

The Rector's Visions

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

So we begin the Great Fifty Days of Easter. But how do we hold on to the great joy of Easter morning long after the chocolate is gone, the Spring flowers are wilted, and the daily drudgery of life returns? Or worse, how do we experience the fullness of life that is Easter when a new dark noon of Good Friday breaks into our lives with sadness, exhaustion, or tragedy?

Our celebration of the Resurrection is about God's ultimate self-giving of a gift of life in a world of glorious life but also death, a world of beautiful love, but also hatred, a world rich with peace and racked with war. We live in the strange both/and world where God's gift is real even in the hardest of things life can bring us. How do we get there from here? There is no way other than Grace. But God plants something deep within us with that hope for the good of the world, the love and promise that is not a flash of happiness that disappears as quickly as it comes, nor is it an avoidance of the realities of all the struggles of this life.

Perhaps one way this all becomes clear is in the ways we learn to love. When we really love, we love people both close and not so close with a love that is not just a happy feeling, a desire to get something out of the relationship, or a superficial wish for their happiness, but a communion, a connection, that means that we cannot know love without giving them love; we cannot know happiness unless they know joy; we cannot find truth without struggling with them for a truth that includes us both and resounds in the deepest of both our souls.

This Resurrection joy is, then, hard work. Perhaps that's part of why we are given 50 days of Easter after just 40 days of Lent. And then we receive Pentecost, which was at the time of Jesus a spring harvest festival. For us the fiftieth day of Easter, Pentecost, is the harvest of the Holy Spirit, the day we receive God in us in a new way to help us through the tough stuff and always, always to the Easter stuff.

God's Peace,
Gary+

Ladder to the Light

Starting April 8 and 9, we will again have our Monday afternoon and Tuesday night classes. The classes meet Monday afternoon from 1 until 2:30 or Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30. So if you are unavailable in the daytime, hopefully you can attend the evening version. Both groups have a lively discussion! This Easter season we will be reading Ladder to the Light by Steven Charleston. Each week prior to class Gary will send out discussion questions by email. If you would like to receive the questions later this week and have not attended classes in the past, please let the office know, so we can get the questions to you ahead of time for you to think about them!

And a special note for the April 8 class! There will be a partial solar eclipse some time in the mid-afternoon, so we will end class at 2:15 so that any of you who wish may head out to the labyrinth to experience this wonder!

Worship Opportunities in April

April 6: Bob Fisher Burial Service at 11 AM. A reception will be held following the service at the White Dog Inn and Restaurant in Mathews.

Do you think of a burial service as worship? It is certainly intended to be. In **The Book of Common Prayer** on page 507 it says,

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38)

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

We include these words in many burial service bulletins, when space allows, to remind ourselves that,

no matter what the liturgical season, every death in the Lord is a cause for celebration, as it points to a future resurrection of the body and an immediate entrance of our souls into heaven and into the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Even in our grief we have much to celebrate.

April 7: Service at Trinity Church. We will join as one at Trinity Church on John Clayton Memorial Hwy at 10:30 AM. No services at Christ Church or Kingston Chapel that day.

April 13: Pete Guy Burial Service at 11 AM. Pete will be interred in our original Columbarium. A reception will be held following the service at the Parish House.

April 21: Celtic Service in Kingston Chapel. Join us at 5:30 PM.

Our worship Services on April 14, 21 and 28 will include the 8 AM service at Christ Church and the 10:30 AM service at Kingston Chapel.

Weekday Healing and Holy Eucharists will be held each Wednesday at Noon in the Meditation Chapel of the Parish House. If you feel sick in body, mind or soul, please join us for this time of worship to acknowledge our frailty and our need before God, and to receive a blessing, an anointing, and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with fellow believers.



Preparing the Scatter Gardens for the burial April 6th. Pictured: Carli Lawson, Hunt Thompson, Lois Biddison, MaryAnn Hubbard, Alan Biddison, and Pam Viens. Taking the picture: Reed Lawson

Vestry Notes from February 21 Meeting

- * The vestry signed the Declaration of Faith.
- * January minutes were approved.
- * The 2023 Parochial Report was approved.
- * The kitchen HVAC was replaced.
- * Two stoves and two overhead vents have been ordered for the kitchen.
- * Christ Church needs more gravel. The Gregg family will spread at no charge for labor.
- * The vestry approved an offer from John Lee Machen to buy the Fall Fair donations in the Rectory for \$500, which he removed, along with his trailer.
- * The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper served around 50 people, with 7 youth serving. About \$300 was donated.
- * The vestry approved outreach funds to be distributed to the following:
 \$1,000 to Rappahannock Community College;
 \$500 to the Mathews Land Conservancy;
 \$285 to the Mathews Extension 4-H Camp;
 \$100 to the MHS After Prom Committee;
 \$300 to Helping the Homeless Ministries;
 and \$700 to sponsor Carter Hayes on a THMS trip to Costa Rica for a total of \$2,885.00.
- * The next meeting will be March 13 at 5:30 PM



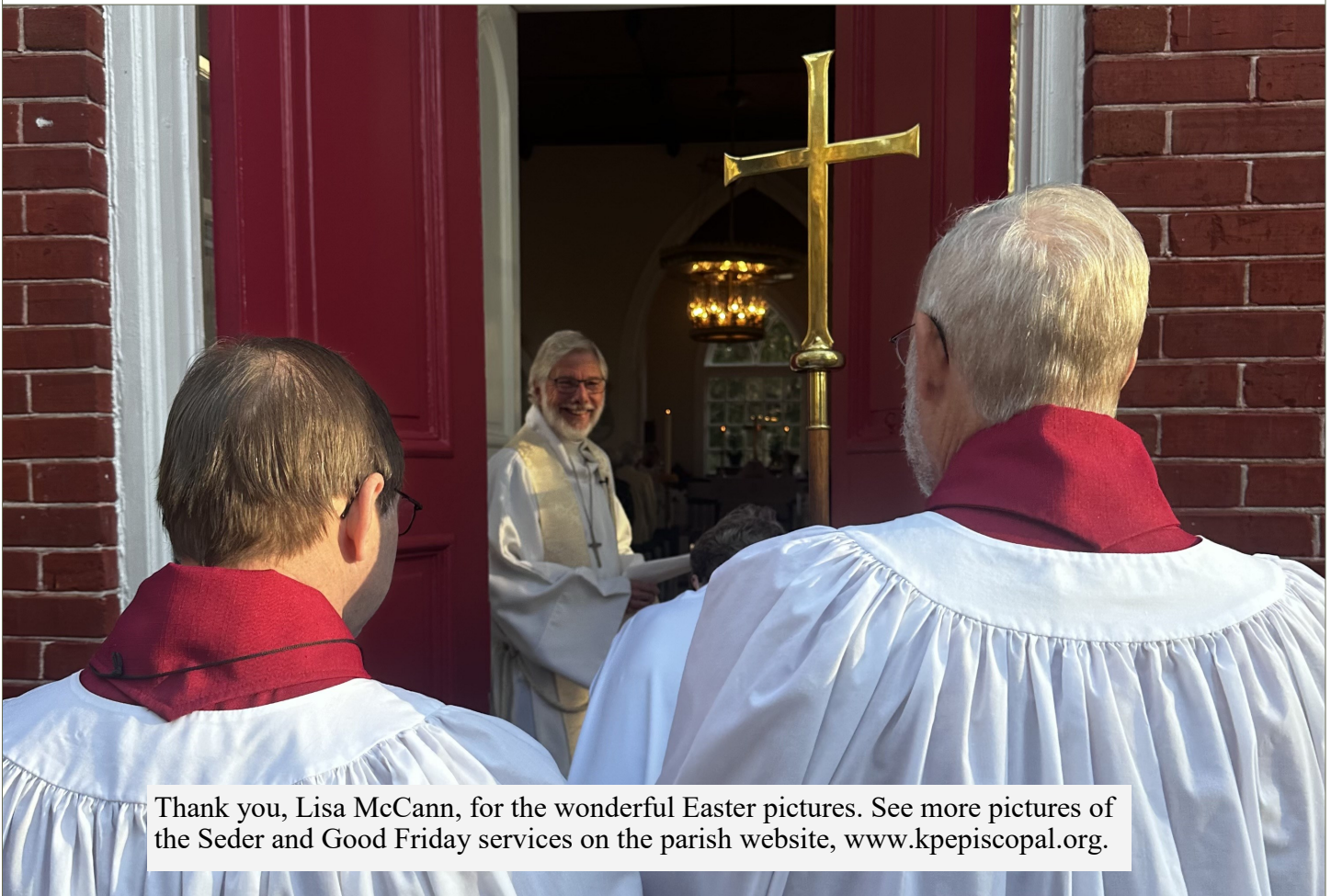
Good Friday service at Christ Church

Solar Eclipse April 8th

Join us at the Labyrinth for the Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024 between 2:00 and 4:00 PM. (weather permitting). The last total solar eclipse was seen seven years ago. There will not be another visible one until 2044. The eclipse this year will make a direct path across the United States from Texas to Maine. An ancient spiritual tool, the labyrinth provides a sacred place to honor the Total Solar Eclipse, a moment when the sun, moon and earth are in alignment.



Members of the community viewing the last Total Solar Eclipse on August 21, 2017 at the Kingston Parish Labyrinth.



Thank you, Lisa McCann, for the wonderful Easter pictures. See more pictures of the Seder and Good Friday services on the parish website, www.kpepiscopal.org.





Parish Prayer List

Pray For Our Parishioners

Taffy and Allen Barringer and family (by Mary Chapman)
 Johnny Brown for healing of his leg (by Becca Brown)
 David Faber for Parkinson's (office)
 Paul Gibson for weakening heart (by Jan Mohr)
 Carole Gregg recovering from heart issues (office)
 Nina Guy having physical therapy at home (office)
 Nancy James for back issues (office)
 Martha Knight for low kidney function and other issues (office)
 Signe Langschultz residing at York Rehabilitation Center (office)
 Allan May for stage one thyroid cancer (office)
 Deirdre McElroy for treatment of cancer (office)
 Donna Power at Mathews Rehabilitation Center (office)
 Ginger Richards for CHF, Afib and kidney disease (office)
 Jim Richards for cancer of left lymph node (office)
 Martha Story recovering from back surgery (office)
 Jim Taylor at Windsor Meade (office)
 Sandy Warren for Alzheimers (office)
 Mary Dabney Webster recovering from a fall (by Trish Reed)

Pray For Our Family and Friends

Lynda Alexander (by Rosemary Eaton)
 Sandy Ambrose for cancer (by Vicki Carter)
 Bonnie Callis for cancer (by Kathy Yent)
 Sarah Caramia for back surgery (by Martha Ellen Traband)
 The Carter Family (by Vicki Carter)
 Grace Cipriano for a blood disorder (by Rosemary Eaton)
 Gary Collins for chronic pancreatitis (by Jay Black)
 Lee and Debbie Dawson (by Terry Messer)
 Mary Doyle for hydrocephalus (by Valerie Lewis)
 Donna Drumel for lung cancer (by Wendy Super)
 David Eaton (by Rosemary Eaton)
 Greg Elliott (by Pat Elliott)
 Roger Emig (by Reed Lawson)
 Elizabeth Felicetti+ for lung cancer (by Mary Chapman)
 Glenda Flippin for ovarian cancer (by Jay Black)
 Drew Furniss for depression (by Mairi Furniss)
 Peter Furniss for return of Lymphoma (by Mairi Furniss)
 Wendy Gay for cancer (by Kathy Yent)
 Helen Graves for congestive heart failure (by P. Gibson)
 Bobby Griffith for acute vascular disease (by Berni LaCasse)
 Linda Hawkins for return of cancer (by Rosemary Eaton)
 Elizabeth Hayward for dementia (by Carol Swartz)
 Cathy Heach for breast cancer (by Shannon Hutchings)
 Dick Hellier for lung cancer (by Kathy Yent)
 Robin Hellier for brain bleed (by Jay Black)
 Nicole Carzo Hill for spinal edema (by Barb VanOver)
 Bonnie Hook for spreading cancer (by Rosemary Eaton)
 John Hopkins for dementia (by Mairi Furniss)
 Aubrey Hudgins (by Al Hudgins)
 Emily Hurlocker for cancer (by Kathy Yent)
 Marie Hurst for lymphoma (by Jan Mohr)
 John Hutson for cancer (by Marti Bowen)
 Ginny Johnson for a stroke/seizures (by Shirley Holler)
 Johnson family for father with dementia (by Marti Bowen)
 Carolyn Jones (by Josie Thorpe)
 Bill King for lymphoma of CNS (by Mairi Furniss)
 John Kratzer for auto accident (by Kathy Yent)
 William "Ben" Leigh (by Jan Mohr)

April Birthdays

Jane Lockaby	2
Mike Hudgins	3
Vince Lassiter	3
Allan May	11
Trish Reed	13
Mary Ann Gilman	14
Peter Van Emmerik	17
Al Hudgins	23
Daniel Gregg	24
James Gregg	24
Adelle Hudgins	25
Ron James	25
Kippy Gilbert	26
Martha Knight	26
Lenox Gregg	27

Serving in the Military First Responders or Diplomatic Corps

Colin Bucknor
 Yvette Gaither
 Carly Harmon
 Chris Ivy
 Joe Kraynak
 Megan Kraynak
 Joey Purdue
 William Story Scarlett
 Zach Schmidt
 Dawson Turner

Joy Long (by Jan Mohr)
 Phil Long for spinal stenosis (by Shannon Hutchings)
 Crystal Mann for cancer (by Lynn May)
 Samantha Martin for a liver transplant (by Kathy Yent)
 Keith Morgan for prostate cancer (by Josie Thorpe)
 Michelle Morgan for bone marrow transplant (by B. Brown)
 Shelby Ochs Owen+ for strokes/brain tumor (by Jay Black)
 Jim Pavik for cancer (by Josie Thorpe)
 Elizabeth Perkins for brain tumor (by Pat Elliott)
 Cora Lee Phillippi for heart attack (by Deirdre McElroy)
 Carolyn Piercy for cancer (by Mary Ellen Stimson)
 Zell Railey for blood clots in legs (by Linda Machen)
 Gabe Renes for injuries from accident (by M. Bowen)
 Jean Rhines for future care (by Frances Hudgins)
 Tom Robinson (by Josie Thorpe)
 Barbara/Hank Schlechter (by Gay Butler)
 Susan Shames for cancer (by Martha McCartney)
 Bo Short for cancer treatment (by Frances Hudgins)
 Deborah Silvus for breast cancer (by Marti Bowen)
 Craig Small for gall bladder surgery (by ME Traband)
 The Sulick family (by Shannon Hutchings)
 Mary Van House for stroke/surgery (by Mary Ann Carr)
 Kate Warfel for auto-immune disorder (Jen Kimball+)
 Punthada Wetsuwan for meningitis (by Rosemary Eaton)
 Betty Williams for lung cancer (by Mary Chapman)
 Louise Witherspoon for stroke (by Pat Dickey)
 Catherine Worley for breast cancer (by Gay Butler)