

The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Give thanks and praise to our Lord and share His love.

April 2022

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- Len Calvert, Sr. Warden
- Jon Davies, Jr. Warden
- Diana Garcia
- Cindy Jensen
- Ed Johnson
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Cindy Jensen

From the Rector's Desk

Spring has arrived! Birds are returning from their southern sojourn, the St. Thomas daffodils are “fluttering and dancing in the breeze” as Wordsworth puts it, sunlight stretches its arms across the day, and deep within the earth, new plant life is pulsing and gathering energy to push through the soil.



The world is so full of life right now that it's easy to forget that death had to occur last fall and winter before nature could be reborn. The flowers and trees and bushes all had to die back, lose their leaves, or go into dormancy in order for us to have our spring festival of life.

That life can only come out of death is one of the universe's great paradoxes. Human beings tend not to like the paradox that we have to die in order to live, for it is our nature to want to clutch life tightly with both hands and not let go. So, God must patiently teach us over and over again that only in letting go of our lives will we find true life.

Nowhere else in humankind's sacred history, of course, has God so strikingly revealed this truth about death and life than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And so as Holy Week and Easter approach, we at St. Thomas have an opportunity to journey with Christ as he walks the Way of this truth. On this journey with Christ, we experience the themes of death and life, sorrow and joy, hope and resurrection.

Beginning on Palm Sunday, with loud hosannas we will welcome Jesus as our king, and then vilify him in the Passion drama. On Maundy Thursday we will join the disciples gathered for the Last Supper and re-discover through the ritual of foot-washing what it means to serve. On Good Friday we will witness the mysterious power of sorrow and love intermingling on the Cross. And on Easter Sunday we will celebrate the springs of joy that poured forth on that resurrection morning.

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All of Holy Week tells a powerful story of change, a story that continues to change the world and to change people's lives. I invite you to participate in this story with me.

Before the fruit is ripened by the sun,
Before the petals or the leaves uncoil,
Before the first fine silken root is spun,
A seed is dropped and buried in the soil.
Before we gain the grace that comes
through loss,
Before we live by more than bread and
breath,
Before we lift in joy an empty cross,
We face with Christ the seed's renewing
death.

(author unknown)

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +

Endowment News

Here It Comes...Again

Whether you see taxes as "the price we pay for civilized society" (Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes) or "I'm proud to pay taxes...I could be just as proud for half the money" (Arthur Godfrey) we can't escape it – tax season is here again.



We've probably all filed and paid for this year. So let's think about next year.

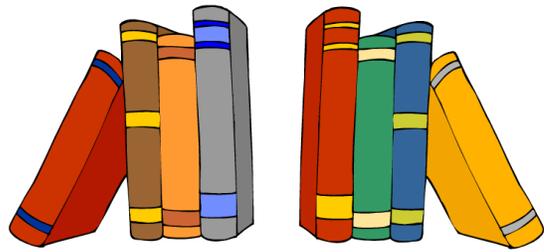
You probably know that your gift to our Endowment Fund is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. What you may not know is that there may be other tax advantages available to you.

Find out about these hidden treasures on June 12 in our Fellowship Hall right after our 10:00 service. We'll learn about "Tax Wise Giving" from Oregon Community Foundation's Liz Lawrence.

It's free, will take an hour or less of your time, and could help keep in your pocket more of the money you earned!

Duncan Murray, Chairman

St. Thomas Book Group



For the month of April St. Thomas Book Group members are reading Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris. This dedicated group of readers will gather in the Parish Library on April 28 at 1:30 pm with member Donna P. serving as discussion leader. This will be a hybrid session to accommodate members participating virtually. All interested readers are welcome to join the group in these lively discussions.

Stream Team

Looking for New Members



The *Stream Team* is responsible for the live streaming of our Sunday 10:00 am services. Team members must arrive early for the service to allow time to set up the computer in order to stream the service onto Facebook. Once it is set to go as the service begins, the assigned team member just needs to exit the program and turn off the computer at the end of the service. The Stream Team currently consists of three people, with one having surgery in March and one leaving the area in June. Come and join the dream team. Wait, we mean the Stream Team! Please call the office and JB will have someone from the current team contact you and arrange for training.

Risk Management Attention

There is a concerning safety hazard located at the threshold on the double doors at the back of the church. The threshold is coming apart on one section and needs to be fixed. If you are interested in helping to take care of our facilities, please call the office and JB will arrange to get you access. We have money in the budget for parts. We just need the labor. Hopefully we can have this done before the Palm Sunday procession.



Sermons4Kids. With Sue's leadership and preparation, this ministry is very manageable for the teachers, and a joy-filled experience for the teachers and our delightful and faithful young parishioners – Christopher and Emily Hente, Sofia Garcia, Mason and Lucy Duer and Tilda Rohde.

Have you noticed the red paper recycling receptacles placed about the church? These have been decorated with posters and instructions made by the Sunday School children. Let us all get in the habit of using these waste baskets for our paper recyclables.

Outreach

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the massive exodus of refugees to neighboring countries, the Outreach Committee gave \$500 to Episcopal Relief to support their mission services specifically for Ukraine. Parishioners are encouraged to give as they are able to Episcopal Relief at www.episcopalrelief.org. Or, checks can be written to St. Thomas with Episcopal Relief in the memo line and their contributions will be forwarded to Episcopal Relief and Development.



Easter Flowers

There is still time to contribute to Easter flowers, but with Easter on April 17, time is limited to do so. Please make your check out to St. Thomas and write "Easter flowers" on the memo line.



In addition, please include a note with your check indicating whether you are giving flowers in honor or in memory of someone, and you and they will be listed in the bulletin. Suggested donations are \$25, but any amount is helpful. Contributions are due by Friday, April 8. We will *welcome a happy morning* at St. Thomas with a beautiful floral profusion celebrating God's grace.

...and More Flowers



Following Holy Week and Easter services, we will begin to have flowers for our Sunday services. If you would like to sign up to donate flowers on a particular Sunday, please call or email the office: 541-343-5241; stthomaschurcheugene@gmail.com. If you would like, you may give the flowers in memory or in honor of someone or in thanksgiving for a birthday, anniversary, etc. If so, please let us know. The cost of the flowers is \$55.00.

Sunday School



The Sunday School teachers have been scheduled for the weekly rotation for Spring Term, and the teaching team includes Sue Colvin, Judy Wilson, Holly Spruance, Diana Garcia, Dallis Rohde and Cindy Jensen. Sunday School Coordinator, Sue Colvin, has prepared the teaching packets for each Sunday using the Episcopal Church Curriculum,

Coffee Hour

With the approval of Bishop Diana, Coffee Hour resumed on March 20th. In order for this special social time to continue, we need parishioners



to sign up to host. The host makes the coffee, heats the water for tea, gets out the cream, cups, etc. and provides snacks. No need for elaborate edibles. Keep it simple with fruit, cheese and crackers or cookies. If you want to host but need some guidance in the St. Thomas kitchen, contact Rev. Ann and she will connect you with someone who can help. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex, or you can email the office to sign up.

The Red Cross on the Roof

The red cross atop St. Thomas needs help, but it's expensive and dangerous to refurbish it in its present location. In addition, it has damaged the church roof when it sways in the rain and wind, causing a leak over the altar. It is clear that something must be done.



After much discussion, your Vestry has reached the conclusion that the cross will be removed from the roof and relocated on the church grounds, probably on the side facing Coburg Road. It will be carefully sited and refurbished. It is important to preserve this important symbol of St. Thomas and the Christian faith.

A committee has been formed to work with a contractor to remove, relocate and refinish our cross. Ed Johnson is chairing the committee which includes Cindy Jensen, Linda Whitehead, Frank Moss, John Spruance and The Rev. Ann. If you have questions and/or suggestions, please don't hesitate to talk with any committee member or Senior Warden Len Calvert.



Editor's note: The sketch of St. Thomas was drawn by one of our acolytes in the 1980s and used for many years on letterhead, certificates and postings.

Grace Notes



This is one of those times when finding grace is difficult, but as Christians we must seek grace, discover it and embrace it. Grace does not require magnanimous acts or bold revelations to be significant. The smallest points of light, the simplest acts or the softest words can pierce the darkness, lift the spirit and soothe the soul.

The emerging spring provides visual grace in the new green buds, blossoming trees, woodland wild flowers and the reliable ribbon of daffodils that grace our St. Thomas entry. Acts of grace are enacted throughout the community by those who assist the homeless in shelters and at food pantries. Neighbors demonstrate caring concern for neighbors by cleaning up and assisting those impacted by natural disasters. As our lives sometimes seem transfixed by the twenty-four-hour news cycle, we cannot overlook the acts of grace that give hope and healing to a troubled world --- the young girl singing in the Ukrainian bomb shelter, victims cleaning up debris after a bombing siege, ordinary citizens opening their hearts and homes to refugees.

Grace does not erase tragedy and its devastating impact, but it sustains us as we face the challenges of life, and grace gives us hope. For with grace, light can overcome the darkness.

April Birthdays

3	Patty O'Neal Joan Braun
8	Laurinda Andrist John Paulson
9	Barbara Root
10	Kathy O'Neal
13	Erika Hente Paul Colvin
21	Mary Lusk
30	Mason Duer



April Anniversaries

16	Stu Hogg & Charlotte Heltman
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Young Musicians' Program

On Sunday, March 20 St. Thomas welcomed the third musician participating in our Young Musicians' Program, Elizabeth Perez. Presentations by these talented young musicians is made possible by a grant from the St. Thomas Endowment Fund. Elizabeth, a senior at Marist



High School, grew up singing in both school and church choirs and started branching out to musical theatre starting in middle school. Elizabeth will be attending college for musical theatre and is working towards a career in performance arts. At our Sunday service Elizabeth sang "OCEANS" (Where Feet May Fail) by Crocker, Houston, and Lightelm and "10,000 Reasons" (Bless the Lord) by Myrin and Redman.

GrassRoots Garden



New Kitchen Coordinator at GrassRoots! In the first week of March, we were happy to welcome Jamie Johnson as our new Kitchen Coordinator at GrassRoots Garden. Jamie has been a perfect addition to the Garden's leadership team. A real gift to everyone she works with, both staff and garden participants, she helps instill a sense of connection and belonging.

Jamie comes to us after 4 years at Creswell Bakery. Comfortable with the bustle of a commercial kitchen, she is kind, conscientious and focused. Upon coming to GrassRoots, she immediately became a tremendous asset with her excellent organizational skills, personal initiative and comfortable interaction skills. Her calm proactive presence allows her to structure and orchestrate lunch preparation and kitchen activities throughout the day, while helping to set a positive and supportive tone.

Hitting the ground running, she succinctly dialed into the Garden while organizing the work and storage spaces to create a logical flow for food

preparation ensuring that meals are tasty, nourishing, appealing and served on time without a sense of frantic hustle. She got going fast making great meals and by week 2 was up and running independently. She's brought strong professional and kitchen operation skills to GrassRoots.

Coming in with culinary abilities from the bakery for making baked goods and desserts, she also has an ease in creating soups, side dishes and salads, and is excited to further develop and embrace new eating adventures and challenges. While working at Creswell bakery, Jamie learned to use a wood fired oven and smoker. This summer, we look forward to again firing our cobb oven and using our new barrow pepper roaster and smoker. These mediums will bring added depth and nuance to our GrassRoots lunches.

Beyond making great meals, Jamie is a wonderful culinary teacher and mentor as she works with garden participants, individuals in job training programs and interns. Supportive and kind, they know she cares. She connects with everyone she works with in the kitchen that day, as well as with the participants coming in from the Garden enjoying the lunch. Her delicious meals have quickly become a catalyst of connection for us all.

Balancing her Kitchen Coordinator position with our general operations, Jamie is spending one or two days a week in the Garden. This allows her to learn our technical garden knowledge and practices and insures her full comprehension to all we do at GrassRoots.

Jamie really enjoys building and fixing things and cobbling together repairs and renovations where needed. During her first month at GrassRoots, she's already repaired vets and doors on greenhouses, tilled growing beds and laid down irrigation. With her many amazing abilities, we are so glad Jamie has come to the Garden!

Early spring hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 to 4. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Road across from Safeway, behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information, contact Merry Bradley at merrybradley@yahoo.com or 458-221-0652.

Reflections



Rainbows are not just a feature of the *Rainbow State* – Hawaii. This wondrous phenomenon occurs often in Oregon, especially in spring. Who cannot take note of a rainbow when it appears? We are captivated by these ribbons of refracted light rising out of rain clouds. As people of faith, we recall God’s covenant in Genesis 9:15–17:

I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth. So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

The story of Noah charms young children with Noah’s determined efforts to preserve every living creature, the forty-day voyage on an endless ocean through a raging storm, the release of the dove and its return with the olive branch, and the happy ending with the appearance of the rainbow. But for adults, it is a different story, a story of accountability. We have a contract with God and rainbows are a brilliant visual reminder of that contract. The olive branch is a visual representation of the terms of the agreement – *peace*.

In our family we often sign off with the declarative, “live well.” It is a message that has resonated with me more and more over time. We account for our part of the covenant with God by *living well* with all that God has given us. To live well is to live just as Jesus proclaimed:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22: 37–39

That direction is all encompassing. It is the terms of our contract with God. It is the definition of *living well*. No easy task, but God is gracious. Every day is a new opportunity to sing praises to God, to treat people with kindness and respect, to do honest labor, to be of service, to make decisions that care for our planet home. Our covenant with God – it is the way of peace.

Message from the Editor

Since 2019 it has been my pleasure to serve as the Beacon editor and during that time, I have encouraged participation from church members to share ministry information and photographs of parish events. The *Grace Notes* and *Reflections* were added as further opportunities for members of our faith community to share their spiritual thoughts, blessings and celebrations. While church ministries do provide information to be highlighted in the Beacon, those anticipated personal reflections are seldom received.

Years ago Barbara Root and former member Mary Thomas spearheaded a wonderful Lenten project and for several years produced a booklet featuring the daily readings with reflections and commentary written by assigned parishioners. It was truly special to read these lovingly composed messages based on the daily scriptures and highlighting the thoughts of our fellow worshipers. It was also a special way for us to get to know each other better. Comprising the booklet was a daunting task for Barbara and Mary, but I fondly remember this special effort that actually earned an award from the Diocese. While doing something that demanding may not be feasible today, perhaps contributing to the *Grace Notes* and *Reflections* might be a simpler way of sharing our blessings and spiritual thoughts. And, you would not be subject to this editor’s “pontificating” every month. Your messages can be simple, thoughtful or humorous. Please consider this request and send compositions to the editor at LAJotKDK@aol.com by the 25th of each month.

Holy Week and Easter 2022



The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday (April 10)

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and the Holy Eucharist

We shout "Hosannah!", our palms are blessed, and we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Yet triumph turns to tragedy, shouts of "Hosanna" to "Crucify him," as the Passion Gospel of St. Luke is read at the end of the service.

Holy Tuesday (April 12)

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Holy Wednesday (April 13)

5:00 p.m. The Way of the Cross

For centuries, Christians of many denominations have conducted services (known as the Way of the Cross or the Stations of the Cross) that commemorate Jesus' journey from being condemned to death by Pilate to his entombment. We will be using the Way of the Cross service from Celtic Daily Prayer. A quiet, meditative service.

Maundy Thursday (April 14)

12:00 Noon Maundy Thursday Liturgy

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum" which means "command;" Christ's Great Commandment is that we love one another as he has loved us. At this service we reenact his demonstration of this commandment through the ritual of foot washing (optional). We will also commemorate the first Lord's Supper. The service concludes with the solemn stripping of the altar.

Good Friday (April 15)

12:00 noon The Good Friday Liturgy

This solemn service includes the reading of St. John's Passion Gospel and the veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday (April 16)

9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Liturgy

A short, simple service of readings and prayers.



The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day (April 17)

10:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist

Friends old and new join the St. Thomas family to celebrate the Sunday of the Resurrection. All are welcome. Early seating is advised. An Easter Egg Hunt for our children will follow the 10:00 service.

April Service Schedule

In-person Holy Eucharist services are at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. The services are also streamed to our Facebook page so you can view at home: <https://www.facebook.com/st.thomas.eugene>.