

The Rock



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

May 2022

From the Priest's Desk

Dear People of God,

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!***

Now, let me call attention to the obvious: we proclaim the Resurrection in the present tense. We don't say, "Alleluia! Christ rose!" or "The Lord rose indeed!" The core of the Easter message, of the Gospel, is not a claim about what happened "once upon a time." It is a joyful announcement of what IS.

If we're tempted to downplay or even forget that basic fact, it may be because the resurrection is not at all easy to explain, so if it remains fixed in antiquity and shrouded by the mists of time, maybe that helps us accept the mystery. Or it may be—and this is the more troubling possibility—that if Jesus' resurrection is just a thing of the past, we can keep our distance from him. The Resurrected Christ can remain someone we know something *about*, rather than someone we *know*.

So how do we come to know him? Well, Luke's Gospel (Chapter 24) gives us an account of how some disciples met the risen Christ that points to the answer. Jesus invites them to see his wounds, to touch him, to feed him, and to eat with him. Think about just the last one. Jesus asks a simple question: "Have you anything to eat?" The disciples give Jesus a piece of fish, and they eat. Their joyful—still confused, uncertain, wondering, but joyful—experience of the real Risen Lord is in the simplest acts of human sharing, and in the meeting of the most basic human needs. Jesus doesn't come back and explain the resurrection. He encourages his disciples to discover it for themselves—by seeing, by touching, by sharing, by celebrating.



The great Helen Keller wrote, "Touch brings the blind many sweet certainties which our more fortunate fellows miss, because their sense of touch is uncultivated. When they look at things, they put their hands in their pockets. No doubt that is one reason why their knowledge is so often vague, inaccurate and useless." I suspect too often we can be Christians with our hands in our pockets, with knowledge of Jesus that is vague, inaccurate, even useless, because we're not getting *in touch* with Christ.

If you want to know the Risen Christ now: See, touch, serve. Recognize, reach out, respond. That right there is the heart of our being Easter people, of knowing Christ IS risen!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan+



DIAKONIA MUSINGS

I am intrigued with the word "reveal", especially when it references the mysteries of God, the wonders of creation, and the love between human beings. To reveal something is to pull back the layers slowly or let something be exposed a little at a time, until the whole is obvious. To "reveal" is a process, an often slow one at that. It takes patience to wait for the end product. !!

This is the season of Easter, when we live in the knowledge that God has revealed God's self as pure, life- giving love, through Jesus. In our area of the world, this season coincides with the season of Spring; a season full of hope.

We watch and wait for tiny buds to burst open in a display of grandeur, a palette of colors, textures and smells that permeate the air and dispel the darkness of the brown winter and bring us sheer joy. It is like a prelude to the abundance of summer and we are witnesses to these miracles right now.

As I write this today, I am laughing as I watch big, wet snowflakes falling, like an April Fool's Day joke. The cold takes me back to the brown of winter, the darkness of the tomb, the very things we want to leave behind. We are ready to claim resurrection after all! The snow reminds me of the time we spent in our own tombs, our imposed isolation. Some of us have been there for two years, not just one winter, as we fought and continue to fight a pandemic. Just as a butterfly needs to let go of its past identity as a caterpillar, and exert a new energy to push its way out of a cocoon, we too must find our energy to emerge as transformed and beautiful, with new identities and work to do.

As the church we are called to be a new creation, full of love and joy, as we move forwards into the unknown. It takes trust in an all-loving God to be able to let go of the past season and move into the next, but God is with us, ever present and revealing slowly, what our next steps should be. Together, we are called to be the beloved community, carrying the gospel message of love into the world. Alleluia!! !!!!!!!

Deacon Diana



Our Need to Surrender and to let go”

A welcoming prayer helps us to find serenity through surrender in the midst of messy, ordinary moments. Sometimes, we just need to let go of the situation. We're never too old to learn, or too young to start.

The following is such a prayer popularized by the Rev. Thomas Keating (1923-2018):

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today, because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval, and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person, or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within. Amen

Deacon Tom

What Ben Franklin Can Teach Us



Lois and I recently watched the Ken Burns' documentary on PBS that centered on the life and accomplishments of Benjamin Franklin. What struck me throughout the two-part series were the monumental changes he went through during his 84-year lifespan.

It was quite evident that Mr. Franklin had his faults to go along with his scientific brilliance, his wisdom, and his contributions as a Founding Father of our country.

During the pre-Revolutionary War years, Franklin spent much time in England, and openly declared himself as a Briton in heart. Later, coming to recognize and digest the injustices of King George, he proudly wrote, ***"I am an American."*** That was his first major change.

In his earlier years of living and business in Boston and Philadelphia, he openly disliked black people, and thought them to be inferior creatures. He had two black servants (he never referred to them as slaves) for many years.

Later in life, with his wife's urging, he visited a school that contained several black students among the majority of whites. He became very impressed with the varying attributes and intrinsic values these "savages" demonstrated, that rose above common misconceptions of that time period. It fostered a second great change in his life.

Franklin soon after became the president of the Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society that sought to abolish slavery late in the 1700's. In both changes, Franklin had to take a leap of faith so to speak, become an active participant, and recognize when injustice rears its ugly head. Perhaps a lesson for us all.

Franklin quote: ***"The hardest thing for a man is to change long-standing prejudices or beliefs. But to succeed in doing this is a test of one's humanity."***

Peace and blessings,

Deacon Tom

From the Sr. Warden

Easter Sunday has passed, professional baseball has begun and April hasn't disappointed us with weather from snow to rain and everything in between. Temperatures have been all over the place from low 20s to high 70s. Rest assured, Spring is coming. We're just not sure exactly when.



What has come is the updates in the upstairs restroom. The door jamb has been fixed and the door knob has been replaced. The faucet on the sink has been repaired and working properly. The old commode has been replaced with a brand-new residential style comfort height commode. The grab bar should be installed very soon but everything is currently functional. Thanks to Mike Taube, Ed Hill and John and Trevor

Lopat for their assistance in completing this project.

Our worn and weathered flags out front are in need of replacement and have been ordered and received. They will be installed as soon as the Spring weather finally arrives. The memorial plaque for John Frantz, Sr. will soon be placed by the Red Maple tree that John donated a number of years ago.

I hope everyone is looking forward to more blooming flowers and nicer weather.

Lee R. McElhinny, Senior Warden

From the Jr. Warden

As I awoke on Easter morning and stared out the window at the huge Blue Spruce covered with snow, I briefly, humorously thought, "Hmm, did I prepare the correct hymns for today? Should I have prepared "O Come All Ye Faithful" rather than "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"? Then, my eyes caught sight of the beautiful purple and pink Hyacinths rising above the snow-covered ground. With immense gratitude, I was so thankful to celebrate this feast day, as well as Holy Week and Lent.

From our Lenten services to Stations of the Cross, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, our opportunities for worship were rich and plentiful. Thank you, Father Dan and everyone who used their gifts to make these services possible. Also, thank you to Father Dan, Deacon Tom, and Deacon Diana for leading the Lenten Education series.

Elizabeth Ann Schascheck,,Junior Warden

Organ Update



As mentioned last month, the organ will be undergoing repairs. Heritage Organ Builders will remove the Reservoir on May 2 and take it to their shop for repairs. They will install it during the week of May 9. While the reservoir is removed, they will closely examine the wind chest which is in need of re-leathering I will have more details about that next month.

Elizabeth Ann Schascheck

Blessing Box

Thank you for your support and donations this past month, Father Dan and Vestry for their support and Carma Miccoli and the TOH group. The Linen pantry keep an eye out for any deliveries left in their hallway and they help to stock the box with those items. Bless you all!

The temperatures should stay above freezing for the next several months. Canned vegetables, fruits, spaghetti sauce, soup are again good donations. We continue to need the same items such as pasta and rice of all kinds, cereal, Milk (nonperishable), pancake mix-just add water, syrup, peanut butter and jelly, canned or packaged tuna or chicken, supplies, deodorant, soap, washing machine detergent, dish soap, shampoo. I know the list goes on and on!

I mentioned last month that we will be meeting to discuss ways to sustain the Blessing Box. Now that Holy week and Spring vacations are over, we will be setting that meeting date to brainstorm some fund-raising ideas. Please let us know if you have ideas or thoughts! All our Welcome to attend the meeting. I will place the date in the Bulletin

Our prayer is that we can continue to help support our St. Peter's community!

*Gary Donhauser
Lee and Fran McElhinny
Jerry and Alison Mohr
Lois Tripp*



UTO Mother's Day Ingathering- 2022



United Thank Offering Grants and Scholarships are awarded each year. 100% of what is collected will support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. This year they awarded \$1,051,154.14 in grants that focus on Care of Creation

Our own churches in WNY have applied and received many grants and our own St. Peter's has received grants for the *Threads of Hope Linen Pantry*, as well as the Parish Nurse Ministry, totaling over \$30,000.

Envelopes are available at church, but not necessary. We hope that you will be part of the Mother's Day Ingathering. Donations will be collected each Sunday through May 15th. *Please endorse checks to St. Peter's and note "UTO" in the memo section.*

The United Thank Offering Invites Every Episcopalian to: Notice the Good Things That Happen Each Day. Give Thanks to God for Your Blessings. Make an Offering for Each Blessing. Through UTO, Your Blessings Become Blessings for Others.

Garden Party



Just a reminder **May 22nd after the 10 AM service to join the spring garden preparations**, weather permitting. We will be cleaning the flower beds and adding mulch. Planting some annuals and preparing the perennials for summer growth. Some special attention will be paid to mulching the tree bases in the lawn area. Bring your hand tools and any annuals you would like to plant, marigolds and impatiens always do well. Any questions please contact Ed Hill.

3 Reasons why we should recycle



much as possible.

People should recycle as much as possible to help the environment. Only 9 percent of the plastic made in a year (400 million tons) is recycled. Plastic takes 1,000 years to break down. When it does, it acquires chemical properties that are bad for the environment. Plastic kills more than 100,000 marine animals each year. These are the reasons people should recycle as

Samantha Graber, Age 9

An Irish Blessing

May you always have walls for the winds,

A roof for the rain, and tea beside the fire.

May you have laughter to cheer you, those who love you,

And all your heart may desire.



Linen Pantry Update

April was exhausting. We had 14 families from 5 different agencies. One of the clients was a single mother with 7 children who needed everything to set-up her apartment. We usually give 2 sets of sheets for each bed and 2 sets of towels for each person. One to use and one in the wash. This family has 5 twin beds, a full and a king size. Now you can see how quickly a well-stocked linen pantry can quickly be nearly out of sheets and towels. However, the Lord does provide. I bet there will be a donation on the linen pantry porch containing items we are low on.

The Linen Pantry is collecting paper grocery bags for Good Shepherd's food pantry. Also wrapped plastic silverware for Hearts for the Homeless for their serving of food nightly to the homeless downtown. These items can be put on the Linen Pantry porch or in the back of the church.

This week we received the \$200 check from the Dash's receipts that were turned in. This money is used to purchase needed items for our clients that we are short. Please continue to turn in your Dash's Market receipts.

Carma Miccoli

Our Little Roses Update

Additional donations came in since I reported last month. Ed Hill sent a check for \$680 towards the educational needs for Our Little Roses Home for girls in Honduras. A sincere thank you to all who contributed.



If anyone is interested, you can sponsor a girl from Our Little Roses at \$60 a month or \$720 annually. This is a charity of the Diocese of Western New York. I have stayed at the home for a week the three times I have traveled there. Pre-covid, Lois Carter has led trips to OLR. Please contact me or Lois if you have any questions about Our Little Roses.

Merrie Hill

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

NELSON MANDELA



attn:



Prayers of the People

Long Term: Becky P, Jim G , Marty D and Gary, Kristie P, Ann Marie, Ron B, Suzanne and family, Gino L, Alfred, Bob R , Sue and Don, Joann, Lucy, Lee & Jessica M, Judy E, Florence K, Amy P, Ray B, Dave L, Tim M, Wayne J, Joanne U, Cathy, Paula, Rick and Kristen, Tom and Joyce, ,Sharon H, ,Marilyn and Bob S, Jim M, ,Dan T, Brady, ,Trevor, Renee B, Joe P, Bob M, Alyssa and family, Beth, Frank B, ,Dillon, Joe M, Jenny R, Bob S, Dorothy G, Dori, Beth, Olivia, Sue & Dave S, Amy D, Ron W and Sarah M

Short Term: Gary K, Dennis M, Mary, MM, Isabelle, Alison, Louie G, Megan M, Diane, Josh & Scott, Lynda C, Father Jerre, Lynn F and family, Dominic, Maria, Diana W, Lindsey V, Jacob, Jason, Bill, Rich and Donna, Patty T and Jerry

Home bound: Sue W

Military: Ben H, Ben M and Brandon G

Please contact me with any updates, corrections or thanksgivings, the underlined names above will be deleted by next weekend unless long term prayers are requested.

God Bless!

Sue Gunn



5/01 Merrie Hill
5/03 Kelly Tripp
5/10 Dan Coury
5/10 Susan Woloszyn
5/10 Faith Reynolds
5/12 Kathy Frake
5/13 Jeffrey Tripp
5/13 Aliah Sanchez-Clarke
5/13 Dawn Rezebek
5/21 Carma Miccoli/
5/22 Myla Sanchez-Hill
5/23 Trevor Lopat
5/24 Joanne Schascheck



5/18 Jerry and Alison Mohr