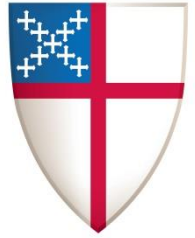




St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

Our Mission is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel
and to seek and serve Christ in all people



2022 – May Newsletter

Greetings in this season of resurrection

As seems fitting for an Eastertide message, I'd like to start with a note of thanksgiving to each of you. Thank you for all of the big and little ways in which each of you made my first Easter in person with you so wonderful and special. It was balm for the soul indeed. It was yet another beautiful reminder of the ways in which our community has managed to stay together and care for one another despite being physically apart for so long.

The world needs the love that we have found in Jesus; and, in a way, that's what the message of Easter is about. It is good news for us, that's the assumption. That's why we are all gathered together. How do we make the message of resurrection come alive for Alamogordo so that it is good news for others? What does it mean for us to bring the dead back to life in Jesus name? To proclaim freedom to the prisoner? To heal the sick?

And we must remember that our Easter joy is never a reason not to sit with those who are suffering. We did not arrive at Easter in spite of the Cross, but because of it. Jesus' teachings were interrupted again and again by the needs of the world, and sometimes even Jesus showed frustration at his inability to preach and teach in peace; yet we see him answer those needs again and again. We also see him see to his own private prayer life with the Father.

May we who have been called together in the name of Jesus have the grace to do what has been entrusted to us, that it may please the lord what we do in his name and in this place. Amen.

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

The Eyes of the Heart, by Nancy Gregory

I'd like to talk with you a bit about my approach to photography. I call it, The Eyes of the Heart. It is the primary way I express my artistic side, that side that is connected to my soul and the Holy Spirit.

It seems like everyone is a photographer these days. Afterall, we all have cell phones and we've learned how to aim and press the button for a shot. And I'll bet the usual thing we all love to do, right after pressing that button, is to share the photo with family and friends. Sharing the joy, sharing the fun!

While we share much these days in the availability of technology, especially digital technology, we each have a different point of view about what we see, how we see it and what's worthy of a picture. We also have many different reasons for taking a picture.

My reason is to connect with beauty, with creation, with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

I see the Earth telling me her story and I am looking, watching, and learning how to see that story. I see a wide, expansive vista on the horizon, full of many nuances of color, light, and form. And closer in view, I see each small green shoot breaking its way through the hard soil, beginning its journey toward becoming a beautiful flower, a fruit, food for a creature, a seed, or maybe debris to build a nest or nourish the Earth. I feel that I am participating in a cycle of discovery and growth for all of creation.

On the way I feel called to record these impactful moments of my observation, my sometimes emotional and spiritual interaction with the landscape, people, structures, and events. I feel compelled to record and to share.

These photographs are my story. I feel a deep connection to this gorgeous state of New Mexico especially. An inaudible calling to be present, to observe the life forms, to feel the energy, to compose an image that attempts to convey the energy of this place so that others may also be enriched as I am.

Being in the outdoors, hiking and enjoying the landscape have long been among my favorite activities. I find myself getting lost in the world of the camera viewfinder as I look through and compose an image to keep. It is a relaxing feeling of being transported to special places. It is not unusual for me to lose track of time and place as I look through the viewfinder. I am totally engaged in what is there. Suddenly, I can discover a strange sense that my physical being is in a different place. Sometimes I even have been known to continue my hike going the wrong way!

The beauty of the state of New Mexico, the land and all its variety, is just simply captivating to me!

One thing I also enjoy doing is to write a brief story for each image and I post these stories on my website. The stories begin to convey what I felt as I experienced that moment of seeing when I pressed the shutter. These written stories have even begun to evolve into poetry at times, adding an even deeper reaction for me. And maybe for you.

One of my East Coast friends emailed me last night to show her support for a recent show of my photographs in a gallery. She said, "...Oh how wonderful!! I have no doubt that it will be an amazing evening. There is harmony between your passion for nature and your love of photography. People will respond to the intimate beauty which you capture and preserve with your camera. I'm sure it will be a glorious event for all who attend, including yourself..."

Let me leave you with this thought. It comes from the caption that goes with an image I took a few months ago in the Organ Mountains. The image is of a large field of native grass in its winter state, that I saw a while ago during a hike in the Dripping Springs area of the Organ Mountains. It is on my website. I call the image, simply, Golden.

The caption I placed under it begins with a quote from the 13th century poet Rumi, “Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right doing, there is a field. I will meet you there.” I wrote, “Meeting Love/Drinking deeply of Spirit air/Glowing Love.”

Celebrating Easter with the *Pascha Nostrum*

Happy Easter, Dear Ones! For St. John’s Playful Prayer Warriors, in this Season of Resurrection we replace our invitatory psalms at Morning Prayer, the *Venite* (Ps. 95:1-7) and the *Jubilate Deo* (Ps. 100) with Thomas Cranmer’s beautiful Canticle, the *Pascha Nostrum* found on pp. 46 (Rite I) and 83 (Rite II) of *The Book of Common Prayer* (www.bcponline.org):

Alleluia.

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.**

**Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.**

**Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

Our current 1979 BCP mandates its use in Easter week, but allows it throughout the Easter season at Morning Prayer. It may also be used as an alternative to the *Gloria* in the Easter Vigil Eucharist, though it is not normally authorized for use in other liturgies or at other times. The Canticle consists of three New Testament anthems beautifully stitched together: 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, portraying the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the Christian Passover; Romans 6:9-11, Paul’s magnificent treatise on Baptism, death, and resurrection; and 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 asserting that the triumph of Christ has overcome the sins of Adam. Even if you do not pray the Daily Office on a regular basis, incorporating the *Pascha Nostrum* into your morning prayers is a wonderful way of continuing to celebrate the Easter season.

Soli Deo Gloria, with joy and prayer, David-Luke BSG

From Marion Hatchett’s *Commentary on the American Prayer Book*. New York: Seabury Press, 1980.

BOUNDARIES

An ode to an almost traffic ticket

Lord

You set the seas, the seas You set.

And so they stay from then, for now, to yet.

And so You say: “John: 55 and no more!

The banks, the sides, the shore.”

But me not be the sea.

And so I flew beyond the bound to 72

(Perhaps above, at least around).

But God, by grace ahead You went:

A warning given, no ticket sent!

So thank You, Lord (and Officer Eshom).

From now may me like the sea become.

Well, while I meant what I said I certainly have fallen far short of the goal. I would characterize myself as usually a passive rather than active scofflaw – someone who simply didn’t care to notice the speed limit as opposed to noticing and then ignoring.

But those of you who know me well know that I could never get away with anything – particularly an unfulfilled vow (and honestly, I’m glad).

So last week it cost me \$91 for going 55 in a 40 zone!! Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, my awareness of and compliance with traffic signs has increased exponentially. And I’m glad.

BLESSING BAG/BORDERLAND MINISTRIES

FOR MARCH 2022

BLESSING BAGS: COMMUNITY KITCHEN

MALE: 0 NONE NEEDED

FEMALE : 14

BORDERLAND BLESSING BAGS

MALE: 18

FEMALE: 15

MARCH DONATIONS FOR BORDERLAND BULKY ITEM MINISTRY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Men: 12 pairs of socks, 6 pairs underwear and 6 tee shirts

Women: 26 underwear, 22 pairs of socks (variety), bras and camisoles

Girls: 20 pairs of socks and 34 pairs underwear

Boys: 20 underwear and 10 shirts

BLESSING BAG/BORDERLAND MINISTRIES

FOR APRIL 2022

BLESSING BAGS: COMMUNITY KITCHEN

MALE: 0

FEMALE : 12

BORDERLAND BLESSING BAGS

MALE: 29

FEMALE: 20

APRIL DONATIONS FOR BORDERLAND BULKY ITEM MINISTRY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Men: 12 pairs of socks, 6 pairs underwear and 6 tee shirts

Women: 16 underwear, 72pairs of socks (variety), bras and camisoles (variety) 7

Girls: 12 pairs underwear, camisoles 5

Boys: 20 pairs socks

Thanks to your donations, we now have a bulky item ministry for Borderland that includes children's clothing (i. e. socks, underwear and tee shirts)! These are items come packaged and are not included in the Blessing Bag itself.

I am humbled by your generosity in supporting this ministry. God bless you all! – Sharon Kelman

Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
1-May	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
8-May	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
15-May	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
22-May	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
29-May	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21	John 17:20-26

Rota

Date	Sunday	Reader - 8:00	Reader - 10:15	Preacher	Altar Guild
1-May	Easter 3	Joyce Summers	Sharon Kelman	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Henchar
8-May	Easter 4	John Shipe	Nancy Gregory	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Elliott
15-May	Easter 5	Randy Burroughs	Sharon Kelman	The Rev. David-Luke Henton, BSG	Kelman
22-May	Easter 6	John Shipe	Nancy Gregory	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Henchar
29-May	Easter 7	Joyce Summers	Sharon Kelman	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Van Vliet

Community Kitchen Schedule

May 3	St. Joseph's
May 10	49 th Medical Group
May 17	Christ Community Church
May 24	First Presbyterian
May 31	St. John's

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing Bag Ministry

Blessing Bags contain **travel** size items (i.e. hand sanitizer, small note books, toothbrush, toothpaste, pens, pencils, shampoo, deodorant, granola bars, soap, tuna/cracker packs, underwear, socks etc). We place several of the items in a gallon storage bag and distribute them to those in need. Currently, we are working closely with COPE and local partners in addition to Rio Grande Borderland Ministries.

If you are interested in helping in this ministry, please contact Sharon Kelman at 757 718 9451 or email ke4zia@gmail.com. You may bring any items you purchase to the church and deposit them in the bag that is located in the Narthex any Sunday.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Seminar

The Brotherhood is a group of men who engage in the study of scripture and service. We currently meet each Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. for a Bible seminar in the Parish Hall. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in May

MAY BIRTHDAYS;

Boogie (5/9), Lilah (5/17), Joyce (5/19) and Susan (5/19) Happy Birthday to all! ♀

MAY ANNIVERSARIES:

Dottie and Chuck (5/31) Happy Anniversary!

Caring card ministry

I would like to thank everyone who has donated cards, stamps and stickers to this ministry. We would like to help you celebrate **ALL** occasions. So, if you haven't signed up on our birthday (we just need month and day-**NO YEARS**) and anniversary lists, please do so. If you know of someone who may enjoy receiving one of our cards, please let me know. The sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. If you prefer, you may contact me directly: Sharon Kelman email: ke4zia@gmail.com or 757-718 9451 call or text.

Pet Prayer Chain

Many people in our congregation have pets. We all love our pets. They are part of our family. When they are sick, elderly or lost, it is a comfort to know that our church family is praying for them as well as us. If you have or know of a pet that could benefit from our ministry, please let David-Luke or Nancy know.

Daily Office

Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. Evening Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Links to these services can be found on the website. The service is also streamed to our Facebook page when technology allows.

Formation Hour

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study on Numbers. Been to a lot of bible studies? None? All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Are you interested in doing it as part of an ongoing spiritual practice that gives back to the community? If you are and would like more information, like patterns or prayers, please contact Joyce at joycesummers@mac.com

St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

Sunday Services: 8:00am Rite I; 10:15am Rite II

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