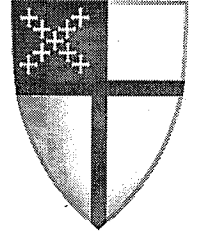


St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School



Alamogordo, New Mexico

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

2023 – April Newsletter

Greetings as we near the season of resurrection!

In the last few months, the Sunday Bible study completed our study of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. This is the central, principal, and guiding work of the Hebrew Bible. It is the introduction to God's sovereignty as experienced by the the people of Ancient Israel over centuries of their struggle to understand and make meaning of the world around them in light of their experience with the Divine. It bears witness to a time before the establishment of a kingship in Ancient Israel, where God was thought to have ruled God's people directly.

The books we have read recently: Ruth, Jonah, Esther, and now Daniel deal with the issue of divine sovereignty as well; but in a different context. Many believe these books to be products of the time of exile when God's sovereignty was challenged directly by foreign powers who proceeded to sack the temple and export God's people to the far reaches of empire.

What God does in response to that earthly challenge to divine authority is to call God's people to faithfulness in this new context. Old stories took on new meaning as people leaned more heavily on the stories of scripture in the absence of a central worshipping place in the temple. Some of the stories may seem strange to us; but all of them are innovative expressions of what it means to be God's people even when it seems impossible to do so.

As we move into April, the question of divine sovereignty will come up again but in a new way. We will once again see the victorious entry of the Christ into Jerusalem. We will enter contemplation upon those mighty acts by which our God brought life and immortality to light. Christ will teach us once again that in order to be great in the kingdom of God we must be willing to serve; and in order to have life and have it abundantly; we must be ready to die to self.

Thanks be to God that we worship Emmanuel, God dwelling among us! May we prepare with joy for the coming Paschal Feast!

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

An article for the April Newsletter

by Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

Getting to Gratitude

When I begin to think about a topic I might write on for our newsletter, I like to focus on how my faith impacts my day-to-day life and describe for you some sort of activity I've been doing. This month, I'm going to need to change that a bit. My day-to-day life has been doing the work of personal representative for Lloyd Fink's estate and that must largely remain a private matter.

But I can share the wonder of it all and how I feel God's presence.

As I do this work, I am meeting people, whom I never knew before, who are experts in fields I know nothing about, who act in generous ways that protect the estate and Lloyd's gift to St. John's. I need to develop a sense of trust somehow to do this job right from the first moment I meet these folks.

It feels like God is looking out for us at St. John's, by connecting us to trustworthy, honorable people. These folks, one after another, have been giving me, Susan and Tim, guidance and advice that leads us in the right direction. They may not be members of a faith community but they are showing how God touches each and every one of us by showing us how we can treat each other, be with each other, how we can act kindly, without greed, but with generosity and sensitivity.

I am grateful and I thank God for leading me to people such as I have been meeting this last month. While the hours have been long, the renewal of faith in God's beloved community has been strong. May you have such a blessing in your life as to meet the same sort of folks who will fill your life with joy, with gratitude and a sense that God is present for us all in all that we do. Amen

Unlikely holiness: Schubert's German Mass

H. D. Burnett

As we move into Lent, and spring, you may notice that three key pieces of the 10:15 service are taken from the same source: Franz Schubert's *Deutsche Messe*. The origin story of how this music found its way into the Episcopal tradition is both curious and oddly funny – especially since when we think of Great Classical Composers of sacred music, we don't typically hold a picture of an impoverished, agnostic, couch-surfing failed schoolteacher – famously arrested for hurling insults at cops, drinking to extreme excess, and dying at age 31 (some scholars argue for various causes of death, including typhoid fever, leukemia, and the ever-present malady of syphilis, common to many western European composers in the 18th and 19th centuries.)

Although his life was brief, Schubert made a musical name for himself at an early age; taking up piano at age four and violin at age eight. The Schubert family was musical, although Franz showed an exceptional gift for both performing and composing, writing many of his early string quartets for family performances. As he moved into adolescence and adulthood, Schubert became an incredibly prolific composer, excelling predominately in the medium of German *lieder*, or secular art songs. Composing over 600 secular vocal works, he also wrote seven completed symphonies (as well as the famous *Unfinished* symphony) operas, chamber works, and masses.

Of the eight settings of the Ordinary Mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus/Benedictus, Agnus Dei), seven of them are “bog standard”, utilizing the proper Greek and Latin texts common to the Catholic Church. The “odd man out” is his “German” (*Deutsche*) mass, which sets nine different texts (penned by Johann Phillip Neumann, who commissioned the work) that include the Ordinary, but also include settings of The Lord's Prayer, an offertory hymn, and a recessional hymn. Due to these differences, many scholars and musicians refer to the *Deutsche Messe* as a “hymn cycle” rather than a proper mass. Like other masses by famous composers (including Mozart, Palestrina, Bach, and other luminaries), Schubert's *Deutsche Messe* is most commonly performed as a concert work, separated from liturgical use.

That is, until church musical kingpin Richard Proulx released an English translation in 1979. Remaining faithful to the plain nature of the texts, the English translation found its way into *The Hymnal 1982*, and Schubert's 1826 work was finally wrested from the secular concert hall into the liturgical space. Congregations have found Schubert's setting to be accessible to “the greatest possible number of people” which has solidified and maintained the work's popularity – regardless of where it's found. One final interesting thing to notice in the three movements that we are using for Lenten services: the Kyrie, Sanctus/Benedictus, and Agnus Dei of the *Deutsche Messe* are all set in time signatures revolving around 3 (3/4, 6/8) a common conceit of composers in western European art music – centering their sacred works around the concept of the Trinity.

Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
2-Apr	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66
9-Apr	Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18
16-Apr	Acts 2:14a,22-32	Psalms 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
23-Apr	Acts 2:14a,36-41	Psalms 116:1-3, 10-17	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
30-Apr	Acts 2:42-47	Psalms 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

Rota

Date	Sunday	Reader - 8:00	Prayers - 800	EM - 1015	Reader - 10:15
2-Apr	Palm Sunday	Randy	Joyce	Steve	Nancy
9-Apr	Easter Sunday	Joyce	Joyce	Nancy	Sharon
16-Apr	Easter 2	John	Joyce	Sharon	Hannah
23-Apr	Easter 3	Geoff	Joyce	Steve	Nancy
30-Apr	Easter 4	Joyce	Joyce	Sharon	Yvonne

Community Kitchen Schedule	
4-Apr	St. Joseph's
11-Apr	PPW
18-Apr	Christ Community
25-Apr	Retired Teachers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important March Meetings

Our April Vestry Meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 5 pm.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April Birthdays

Clark 4/1, Tim 4/14, Eliana 4/14, Yvonne 4/18, Priscilla 4/21, Linda 4/23 and Barbara 4/25 Happy Birthday to all!

April Anniversaries:

Joyce and Tom 4/9 and Susan and Tim 4/17 Happy Anniversary to all!

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, socks etc). We place several of the items in a gallon storage bag and distribute them to our guests that visit our community kitchen. Thank you for all your donations. Please place the donated items inside the box in the church. It is my hope that once a month, during coffee hour, we can all enjoy fellowship and fill the bags together.

Card Ministry:

Thank you for your support in this ministry. Your donations of cards and stamps are greatly appreciated. If you would like to receive a birthday or anniversary card, please use the signup sheets in back of the church.

Pet Prayer Chain:

Our pets are an important part of our family. When they are sick, it is a comfort to have our church family pray for them as well as their owners. If you know a pet & owner that is in need of prayers, please let Nancy, Sharon or Joyce know. We will be happy to include them in our prayers.

BORDERLAND MINISTRY

If you wish to support the Borderland Ministry, please make your check to St. John's and in the memo write Borderland. We are no longer collecting goods for this ministry due to transportation problems.

Saturday Morning Bible Study

We currently have a Bible Study that meets 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. This will be restarting the Saturday following labor day.

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.

Formation Hour

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study. 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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