



Loaves

&

Fishes

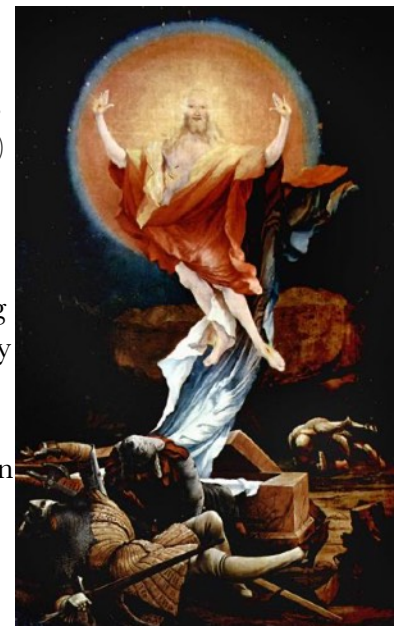
APRIL 2024

Resurrection Peace

Anticipating Easter in this wonderful parish and how it coincides with the turmoil we are experiencing in our cultural lives, I have been thinking a lot about the idea of peace. I was ordained on June 28, the feast of St. Irenaeus, someone about whom if we knew nothing, our lives would not be any less rich. He was, however known as, “the peaceable one.”

Because our ministries allegedly take on the character of the saints on whose feast days we are ordained, so the theory goes, it seemed appropriate at the time. I had been ordained a transitional deacon on St. Thomas, about six months before; I had a basically “irenic” (peaceable) personality (most of the time), but like Irenaeus, I was willing to be fierce about things that mattered, his about rooting out heresies, mine about what I thought of as social justice. If becoming a deacon on St. Thomas meant proving the gospel in the world, being ordained on St. Irenaeus meant standing up for peace, or so I thought at the time.

What I did not realize was how difficult the whole idea of peace is, mostly because it happens on someone’s terms. The Pax Romana (Roman peace) of Jesus’ day was based on terror and enforced on anyone whom the authorities deemed a threat. The peace of central Europe and Vichy France during the Second World War was supported by unimaginable atrocities. For those old enough to remember, the peace of the world during the Cold War was based on the threat of mutually assured nuclear destruction. The peace we currently enjoy in this country is a result of



the left-hand column

☞ Coming right up, the April potluck. It’s April 6; you have till the fourth to reserve your place. Ham and lamb provided, bring along a side dish or dessert (and that glass of wine) See page 3.

☞ April at St. Andrew’s means plant sale; it’s April 26, 10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. and April 27, 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

☞ Our scrap-metal drive brought in \$115; thank you, Steve and crew.

☞ Join the group to discuss Carole Wageman’s book, *The Light Shines Through*: 9:15 till 10:15 Sunday morning. You can order the book from Amazon for \$17.27, or, if like me, you prefer to contribute to keeping real book stores open, from bookshop.com for \$18.55.

☞ The Thrift Shop is sorting donations on Friday mornings as well as Tuesdays; join the fun.

calculations that show trade wars to be less costly than outright hostilities. We only need to look to Ukraine to see the alternative.

So when Jesus appears in the upper room on Easter Day and again a week later and announces, "Peace be with you," to his weak-kneed disciples, he is doing the most radical act imaginable. He is offering them peace on the terms of the Kingdom of God, which had no temporal backing but was simply based on the promises of God. We can think about this idea of peace several ways. The first is to consider it entirely aspirational. People being what they are, we do not see wars or the threat of wars ending anytime soon, so we pray for peace as a feature of the world when God's reign is fully established, in the great bye-and-bye. If you are like me, this solution does not seem especially satisfying, because we are not meant to be passive in this pursuit of peace, especially the post-Resurrection peace.

The alternative is to understand that there will be conflict, even violence on the way to the peace that we want, but the Resurrection has shifted the orientation of the world toward peace and it is up to us, through many hostilities, to help in its realization. Many years ago, the New Testament scholar Oscar Cullman likened this Resurrection peace to the beaches that were taken by the Allies in northern France on D-Day. There was going to be a lot of fighting, suffering and violence to go, but the outcome was no longer in dispute.

Peace is never easy, but it is not meant to be because it requires patience and determination. As one of the desert fathers said, "Affliction lasts but a short time while peace is forever, by the grace of God the Word." May God grant us the strength to pursue it.

~~Fr. Mark

Join Adult Education Discussion of Carol Wageman's The Light Shines Through Sunday at 9:15 in the Parish House

One of the great gifts of the biblical tradition is that scriptural stories are our stories; they contain as much joy, unexpected grace and the presence of God (even in our uncertainty) as our stories do. All that remains is to enter into these narratives and see how they intersect with our own.

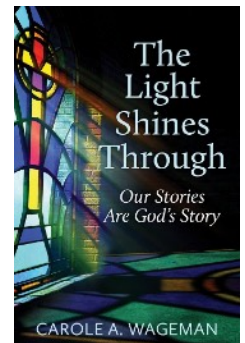
Wageman's book invites this dialogue with scripture, giving us stories that may be familiar to some, but asking us to enter into them so that we may be attuned to the work of God in our lives. "[Figures throughout scripture] faced the same uncertainty, worry, distraction,

and wonder that we face in light of life events that leave us breathless for hope and help. We often fail to grasp how divine participation in the human story is actually what God's story is all about. Our stories are God's story. Personal narratives, then and now, seem to be the ways in which God works best as Scripture is transformed from static story to a conversation that informs our own modern dilemmas and uncertainties," Wageman writes in the Introduction

Please consider joining us for an exploration of the intersection of our stories with God's stories.

~~Fr. Mark

The Light Shines Through: Our Stories Are God's Story,
Carole Wageman,
Church Publishing, 2017



God Loves Stories

A very old story reminds us of God's faithful love, and also that, like all of us, God loves stories. As the rabbis tell their stories of pending misfortune, God is listening.

When the great Rabbi Israel Baal Shem-Tov saw misfortune threatening the Jews it was his custom to go into a certain part of the forest to meditate. There he would light a fire, say a special prayer, and the miracle would be accomplished, and the misfortune averted."

Later, when his disciple, the celebrated Magid of Mezritch, had occasion, for the same reason, to intercede with heaven, he would go to the same place in the forest and say: "Master of the Universe, listen! I do not know how to light the fire, but I am still able to say the prayer." And again the miracle would be accomplished.

Still later, Rabbi Moshe-Leib of Sasov, in order to save his people once more, would go into the forest and say: "I do not know how to light the fire, I do not know the prayer, but I know the place, and this must be sufficient." It was sufficient, and the miracle was accomplished.

Then it fell to Rabbi Israel of Rizhyn to overcome misfortune. Sitting in his armchair, his head in his hands, he spoke to God: "I am unable to light the fire, and I do not know the prayer; I cannot even find the place in the forest. All I can do is to tell the story, and this must be sufficient." And it was sufficient."

An Invitation to Spring

Join us for a Spring potluck dinner: **Saturday, April 6th, beginning at 6:00 pm.**

We will provide the lamb and the ham and ask that you provide the side dishes and desserts.

Please RSVP to Cindy Kilcoyne by Thursday April 4 (240-577-3737).

We hope to see you there!

The Shop Is at It Again

Our dedicated Thrift Shop sorters have so many donations coming in they have decided to schedule a second work day.

Photograph by Clara Stark

If you have been thinking you'd like to enjoy the comradery they share—and see what's about to be added to the shelves and clothes racks, but Tuesday isn't a good day, here's your chance.



Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:30 till 12:30. Feel free to just appear, or contact Louise Snell (301373-5238 (lkshollywood@gmail.com)) if you have questions.

As you know, the shop has for some time been passing on the the women's club items we cannot use—they may be torn or stained, styles or sizes that don't suit our customers. The club, in turn sells them and uses the money to finance scholarships for St. Mary's County young people.

Now there is a home for clothing that doesn't meet our standards, but is still useable. The Giving Closet, organized by Jessica Kimble Finch at Real Life Church

in Mechanicsville, is happy to take these pieces and get them to people in need.

Their Free Shopping Days are open to the public, but they also supply a number of organizations including schools, WARM, Pyramid Drug Rehabilitation Center, Children's Aid, along with many others. One more way St. Andrew's joins with others to serve our community.



Down through the tomb's inward arch
He has shouldered out into Limbo
to gather them, dazed, from dreamless slumber:
the merciful dead, the prophets,
the innocents just His own age and those
unnumbered others waiting here
unaware, in an endless void He is ending
now, stooping to tug at their hands,
to pull them from their sarcophagi,
dazzled, almost unwilling.

~~From "Ikön: The Harrowing of Hell"
by Denise Levertov



Photographs by Linda Sisson



Photograph by Steve Carroll



The Bible is not humankind's book of God; it is God's book of humankind.

~~Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

April 7 Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Iris Hall-Willey

Altar duty: Susan Bennett and Svenna Gonzalez

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Susan Bennett

Lector: Joie Samuelson

Coffee hour:

April 14 Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Jerry Gehrig

Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Don Schramm

Lector: Ginni Stein

Coffee hour:

April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Mary Larson

Altar duty: Helen Rotzinger and Mary Maker

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Mary Maker

Lector: Robert Abell

Coffee hour

April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:24-30

1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Ron Leonard

Altar duty: Mary Maker and Michael Dyson

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Nancy Edwards

Lector: Margaret Hallau

Coffee hour:

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Jan Barnes, Melanie Baisley, Robert Bennett, Eunice Benson, Grace Billingsley, the Blackwell family, Caroline Bradford, Carol Brimm, Donna Carter, Judy Cavin, Jennifer Ceriale, Ash Chandler, Judy Consoli, Lanette Cowles, McKenna Cox, Marilyn Crosby, Noel D. and family, Laine Doggett, Judi Donnelly, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, Becky Frazer, Gretchen Frazer, Brian Gardner, Susan Geary, Gloria Gehrig, the Girard family, Mary Norris-Goddard, Paul Goddard, Ronnie Guy, Susan Hogan, Ryker Hurst, Salty Joynes, Terrie Leonard, Elinor Mattingly, the Mattingly family, Dee McRae, Artie Miller, Bernice Nunes, Annamaria Pache, Kenda Parker, Kyle Patrick, Chase Phifer, Lisa Powell, the Rev. Michael Pumphrey, Jane Roderick, Helen Rotzinger, Diane Rudish, Bob Sisson, Alice Snyder, Jonathan Tanner, Tegan, Isabella Tenczar, Angelica Wilkinson, Marcus Windsor, the Willett family, Stuart A. Wood, Tom Zonarich, and all who serve in the military and their families.



Four-Fold Franciscan Blessing

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts. Amen.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace. Amen.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. Amen.

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

April

- 1 Monday
- 2 Tuesday
- 3 Wednesday
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 4 Thursday
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
7:00 p.m. AA
- 5 Friday
6:30 p.m. AA
- 6 Saturday
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m Thrift Shop
6:00 p.m. Spring Potluck
- 7 Sunday
8:00 a.m. H.E. I
9:15 a.m. Adult Education
10:30 a.m.— H.E. II
- 8 Monday
- 9 Tuesday
- 10 Wednesday
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 11 Thursday
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
7:00 p.m. AA
- 12 Friday
- 13 Saturday
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m Thrift Shop
- 14 Sunday
8:00 a.m. H.E. I
9:15 a.m. Adult Education
10:30 a.m.— H.E. II
- 15 Monday
- 16 Tuesday
- 17 Wednesday
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 18 Thursday
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
7:00 p.m. AA
- 19 Friday
- 20 Saturday
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m Thrift Shop
- 21 Sunday
8:00 a.m. H.E. I
9:15 a.m. Adult Education
10:30 a.m.— H.E. II
- 22 Monday
- 23 Tuesday

- 24 Wednesday
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 25 Thursday
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
7:00 p.m. AA
- 26 Friday
- 27 Saturday
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m Thrift Shop
- 28 Sunday
8:00 a.m. H.E. I
9:15 a.m. Adult Education
10:30 a.m.— H.E. II
- 29 Monday
- 30 Tuesday



*A Toast to Those Celebrating
April Anniversaries*

- 6 Lou and Clair Kollar
- 23 Clyde and Susan Simmerman
- 26 James and Nancy Meade

Birthday Blessings to April Babies

- 2 Brenda Frazier, Cindy Kilcoyne
- 5 Daniel Ulrich, Maxine Aldridge
- 7 Amy Ulrich
- 15 Zach Stickney
- 20 Pam Baake
- 21 Autumn Mallory
- 23 Lucy Wible, Sean Drury
- 24 Kimbra Benson
- 26 Brenda Wolcott, George Kennett



The Journey Prayer

*God, bless to me this day,
God, bless to me this night ;
Bless, O bless. Thou God of grace,
Each day and hour of my life ;
Bless, O bless. Thou God of grace.
Each day and hour of my life.*

*God, bless the pathway on which I go,
God, bless the earth that is beneath my sole ;
Bless, O God, and give to me Thy love,
O God of gods, bless my rest and my repose ;
Bless, O God, and give to me Thy love,
And bless, O God of gods, my repose.*

from the Carmina Gadelica

Looking for Someone?

Rector: The Rev. Mark Smith 301 862-2247 rector@standrewsleonardtowntown.org

Parish Administrator: 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtowntown.org

Senior Warden: Mary Maker

Junior Warden: John McKendrew

Secretary, Beth Wagner

Cindy Kilcoyne

Fundraising Steve Carroll

Robert Abell

Jessie Kilcoyne-Beaver

Bobbi Brown

Michael Dyson

Linda Himmelheber

Treasurer: Chuck Stein

Andy Walls

Minister of Music, Amy Foster

Newsletter, Dee McRae deemcrae@mac.com

To give flowers for the altar 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtowntown.org

The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 202 537-6550

The Diocese of Washington 202 537-6555 <http://www.edow.org/>



Food for Thought

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, in a discussion of the Book of Job, suggests that God's faith in mankind is more significant than our faith in God

When we use the word 'faith' in a religious context we usually assume that it refers to our faith in God. Understandably so, for it is we who are finite in our understanding of the universe and the full perspective of history. It is we who must make the leap from the known to the unknowable, from the visible to the invisible, from what we see and infer to what lies beyond.

Using the philosophical categories we have inherited from ancient Greece, it makes no sense at all to speak of an act of faith on the part of God. God is omniscient and omnipotent, all-knowing and all-powerful. He is the unmoved mover, necessary being, the unchanging essence of reality. These propositions are surely true. Yet, as I have argued throughout, this is not God as we meet him in the pages of the Hebrew Bible. Instead it is God as a philosophical abstraction, detached from the human drama. But God is *not* detached from the human drama. He is, intimately, even passionately, involved in it. . . .

God as we encounter him in the Bible takes a risk monumental in its implications. He creates one being, humanity, capable itself of being creative. He creates, that is to say, a being in his own image. This act alters the whole nature of the universe. For there is now a life-form capable of language, thought, reflection imagination and choice, able to conceive the idea of God, but also, given the nature of freedom and the human imagination, capable of rebelling against God. The implication is far-reaching in the most ultimate sense, for there is now one form of life that can choose between obedience and disobedience, good and evil, turning nature to good ends or destroying it altogether. . . .

Faith does not mean certainty. It means the courage to live with uncertainty. It does not mean having the answers, it means having the courage to ask the questions and not let go of God, as he does not let go of us. It means realizing that God creates divine justice but only we, acting in accord with his word, can create human justice—and our very existence means that this is what God wants us to do. For one who sets a hard challenge does not do so to punish, but because he believes in the one to whom he sets the challenge. At the heart of his call to responsibility—and *this* is the meaning of Job—is God's unshakeable faith in humankind.

To Heal a Fractured World: The Ethics of Responsibility, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Schocken Books, 2005