volunteers assist with the renovation, yielding affordable, stable, dignified housing. UHW manages the rental and ongoing maintenance.

St. John’s work crews work the second Saturday every month. The tasks range from demolition, carpentry, painting, cleaning, and yard work, so there is work available for every skill level. The typical work day starts with coffee, juice, fresh fruit and pastries just after 8am. The work starts at 8:30, ends around 3pm, with a break around noon for lunch. Lunch is made and delivered by the St. John’s affordable housing lunch crew. New volunteers are always welcome for either site construction work or the lunch crew.

Please contact John Corlett for site work or sign up here to join the lunch crew.

First Nations Kitchen is hiring a new volunteer coordinator since Beth Wagner is moving on.

They have asked for FNK volunteers to consider other ways to support their ministry. Will you please fill out this talent survey? Because FNK relies almost entirely on volunteers to keep this program running, we have some unique volunteer opportunities and needs outside of our regular Sunday meal volunteer roles. From produce delivery and kitchen repairs to fundraising committees and event planning - there’s a lot that goes into this program! Help us build our capacity and strength by letting us know how you could contribute.

A farewell to Beth is scheduled for Palm Sunday, April 14.
Adult Forums

Beloved Community: Rest
Sunday, April 7th  The Rev. Patricia Benson
Turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest. Join Patricia to explore how we might open our hearts more fully to God’s presence and revelation within the natural world as a source of restorative rest that nourishes our spirits and prepares us to turn again to Beloved Community. This form of spiritual awareness comes from a long and ancient tradition of Christian writers and thinkers. What can these voices teach us today? What “spiritual disciplines” might help us to connect more deeply with God through the testimony of creation?

NO Adult Forum
Sunday, April 14th  Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 21st  Easter Sunday

Becoming Beloved Community...through Caring for Creation
Sunday, April 28th  Doug Mensing
Doug Mensing, environmental scientist, and members of the Earth Matters group at St. John’s are celebrating Earth Day, April 22. Please join us for an invigorating discussion about just some of the many exciting initiatives underway to protect and sustain our Earth, including ways that St. John’s is engaged to foster the Beloved Community through creation care. Come hear stories, share your thoughts, and be inspired so that together we can enrich our lives and be better stewards of creation.

Conversations from the Heart

Saturday, April 13th, 12:30pm in the Library
“You can have the other words—chance, luck, coincidence, serendipity. I’ll take grace. I don’t know what it is exactly, but I’ll take it.” Mary Oliver

April's Conversations from the Heart will focus on grace—how we experience it, have we experienced it, do we even know when it's happening? Hindu saint Ramakrishna put it this way, "The winds of grace are blowing all the time—we just have to raise our sails." Let's gather and share stories of grace. All are welcome. For more information, contact Nancy Herbst.

Lunch Bunch

Monday, April 15th, 12:00pm in the Parish Hall
St. John’s has a tradition of using a labyrinth design for the parish floor during the last few days of Holy Week. Lunch Bunch is meeting at the beginning of Holy Week for a potluck lunch, followed by a speaker to give us background on walking the labyrinth and other Twin Cities labyrinths, both indoor and outdoor, that are open for walking and meditation. Please bring a dish to share and stay for the program.
April Music News

Festival Choir prepares for Holy Week

**Beginning Thursday, March 28th**

St. John’s Festival Choir gathers for practice from 7-9 pm on Thursdays, March 28, April 4, 11, and Wednesday, April 17 in preparation for singing during **Palm Sunday (April 14)**, **Easter Vigil (April 20)** and **Easter Sunday (April 21)** services. Choristers 6th grade and up are welcome to participate. Contact Chad.

Lenten Evensong

**4pm Sundays, March 31st, & April 7th**

Join us once again as we welcome our special guest music ensemble, **Lumina**, in a short evening sung service featuring original choral music by composer and Lumina artistic director Linda Kachelmeier, along with hymns and prayers, in the chancel with candles and incense.

**NO Choir practices | NO dinner**

**April 3rd & 24th**

Children’s Choirs sing on Palm Sunday

**9am, April 14th**

St. John’s Children’s Choirs sing Kathleen Tunseth’s **Hosanna! This Is A Special Day** and Mark Patterson’s **The Triumphal Entry** during our 9am Palm Sunday service.

**Festival Choir sings on Palm Sunday**

**9am & 11am, April 14th**

St. John’s Festival Choir sings Bob Chilcott’s **God So Loved The World** and Mozart’s **Ave verum corpus** during 9am and 11am services.

**NO Children’s or Youth Choir practices | NO choir dinner**

**April 17th**

Wednesday Chime Choir practice MOVES to 6pm in Holy Week

**April 17th**

Cellist Greg Nelson plays on Good Friday

**12pm & 7pm, April 19th**

Greg and Chad play the 3rd movement (Largo) from Shostakovich’s Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor, Op. 40.

**Festival Choir, Trebles Quintet, and Chime Choir at Easter Vigil**

**8pm, April 20th**

Deacon Patricia Benson sings **The Exsultet**; St. John’s Festival Choir sings Gerre Hancock’s arrangement of Joseph Noyon’s **Christus Vincit** and Healey Willan’s **Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One**; a Trebles Choir sings Abbie Betinis’ setting of Victor Hugo’s **Be Like the Bird**; and St. John’s Chime Choir plays Douglas Wagner’s **The Bells of Easter Morning** during the Easter Vigil service on Saturday evening. All in attendance are invited to sing **The Hallelujah Chorus** from Handel’s **Messiah** as the Choral Postlude! Timpanist Adam Rappel plays.

**Festival Choir and Trebles Quintet on Easter Sunday**

**9am & 11am, April 21st**

St. John’s Festival Choir sings Gerre Hancock’s arrangement of Joseph Noyon’s **Christus Vincit** and Healey Willan’s **Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One**, and a Trebles Choir sings Abbie Betinis’ setting of Victor Hugo’s **Be Like the Bird** on Easter Sunday morning. All in attendance are invited to sing **The Hallelujah Chorus** from Handel’s **Messiah** as the Choral Postlude! Timpanist Adam Rappel plays.

**Youth Choir sings**

**Sundays, April 28th & May 5th**

St. John’s Youth Choir sings a Cynthia Anderson arrangement of the French tune, **O filii et filiae** during our 9am service on April 28 and during our 11am service on May 5.

**NEXT Open Mic**

**Friday, May 25th**

Wrapping it’s Seventh HUGE Season – St. John’s Open Mic is your performance/presentation community opportunity taking place in the Parish Hall and running for one very special hour. Wendy + Chad will host this final 4th Friday Open Mic of the 2018-2019 Program Year. All are welcome – on either side of the microphone. Join the fun! **Childcare can be provided with advance notice.** For more info and to get on the program, contact Chad.
BIG Thanks & Gratitude in March goes to:

- Erik Jacobson and his Mama Digdown’s Band for the WAY COOL music on Shrove Tuesday, March 5th!
- St. John’s Children’s Choirs and Chime Choir for their special musical contributions to 9am and 11am services on Sunday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 24th.
- St. John’s Youth Choir for their special musical contribution to the 9am service on Sunday, March 10th and the 11am service on Sunday, March 17th.
- Musicians Aliese Hoesel and Greg Nelson for their generosity of heart and soul made manifest in the 4pm Trio for Haiti Recital program on Sunday, March 17th. The event raised $1200. The musicians took no fee. Mary Corlett provided a beautiful reception.
- Poet MAGNIFICO Jeff Larson for hosting St. John’s Open Mic event on Friday, March 22nd.
- Musicians from Lumina for their special musical contributions to our 4pm Lenten Evensong on Sunday, March 24th.
- Wendy Smith, Aliese Hoesel, and Jodi and Allie Bosacker for their fine teaching & care-filled leadership of Wednesday evening Children’s, Chime choir, Youth choir and Children’s Activities.
- Jane Gilgun, Mary Miller, Joanie & Don Hawkinson, Nancy Herbst, Gerry Lukaska, and Jenny, Maren, & Mark Lindberg for their good work preparing Wednesday Choir dinners during the month.
- St. John’s 9am Service Ensemble and 11am Service Choir for their faithful service and music leadership every Sunday!
Children, Youth & Families News

Walking After Jesus
Calling all families with kids under 6th grade! St. John's has an amazing tradition of inviting all our children into the mystery of Holy Week and Easter. We transform the church into the Triumphal Entry, The Upper Room, The Cross, and the Empty Tomb. We search all over for Jesus, and finish with communion with Lisa in the chapel.

Sunday School
With Easter and Spring break back to back, Sunday School goes quiet in April. We have every Sunday off until April 28th!

Youth Group (7th-8th Grade)
Because of Shane’s Parental Leave and the way that Spring Break and Easter fall back to back, Youth Group has a quiet month! We’ll gather for some all boys / all girls activities on April 28th at St. John’s!

Pilgrimage
The St. John’s Pilgrims take some liturgical leadership and play a quiet but important role in Holy Week this year. The Pilgrims will lead and facilitate foot and hand washing during our Maundy Thursday service on April 18th. The Pilgrims will also keep overnight vigil, watching and praying with the reserved communion before Good Friday. Pilgrim families, keep an eye on your e-mail for more information coming from Shane!

Thanks!
Huge, Massive, Unbelievable Thanks and Praise to Martha Faust, Heidi Weaver, and Heidi Schaefer for their incredible work to hold the details of the Pilgrimage Silent Auction. They were amazing in helping the Pilgrims raise ~ $6,000!

Parental Leave
Baby Marcus #3—Elijah Hope—made his appearance on March 9th! Shane’s plan is to take a few weeks, coming back for Holy Week and Easter. The rest of his time off will be coordinated with Clara’s time off and family visits (and, of course, the dates for the Pilgrimage!).

Elijah Hope
Elijah with his siblings :)

For more on Children, Youth, & Families at St. John’s, contact: Shane Sanders
Marcus
3rd Space: The Way of Love

On the Way of Love, we Learn, we Pray, we Worship, we Bless, we Go, we Rest, and we Turn. These are the simple words we use in Children’s Chapel for our body prayer (Check out videos on our Instagram page to learn it for yourself!) to let these practices of love start to live in our bodies, and not just our minds. Every week, we talk about one of these practices, and how we can take it out of the church (we Go!) and into our houses, our neighborhoods, and our schools. These practices are what Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has invited the entire Episcopal Church into doing, to create and show God’s love in the world. At home, we need to Rest and bask in our love. At work, many of us are working towards creating justice which—as Dr. Cornel West reminds us—is what love looks like in public. But when we come to St. John’s, we hope to be filled with God’s love as we Worship and as we Pray, and we Learn how to create more love in the world!

Spring Cleaning?
St. John’s will be hosting the Annual Rummage Sale again this year! The Pilgrims will be gathering items on May 17th. The sale will be on Saturday, May 18th. Contact Shane for details, or to request a pick-up!
St. John’s, the greater Episcopal Church, and many other faith communities are working deliberately to foster “Beloved Communities,” where all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. To accomplish this, we are called to follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and creating relationship with God (evangelism), with each other (reconciliation), and with creation (environmental stewardship). Regarding our relationship with God’s creation, the Episcopal Church has made the following pledge:

**Episcopal Creation Care Pledge**

As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we long to grow loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with the whole of God’s Creation. Together, we pledge to protect and renew the Earth and all who call it home. Together, we are living the Way of Love and make this commitment to specific actions.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the Episcopal Church's Task Force on Creation Care, and leading Dioceses invite you to make your personal Pledge to Care for Creation. Components of the pledge include:

- **Loving**: We will share our stories of love and concern for the Earth and link with others who care about protecting the sacred web of life.
- **Liberating**: We will stand with those most vulnerable to the harmful effects of environmental degradation and climate change – women, children, poor people and communities of color, refugees, migrants.
- **Life-Giving**: We will change our habits and choices in order to live more simply, humbly and gently on the Earth.

The following link describes the pledge, walks you through the process, and provides a Reflection Guide: Creation Care

The goal is for pledges to be made by Easter Sunday (April 21st).

With April as the month when we recognize Earth Day, there are countless ways you can engage in this pledge, including Jesus’ “Way of Love” practices: turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest. Through our commitments and actions to care for the Earth and all who call it home, we foster the Beloved Community.

On Earth Day (April 22nd), the day after Easter, the Episcopal Church hopes to celebrate at least 1,000 pledges. (How many of those will be by St. John’s members?) And more importantly, we can look forward to living out our specific commitments all year long...to be more loving, liberating and life-giving. Enjoy the spring, and celebrate Earth Day!

-Earth Matters Committee
## Partnership Updates

### Store to Door Coupon Collection

This organization has connected directly with coupon companies, and no longer will be collecting the weekly coupons from our Sunday papers. *Thank you so much to everyone who has helped to support this work over the years!*

### A Benefit Concert for TRUST Parish Nursing

**Sunday, April 28, 2019**  
St. John’s Lutheran Church  
4842 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis

**Concert begins at 3 PM**  
Dessert & Coffee Reception immediately following  
$25 or free will donation of your choice  
Please call TRUST at 612-827-6159 for reservations.

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## Financial Statement of Activities - January 2019

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### 2019 Vestry

- **Senior Warden**  
  Kathy Schweikart (2020)

- **Junior Warden**  
  Allen Gooch (2021)

- **2020**  
  Jay Hornbacher  
  Nigel Mendez  
  Laura Walvoord

- **2021**  
  Beka Gonzalez-Olson  
  Jane Gilgun  
  Kaitlin McDonald

- **2022**  
  Mark Halley  
  Shanti Mittra  
  Stacy Walters

- **Treasurer**  
  Michael Morrow (2021)

- **Clerk**  
  Jane Haakenstad
# Calendar of Events

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm LH History Study Group</td>
<td>10:30am Staff Mtg 11:00am Tai Chi Chih 12:15pm Brown Bag Eucharist 5:45pm Chair Yoga 6:30pm Rector/wardens 7:30pm Polaris/Alanon</td>
<td>7:00am Morning Prayer 11:00am Yoga 12:00pm Spirit Group 7:00pm Living the Way of Love Discussion</td>
<td>1:00pm Alive &amp; Aware 7:00pm B&amp;G Mtg 7:00pm Festival Choir</td>
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<td>1:00pm Alive &amp; Aware 7:00pm Festival Choir Circle of Care</td>
<td>3:30pm Our Savior’s Shelter</td>
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<td><strong>Newsletter deadline</strong> 9:00am Labyrinth 7:00am, 12:00 &amp; 7:00pm Good Friday</td>
<td>9:00am Labyrinth 9:30am Justice &amp; Service 3:00pm Walking after Jesus 8:00pm Easter Vigil</td>
<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>