



THE BT TIMES

Are We There Yet?

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

10:30 am

Blessing of the Palms
with the Passion

Wednesday

10:30 am

Prayers for Healing
7:30 pm
Compline

Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm

Pickup Dinner and
Virtual Service with
Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

7:30 pm

Virtual
Stations of the Cross

Easter Day

10:30 am

Holy Eucharist
*Pick up ahead or drive by
from 12-1pm.*

Well, the answer is obviously yes and no. The older I get the more I have come to believe that this is almost always the answer. Whether we're in Advent waiting the birth of the Messiah or wandering in the wilderness looking for sustenance. We see glimmers of promise and we gather crumbs from here and there, but then there's another setback, or we trip and fall. We get one valley of the roof fixed, but the other one gets worse!

Is there ever a true fix? Is there really a destination anyway? I'm less and less convinced because I've come to find so much hope and even joy being on the journey with each of you, my family in Christ. We take the steps together, sometimes running, sometimes needing a break to catch our breath or to slow down to come alongside others who are struggling. All the while, Jesus knows what our human condition is really like. God loved us so much, and came among us in flesh just like ours, wondering if he would ever 'get there' and if he did, what that would look like.

This is our journey of Holy Week. We are not ready to come back in person. There is so much progress, but we're not there yet. Amanda Eversley, our new Church Council Vice President, our Church Council, and I continue to monitor our numbers here in Baltimore and in our state. We will get there. We're coming up with a plan. It will be gradual, and as soon as it's warm enough, we'll gather outside. It will be amazing. It will be different. It will be beautiful.

But for now, take note of our plans for Holy Week. Join us on Zoom or YouTube. There are palms. There are bulletins. There is candy. There is promise. There is light. Let's just keep going. Soon and very soon, we're going to see each other and the King.....

Monday in Holy Week

Almighty God whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace. Amen.

Walking in the way of the cross. May we find the way of life and peace. It is all there, the knowledge of the crucifixion, the isolation of the journey, the commitment to continuing in spite of the cost, and finally, the idea that there will be life and peace. After the darkness.

Carolyn Surrick

Tuesday in Holy Week

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

John reports this request made by the Greeks when they approached Philip. They wanted to meet Jesus, face to face. Writing on this verse, one preacher advocated that people come to church to meet Jesus, not for conversations with our friends. How do you feel? Do we only meet Jesus in our churches? Do we need to see him face-to-face, or perhaps put our hands into the wound in His side?

For a long time, I'm sure that I held to those views, but today I reflect on the many times throughout my life when I did see Jesus, and it was neither face-to-face nor in church! I remember Basil, an Indian child, hospitalized with rheumatic fever like me, who generously shared the bread that his parents brought for him to supplement the hospital food. Basil died about 2 weeks after I met him. Then there was my Hindu school mate who nearly every day in our first year of high school patiently explained and corrected my feeble efforts at Latin as we traveled on the ferry. And my Jewish former boss, who ignored diplomatic regulations to surreptitiously bring me an emergency supply of the Similac baby food that my lactose intolerant 3-month-old desperately needed that week. My brother-in-law was one of the first casualties of COVID-19 one year ago today. He tested the patience of all his family who nonetheless still loved him. Jesus was in the tolerant care provided by the staff of his rehab center. For these folks, theirs was more than a job.

No - I don't need to see Jesus face-to-face, nor do I need to have Christ explicitly preached to me from the pulpit. Jesus is in the Biblical stories of Ruth and Naomi, and when David spares Saul's life (twice!). I see Jesus in the love that he showed by His willingness to go to the cross and die for our sins. He who made this world in all its complexity, did not wave His hand and repel the High Priest and his minions nor the Roman soldiers that first Good Friday. If Hollywood wrote that ending of the Gospels, we would surely laugh them out of the theater. In our wisdom of what makes better sense, we would re-write the concluding chapters of the gospels. But that's why **“... *God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.*”**!

Sam Dowding

Wednesday in Holy Week

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Pastor Don leads us in our evening meditation at 7:30 pm on Zoom

Maundy Thursday Meal

We gather online at 7:30 pm to remember our most memorable meal and strip the altar.

Sometimes it's hard to be apart.

Even when we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Dinner on Maundy Thursday, well it's a tradition for us.

Especially now, as we will continue to focus on safety and wellness, we'll do carryout (together!)

Roast pork tenderloin, roast beef tenderloin, vegan bowl, really, really delicious...

From our favorite local chef, Bobbie D! Your choice of Asian glazed grilled sliced Pork Tenderloin or Roast Beef Tenderloin with red wine mushroom sauce, and for our vegetarian friends, we'll have the Vegan Bowl with sweet corn, black beans, avocado, grape tomato and chickpeas in curry coconut sauce.

The pork tenderloin and roast beef tenderloin will come with two side dishes, garlic mashed potatoes and green beans. All of the entrees will come with salad and dessert.

\$20 - Sliced Pork Tenderloin

\$20 - Roast Beef Tenderloin

\$15 - Vegan Bowl

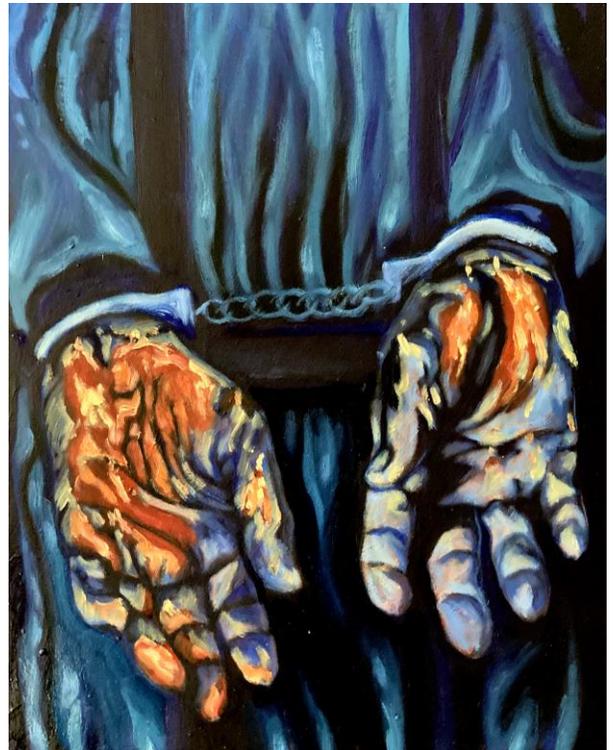
Place your orders online or contact the office by 5:00pm on Monday, March 29.

Pickup at the church between 5:00pm and 6:00pm on Maundy Thursday (April 1.)

Good Friday

We gather online at 7:30 pm for Stations of the Cross.

Artist Mickey Baroody did an internship with Pastor Stewart over the summer interpreting the Stations of the Cross. With Mickey's art and music appropriate for the day, we'll remember the last steps of Jesus with those who walked the journey with him.



Weekly Community Gatherings

Monday Chair Yoga & Mindfulness Meditation

This 10:00 am class is led by Linda McGill each week.

Wednesday Healing Prayers

We gather on Zoom at 10:30 am to reflect on the readings as we pray for those on our parish prayer list.

Wednesday Night Live

Join in our time of prayer and reflection at 7:30 pm. We include Complementary Conversations, which will not only inform and reinforce our faith and spirituality, but also promote improved understanding and appreciation for God's creation in its widest diversity.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

meets on Zoom with Pastor Don at 11:00 am

Thursday Evening Meditation Class

with Linda McGill on Zoom
from 7:30 - 8:15 pm

Sunday Mornings

10:30 am Zoom Service and Coffee Hour

**See the weekly email or website
for Zoom links.**

www.nativitycomforter.org

