

THE EPISTLE OF

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
9200 WEST 10TH AVENUE
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40
days
of Lent

February/March 2021



The Mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is to live out the love
of God as seen in Jesus Christ. We will, with God's help:
Discover God's presence in Word and Sacrament,
Share God's word, Nurture God's people,
Encourage congregational and personal growth on our shared journey, and
Act justly and peaceably.



Occasionally I get a chance to study Torah with a group of Jewish folks – rabbis and leaders. It's interesting to hear how people in other traditions go about biblical study with one another. But people of all faiths have the same questions about words and meanings and what-if's and how-about's. There is comfort in knowing that we all carry similar curiosities about scripture. Curiosity and scripture go together quite nicely, actually. I would even add a good, healthy skepticism is also helpful to in-depth study of our sacred texts, so long as it leads to a deeper desire to engage with them, with God, each other, and the world.

Over the years, as I've watched people in their lives of faith, I have seen lots of approaches to scripture, faith, and God. All in all, what I see is that when we remain curious about those things we tend to be more at ease with the ebb and flow of faith. What I mean is that, for me, at least, faith is not a linear progression with a constant slope and velocity. The run and rise of faith are rarely equal and, if we are honest, faith is often an uphill climb on a steep incline with a heavy rock. But such struggles are what make faith so transformative.

My recent study with my Jewish friends involved the reality of hope. The Bible is really good at analogies and metaphor, but what it really does well is offer images as a doorway into the life of faith. There is a story in Joshua about Rahab, an owner of a hole-in-the-wall brothel, who hides three Israelite spies. (See The Book of Joshua Chapter 2.) After she helps the spies evade capture, she lets them down from her house by a rope through a window. The story does not describe hope directly, but it seems the story shows us that hope is a rope. Hope is a lifeline we throw to one another when things get scary. It can be embraced as a lifeline that God offers us in times of difficulty and need.

As a faith community we have had a long history of helping one another through times of hardship and struggle. There is always someone in our midst who could use a lifeline, and that is particularly true right now. Lifelines are easier to offer to one another when we can see each other. It's not just that we haven't been able to see each other to offer a lifeline, but we have not been able to ask for one either. I say this as a way of asking you to continue to stay in touch with your fellow parishioners.



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Faith and strength are never equal among members of a church. There are those who feel strong in their faith sitting right next to those who are in struggling mightily in their life's journey. If you feel secure in your faith you can offer a much needed lifeline to those who may not feel so grounded. But also, shared struggle brings empathy, and those of us who need hope often find support with others who are struggling, as we are. Empathy, compassion, and strength in numbers is a powerful source of faith.

We all need hope. Hope in a healed world. Hope in a disease-free world. Hope in a more just world, a safer community, and a well-fed community. All of these things are not seen only through the eyes of a single hopeful person, but a shared, communal hope that can imagine bringing them to fruition - together. Hope is a lifeline that we throw out to a needy world while we all grab hold and pull together. Hope is a tug of war between faith and a harsh world.

We need each other. Church has always been that way, and that need is part of what defines us. Yes, we need God, too. But we need God to give us the strength to grab hold of that hope and do our part to lift one another up. No matter who we are, we have been on both ends of that lifeline. We are either pulling or being pulled, so grab hold. You never know who you may be saving...or who is saving you.

God bless you all.
allan+
Hope as a "lifeline"



SUNDAY SCHOOL –

Children's Sunday School is going on despite the pandemic. We meet virtually every Sunday from 9:30 to 10 am on Zoom. We currently have 7 little girls from the ages of 4 to 7. Our curriculum spans from preschool through 1st grade. We are using Sparkhouse Activate Faith curriculum. Margie Grimsley leads the kids in a modified chapel program similar to what she and Alison have been doing in the preschool/kindergarten class. They sing songs and say prayers. Then Chris Hanson, Kristin Sesko and Renee Parkhurst take turns with the lesson plan which always includes the bible story. We sing songs, play games and do some simple art work. All the kids have a set of leaflets from Sparkhouse. There is usually plenty left for them to do at home if they so choose. If your child or children would like to join us, contact Renee either on Realm or at sundayschool@stpaulslakewood.org.



VIRTUAL PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PLAY.

Our virtual Christmas play was such a hit, that we have been asked to do something for Easter. I happen to have a fairly easy and fun Palm Sunday play, so we are thinking of performing that virtually. If your children would be interested in being in our play please contact Renee either on Realm or at

sundayschool@stpaulslakewood.org.



Notes on the Season of Lent

We want to avoid suffering, death, sin, ashes. But we live in a world crushed and broken and torn, a world God Himself visited to redeem. We receive his poured-out life, and being allowed the high privilege of suffering with Him, may then pour ourselves out for others.

~ Elisabeth Eliot



**40 DAYS BEFORE EASTER,
EXCLUDING SUNDAYS**

FEBRUARY 17–APRIL 3, 2021

In the season of Lent, we enter into the forty-day fast that Jesus undertook in the wilderness. Through this dedicated period of self-examination, we allow God to further shape us into the image of Jesus. We also align our hearts with the suffering of Jesus as we move ever closer toward Holy Week and the event of the crucifixion.

The season begins with Ash Wednesday, in which we receive the imposition of ashes and are reminded we are but dust and to dust we shall return. During this season, we observe chosen forms of fasting, prayer, and service or charity for forty days but break the fast on Sundays, which are considered feast days of celebration throughout the church year.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What role has self-examination played in my spiritual life?

How open am I to this season of penitence, fasting, and prayer?

How might I serve others through this time of sacrifice?

PRACTICES TO CONSIDER

Look for a creative offering for Ash Wednesday on February 17th

Observe a Lenten fast for forty days, sacrificially abstaining from a habit or usual food or activity

Commit to a particular prayer practice for forty days, deepening your connection to God

Find an avenue for almsgiving and charity, serving your fellow neighbor in love

Celebrate the Sunday feast days during Lent, setting aside your fast to embrace the “right-now” reality of the resurrection

Stations of the Cross:

A Lenten Devotion



The Stations of the Cross are an ancient form of Christian devotion originally observed by pilgrims visiting the Holy Land and popularized by the Franciscans when they were given custody of the holy sites in Jerusalem in the 14th Century. The Stations follow the path that Jesus was forced to take from Pilate's Judgment Hall to Calvary, continued by the disciples who took his lifeless body from there to the tomb.

Moving from station to station, following the events in the words of scripture and letting the prayers draw us into the narrative, we are invited to grow closer to Christ by embracing the mystery of suffering in the world. By joining Christ on this transformative journey, we learn to become his disciples to a hurting world. Many different prayers and readings have been developed for this devotion, which can be said as a private form of prayer or as a public liturgy on Fridays in Lent.

At St. Paul's, we are fortunate to have a beautiful set of plaques depicting the Stations of the Cross gifted to us for this devotion. For the upcoming season of Lent in a time of pandemic, we offer opportunities to experience a quiet, prayerful “walk” with Jesus and with one another with images of our plaques and text via Zoom. We will be using the simple, intimate and powerful classic Everyone's Way of the Cross by Clarence Enzler.

Fridays in Lent

Feb 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26

5:30pm

Maundy Thursday

April 1, 2021

5:30pm

Good Friday

April 2, 2021

5:30pm

We hope you will join us!

Psalm 46 (*Deus noster refugium*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble. | 7 The nations make much ado, and the king
doms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt
away. |
| 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled
into the depths of the sea; | 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. |
| 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its
tumult. | 9 Come now and look upon the works of the
LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on
earth. |
| 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. | 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the
world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the
spear, and burns the shields with fire. |
| 5 There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High. | |
| 6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be
overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day. | |

Adult Faith Exploration

Sunday Afternoons on Zoom

We are delighted to be meeting via Zoom on Sunday afternoons for “Adult Sunday school” led by Rev. Allan Cole. Discussion has been lively, questions both quirky and probing, and topics sometimes surprising. One benefit of a Zoom class is that we can “see” each other’s faces up close, and sometimes our stories become personal and touching. We have shared some tears, and we’ve also shared some hearty laughter. Together, we continue to deepen both our faith and our relationship with God. Please join us! You can request a link by sending an email to:

AdultFaith@stpaulslakewood.org.

Sundays at 5:00pm.



Prayer Services

We continue to host daily prayer services, also via Zoom. These are led by lay leaders and readers in our community. These prayer services are part of the Daily Office, a practice that comes to us from the earliest centuries of Christianity, and are taken from the *Book of Common Prayer*. Those who participate find them a welcome respite from the daily busy-ness of our lives. Compline helps us settle into a peaceful rest for the night, while Morning Prayer guides us in a prayerful start to the day. Compline is brief, only about 7 minutes; Morning Prayer is slightly longer, between 10-15 minutes. All are welcome! To join us, request a link from AdultFaith@stpaulslakewood.org.

Compline — MWF at 8:30pm

Morning Prayer — TTH at 8:30am

Notes on Holy Week...

*The Lord can clear the darkest skies, can give us day for night,
make drops of sacred sorrow rise to rivers of delight. ~ Isaac Watts*



THE LAST WEEK - March 28 thru April 3, 2021

While the whole of Lent is a journey toward the cross with Jesus, Holy Week is where we experience this journey with the greatest intensity. On these days, you're invited to step into that intensity with intention through the story that accompanies each of the days of this week and through the suggested practices that allow you to embody the significance of each day.

Palm Sunday–March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, is a feast day that commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It falls on the Sunday before Easter, marking the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

Monday in Holy Week–March 29, 2021

On this day, Jesus cleansed the Temple and cursed a fig tree for not bearing fruit. That evening, Mary anointed Jesus' feet with expensive oil and her tears.

Tuesday in Holy Week–March 30, 2021

On Tuesday of Holy Week, Jesus debated with the religious authorities in the Temple and issued his famous discourse about the end of the age on the Mount of Olives.

Wednesday in Holy Week–March 31, 2021

By Wednesday, the religious leaders were conspiring to kill Jesus, and Judas began striking his deal of betrayal.

Maundy Thursday–April 1, 2021

On this day we memorialize the Last Supper. Jesus washed his disciples' feet and invited Peter, James, and John to pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest.

Good Friday–April 2, 2021

Good Friday is a day of fasting in which we observe the crucifixion of Jesus.

Holy Saturday–April 3, 2021

Holy Saturday commemorates Jesus' body laying in the tomb. It is the last day of Holy Week and a day of mourning.

NEEDLECRAFT:



We have been meeting for a couple years on the third Sunday of the month. We use our needlecraft skills (knitting, crochet and sewing) to make hats, mittens and scarves, which we give to the Gathering Place (a women's shelter in Denver). We currently meet virtually on Zoom every third Sunday to do show and tell and chat while we knit, crochet or sew. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to be added to our email group and get the Zoom invites, please contact reception@stpaulslakewood.org.



St Paul's Episcopal Church
Treasurer's Report—December, 2020

End of Month Account Balances

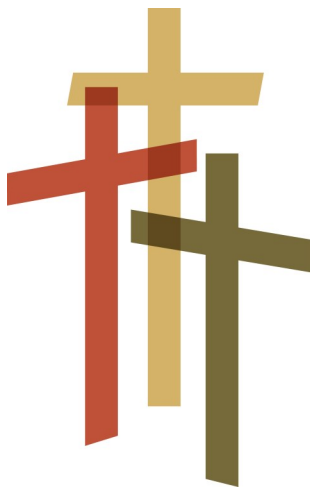
Operating account	65,026		Investments	107,236
Dedicated account	93,955		ECW & Holiday Bazaar	16,527
Rector's account	1,831			

PPP Loan of \$25,800 is in operating account, it is a liability pending loan forgiveness.

Income and Expense (truncated to dollars)

	Mo. Budget	Mo. Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Pledge	26,160	31,762	278,000	283,261
Sustaining givers	2,750	4,300	33,000	24,730
Holiday	6,000	4,210	10,000	5,440
Plate for youth	208	0	2,500	167
Misc. receipts	4,002	4,730	33,100	35,922
Total Income	39,121	45,002	356,600	349,520
Total Expense	30,900	31,432	360,392	327,847
Income -Expense	8,220	13,569	-3,792	21,673

Net income of \$13,569 for the month, \$21,673 for the year (excluding PPP loan). All in all, an excellent outcome for a tough year.



Comparison to Budget

<i>Income (Actual-Budget, positive is good)</i>	Month	YTD	Comments
Pledge, sustaining, plate, holiday	5,153	-9,901	Sustaining givers (-10,1000), Holiday (-2,800), Youth (-2,000)
Misc. receipts	727	2,822	
Total income	5,881	-7,079	
<i>Expense Budget - Actual, positive is good)</i>			
Administrative expenses	228	5,384	Savings on office expense, conv
Clergy Expenses	539	2,296	
Personnel & contract labor	224	13,640	Guest Mus, Nursery, Bulletin, cont. ed
Plant expenses	1,509	6,511	Maintenance and repairs
Program expenses	-1,189	4,712	Month: Nishma, X-form, Music
Diocesan and Front Range pledge	1,845	0	Finished pledge
Total expense	-532	32,544	
<i>Income-Expense (Actual-Budget, positive is good)</i>	5,348	25,455	Ahead of budget for the year

We were a net +\$5,348 relative to budget for December. For the year we are \$25,455 better than budget (not counting PPP loan).

Dedicated Account Balances

Lily \$39,031; Clement asylum \$1,417; Love Forward \$2,188; Youth programs \$2,935; Music \$740; Eiber Outreach \$2,734; Kitchen Remodel \$20,507; Sound System \$617; Nurturing Fund \$1,283; Ajuta \$2,440; Youth camp \$1,843; Altar Vessel \$2,507; Outreach \$2,283; Emergency Fund \$6,637; Minor Capital Expenditures \$5,292.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Statement of Income and Expense by Minor Group December of Fiscal Year 2020

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income				
00-01-Pledge & Plate Offering	35,118.37	40,272.25	323,500.00	313,598.79
00-02-Miscellaneous Receipts	4,002.72	4,730.00	33,100.00	35,922.00
00-04-Dedicated Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	39,121.09	45,002.25	356,600.00	349,520.79
Expense				
00-01-Administrative Expenses	1,945.83	1,716.88	24,300.00	18,915.93
00-02-Clergy Expenses	11,688.69	11,148.94	134,951.00	132,654.28
00-03-Personnel&Contract Labor	8,456.12	8,231.97	87,691.00	74,050.88
00-04-Plant Expenses	3,227.99	1,718.79	49,000.00	42,488.98
00-05-Programs Expenses	2,885.91	4,075.09	32,100.00	27,387.10
00-06-Columbarium Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
00-07-Diocesan Pledge	2,156.63	3,619.07	25,880.00	25,880.00
00-08-Front Range Region Pledge	539.13	921.84	6,470.00	6,470.00
Total Expense	30,900.30	31,432.58	360,392.00	327,847.17
Income Less Expense	\$8,220.79	\$13,569.67	-\$3,792.00	\$21,673.62

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9200 WEST 10TH AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, CO 80215-4701



THE EPISTLE
February/March 2021



WEEKLY ONLINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion
MONDAYS	8:30 p.m.	Compline
TUESDAY	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
WEDNESDAYS	8:30 p.m.	Compline
THURSDAYS	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
FRIDAYS	8:30 p.m.	Compline
SATURDAYS	6:00 p.m.	Nishma/Holy Communion

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Allan Cole, Rector
The Rev. Alwen Bledsoe, Assistant Priest
The Rev. Robert A. Buck, Rector Emeritus
Susan Hillring, Verger
David Parkhurst, Treasurer
Pam Horiszny, Treasurer
David Ebner, Esq., Chancellor
Joe Montano, Sexton

Vestry:
Jane Barnes, Sr. Warden
Matt Faber, Jr. Warden
Saoirse Charis-Graves, Tina Blackburn,
Barbara Engemoen, Hank Head,
Susan Geiger, Susan Hillring, Rod McLenon,
Renee Parkhurst, Dick Roark
Clerk of the Vestry:

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