

**From The Zucchetto - a.k.a. Zucchini by the PiC**

Week of Easter

From time to time, I am going to invite some one other than me to write this week's "From the Zucchetto". This is one of those times. As we will be out of town, next week will be another.



My guest author this week is Chuck Colson who served as Special Counsel to President Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1970.

Mr. Colson writes:

**It's become the surest way to get attention during Easter: claim the resurrection of Christ was an unholy hoax.**

The latest claimant is a researcher named Suzanne Marie Olsson. She says that she's convinced she has found the final resting place of Jesus—in a Muslim shrine in India. Olsson wants to exhume the body and run some DNA tests on it. Tracing the body's origins will "resolve the raging controversy," she says, over the identity of the remains. Don't hold your breath, Ms. Olsson. People have been trying to "resolve the raging controversy" for some two thousand years. I have been challenged myself many times on the resurrection. My answer is always that the disciples and five hundred others gave eyewitness accounts of seeing Jesus, risen from the tomb. But then I'm asked, "How do you know they were telling the truth? Maybe they were perpetrating a hoax."

My answer to that comes from an unlikely source: Watergate.

Watergate involved a conspiracy to cover up, perpetuated by the closest aides to the President of the United States—the most powerful men in America, who were intensely loyal to their president. But one of them, John Dean, turned states evidence, that is, testified against Nixon, as he put it, "to save his own skin"—and he did so only two weeks after informing the president about what was really going on—two weeks! The real cover-up, the lie, could only be held together for two weeks, and then everybody else jumped ship in order to save themselves. Now, the fact is that all that those around the President were facing was embarrassment, maybe prison. Nobody's life was at stake.

But what about the disciples? Twelve powerless men, peasants really, were facing not just embarrassment or political disgrace, but beatings, stonings, execution. Every single one of the disciples insisted, to their dying breaths, that they had physically seen Jesus bodily raised from the dead. Don't you think that one of those apostles would have cracked before being beheaded or stoned? That one of them would have made a deal with the authorities? None did. **You see, men will give their lives for something they believe to be true—they will never give their lives for something they know to be false.**

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The Watergate cover-up reveals the true nature of humanity. Even political zealots at the pinnacle of power will, in the crunch, save their own necks, even at the expense of the ones they profess to serve so loyally. But the apostles could not deny Jesus because they had seen Him face to face, and they knew He had risen from the dead.

No, you can take it from an expert in cover-ups—I've lived through Watergate—that nothing less than a resurrected Christ could have caused those men to maintain to their dying whispers that Jesus is alive and is Lord. Two thousand years later, nothing less than the power of the risen Christ could inspire Christians around the world to remain faithful—despite prison, torture, and death.

Jesus is Lord: That's the thrilling message of Easter. And it's **an historic fact**; one convincingly established by the evidence—and one you can bet your life upon. Go ahead researchers—dig up all the old graves you want. You won't change a thing.

**He has risen!**

**Pray for the Church and the Body of Christ**

The Daughters of the King are dedicated to supporting the prayer needs of 1St. Paul's. They are available in the west corner of sanctuary every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for private prayer. You can also submit intentions in the prayer box in the narthex. To add names to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise renewed.



**Please pray for: Emily Wolff, Ed Patterson, Cathy Hargrave, Fr. Gordon**  
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*In Thanksgiving for all Your tender mercies and the most Holy and precious gift of your Son — Anonymous*



*In Celebration of the Faunce, Garretson, Ilijev, Nelson, and Yorio Families. Especially in celebration of our nephew Eli Yorio who is graduating high school from St. Stephen's Episcopal School this May in Austin. — Jeff, Jennifer & Jacob Faunce*

*In Honor of the Saints—past and present of St. Paul's Greenville Gary & Nancy Hill*

*In Memory of my husband Tommy — Eileen Jenkins*

*In Memory of Lori Medford, beloved sister and daughter Dana Medford & Ginger Higgins*

*In Thanksgiving for God's grace to us — Ray and Myrna Pendley*

*In Memory of Charley and Hazel Roseberry — Harold Roseberry*

*In Thanksgiving for my children and grandchildren Debbie Shaffer*

*In Thanksgiving for our Risen Lord — Suzanne Taylor*

*In Memory of my daddy, Tommy Jenkins -- Wendy Vojir*

*In memory of our beloved son, William — Rita and Bill Woods*



*The Altar Guild is grateful to everyone who dedicated Lilies in celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord this Easter.*

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



"He Is Risen-The First Easter" 1893; Arthur Hughes

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

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Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Robert P. Price, *Bishop*

The Rev. Gary D. Hill, *Priest In Charge*

The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, *Assisting Priest*

David Gish, *Music Director*

Cathy Hargrave, *Organist*

**Easter Sunday - April 5, 2026**

## Service Times at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### *SUNDAY*

10:30 am. .... HOLY EUCHARIST

11:45 am. .... FELLOWSHIP, CLARDY HALL

### *MONDAY*

9:00 am. .... CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

### *WEDNESDAY*

10:30 am. .... MORNING PRAYER II

6:00 pm. .... BIBLE STUDY

### *THURSDAY*

8:00 p.m. .... COMPLINE SERVICE <http://stpaulstx.org> Facebook

### Sunday, April 5th

**LEM/ Lay Readers**

Debbie Shaffer

**Acolyte**

Karen Smith

**Thurifer**

Jeff Faunce

**Torch bearers:**

Nancy Hill, Siobhan Hibben

**Vestry Person of the Day:**

Frank McKee, Nancy Wyant

**Intercessory Prayer:**

Laurel Pence

**Tech Team:**

Director-Jeff Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce;  
Audio-Brad Mathis; Cameras-Nick Stone  
Social Media-Georgianna Harrison

**Altar Guild:**

Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant,  
Georgianna Harrison

### Hymns and Songs for the Day

Processional	He is Risen	H #180
Gospel	Up From the Grave He Arose	A3 #59
Offertory	Here I Am Lord	A3 #59
	Glorify Thy Name	A3 #45
Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	H #647
Communion	Seek Ye First	A3 #139
	Holy Ground	A3 #117
	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	A3 #81
Procession to the World	Jesus Christ is Risen Today	H #207



### Today's Stewardship Pearl

It seems appropriate to repeat this scripture for Easter.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. -John 3:16-17

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**8:30am, Saturday, April 11: Rose Garden rework**  
**Saturday, June 6: Rummage Sale**

## Holy Eucharist

### **Collect**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **First Lesson— Acts 10:34-43**

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Acts

eter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm - Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

(Read responsively by whole verse)

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, "His mercy endures for ever."
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"
- 17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

**All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist**

### **The Epistle - Colossians 3: 1-4**

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Colossians

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

### **Please stand for the Gospel Hymn**

### **The Gospel - John 20: 1-18**

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene

went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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