

Holy Week and Easter

PALM SUNDAY • *March 29*

8:00, 10:15 AM & 6:00 PM • POTLUCK BRUNCH • 9:00 AM

We begin by blessing the palms and shouting hosanna and end with the gathering gloom of the week ahead with the reading of the Passion during our services: 8:00 AM in the Chapel, 10:15 AM in the Nave, 1:00 pm for the Spanish service in the Nave, and 6:00 pm in the Chapel. Bring a dish to share for the potluck brunch in Inglett Hall.

HOLY MONDAY • *March 30*

CHRIST CHAPEL, 6:00 PM

After the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus visited the home of Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. In the Gospel of John, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with a costly ointment.

HOLY TUESDAY • *March 31*

WOMEN OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS, 6:00 PM

In a conversation with some Greeks or Gentiles recorded in the Gospel of John, Jesus predicts his crucifixion. We mark this night by walking the way of the cross through the eyes of women. This service concludes with communion in Christ Chapel.

HOLY WEDNESDAY • *April 1*

VENTULETT GALLERY, 6:00 PM

This new contemplative experience is a prayerful way of engaging with artwork. Rather than asking whether we like a piece of art, we listen for how it moves or challenges us, trusting that the Holy Spirit works through what we see and feel. We will gather with the exhibit by artist Vitoria Phillips for guided prayer using art as our sacred text—a Stations of the Cross meditation tonight and a Stations of the Resurrection meditation on the Wednesday after Easter, April 8, each with Holy Eucharist.

MAUNDY THURSDAY • *April 2*

AGAPE FAMILY DINNER, 6:00 PM

This special evening invites all ages to gather around the table for food, fellowship, and reflection. A catered Mediterranean dinner will be served. \$10 per adult; children and youth eat free. Register online.

We will share stories, scripture, and prayers to mark the institution of the Last Supper and reflect on Jesus' commandment to love one another. Following dinner, our children will help lead us in a solemn and meaningful time of the stripping of the altar.

Middle and high school students are invited to stay for an overnight lock-in, continuing in community and fun as we keep watch in the spirit of Maundy Thursday. We remember Jesus asking his disciples to stay awake and pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane.

VIGIL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT • *April 2*

ALL NIGHT UNTIL APRIL 3, 10:00 AM

The reserve sacrament is taken to a small altar set up in the Oratory, which is decorated as a garden. Come and watch with the Lord and spend time in prayer anytime through the night until the vigil ends with a brief service of Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM in Christ Chapel.

GOODFRIDAY • *April 3*

LITURGY AND LOVEFEAST IN THE NAVE, 12:00 PM

We cannot celebrate Easter without first walking through the Passion of Christ. We will gather in the Nave for a service of word and music in the Moravian tradition known as a Lovefeast. Through scripture, choral music with a guest string quartet, and a simple sharing of sweet rolls and beverages, we will reflect prayerfully on the sacrifice and love of Christ in a spirit of reverence and contemplation.

EASTER VIGIL • *April 4*

NAVE, 8:00 PM

Perhaps the most triumphant and joyful service of the year, this service marks the moment when Jesus was raised from the dead to bring new life to the world. The Vigil begins in the Memorial Garden in darkness with a kindling of the new Paschal fire and moves into the Nave. With choir, organ, chanting, incense, readings, and Holy Eucharist, we celebrate the defeat of death and the promise of new life.

EASTER DAY • *April 5*

8:00 AM • HOLY EUCHARIST • CHRIST CHAPEL
9:30 AM • EASTER EGG HUNT • PLAYGROUND
10:15 AM • HOLY EUCHARIST • NAVE
11:30 AM • YOUTH EGG HUNT • PLAYGROUND
1:00 PM • SPANISH SERVICE • NAVE
6:00 PM • CELTIC SERVICE • CHRIST CHAPEL

The Church celebrates Christ's joyful resurrection as a community at our regularly scheduled services with singing, prayers, preaching, and praise. We celebrate with organ, choir, brass, and timpani, and a beautifully decorated church. The 10:15 AM service will be live-streamed.

Hosanna!

God save Us.



THE REVEREND DR. BILL MURRAY

I have always loved Palm Sunday. Since childhood, I have loved the palm fronds waving, the shouts of hosanna, singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." After almost 40 days of Lent and austerity, the triumphal entry feels good and just and right all around. The challenge is that there is not nearly as much victory as we might think.

In their book, *The Last Week*, John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg point out that Jesus is likely staging a political protest. In second Temple Judaism, the Passover was one of the great festivals that swelled the population of Jerusalem. According to the historian Josephus, some 200,000 lambs would be sacrificed for the meals. Passover was and is the celebration of the liberation of Israel from Egypt through the miracles of recorded in the book of Exodus.

Rome was intensely interested in this Jewish liberation feast. They demanded obedience and control. They would send legions into the city in a grand display of power to control these freedom seeking worshipers. Pontius Pilate likely entered through the West Gate of Jerusalem on a great white horse with the most powerful army on the planet around him. The supporters of Rome in the street likely called out in praise to the son of God and the high priest, Tiberius Caesar. It was a very intentional attempt to intimidate, dominate, and control those gathered for Passover.

Jesus chooses to enter through the East Gate on a donkey. It is intentionally a ridiculous comparison. Something akin to North Korean military parades with all of their armies, tanks, and nuclear weapons on one side and a protester riding a bicycle. Jesus is mocking Rome and her claims to power and control. Ultimately, Rome has no power compared to God. The cries of Hosanna mean, "God save us."

As we enter into the mystery of Holy Week, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter, we should once again take stock of our world.

As bombs fall and leaders claim total power and control, Jesus enters again on a donkey. We again cry out, *Hosanna*.

We are reminded that true power is not found in power, control, and fear. We are invited to see the spectacle of political protest in a chaotic world.

We are invited to take part in this final week and hear the relevance to so many conversations around us. We are invited to listen again for a God who comes not in terrible power but with a smile on his face and an invitation to follow.

Easter Pilgrimage: Walking the Story of Resurrection

THE REVEREND T. STEWART LUCAS

On the Wednesday after Easter, eleven members of Holy Innocents will be traveling to Germany on pilgrimage, joined by twenty friends from our full-communion partners at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hickory, North Carolina. Together we will visit places connected to Martin Luther, J.S. Bach, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer—figures whose lives shaped the faith we share today.

We are not going as tourists. We are going as pilgrims. Pilgrimage is an ancient Christian practice. For centuries, believers have traveled to holy places not simply to see them, but to listen, to pray, and to ask what God is saying to the Church now. When we walk where others have walked before us,

we are reminded that the story of faith did not begin with us, and it will not end with us.

We are part of something much larger: a living tradition that continues to grow, struggle, reform, and rise again.

This journey will take us to places where the Bible was translated into the language of the people, where music was written for worship that still moves hearts centuries later, and where Christians wrestled with what it means to follow Christ in times of conflict, fear, and division. In every generation, the Church has had

to ask the same question: how do we bear witness to the resurrection in the world as it is?

That question feels especially important now. In a time when the world often seems divided and anxious, this pilgrimage itself becomes a sign of hope. Lutherans and Episcopalians traveling together is not accidental. Our churches share a full-communion relationship, and this journey is one way we live that out—learning together, praying together, and seeking together how we might be agents of peace, reconciliation, and renewal in the world.

Pilgrimage always looks backward, but never only backward. We go to remember where the Church has been, to understand where it is now, and to listen for where God is calling us next.

We ask your prayers for safe travel, open hearts, and deep faith as we make this journey. Please pray for each of the pilgrims by name:

Don Burggraf, Cindy Burggraf, Jenny Cantrell, John Cox, Cliff Hoffman, Cammie Ives, Dave Stockert, Stewart Lucas, Doug McAlister, Rolf Meinhold, Vera Mobley, Arthur Chapple.

May this Easter season remind all of us that the risen Christ is always leading his people forward—sometimes into the unknown, always toward new life.

Reading art.

THE REVEREND RUTH PATTISON

We are offering something new and different in the Ventulett Gallery for these upcoming High Holy Days. Perhaps for the first time, this is a contemplative offering of Art Lectio.

It's not so essential to decide if we LIKE a piece of art. The bigger, deeper, challenge is how does it move us, what does it say, where is its mystery, how does it invite, or repel, or provoke, or comfort, or...you get the idea. Engagement and listening with a work of art is where the power is unleashed. It is unique to each beholder. The artist creates something, but then the art is released into the world for all the world to see, and there, when you

walk by, that inner voice stirs you. Just you, in just that way.

Art Lectio is a contemplative process (less well known and less practiced than Lectio Divina) which applies the same three steps to "reading" a work of art, rather than a written text. It teaches us to listen to and trust that inner voice of the Holy One. The three steps of this process are called: Lectio, Meditatio, Oratio.

On two back-to-back Wednesdays, in Holy Week and Easter Week, we will gather in the Ventulett Gallery to engage in the practice of Art Lectio, using the artwork in our current exhibit by artist Vitoria Phillips.

I will lead you in the contemplative practice of Art Lectio, where the art becomes the sacred text for us to read and will structure it as a "Stations of the Cross" meditation

in Holy Week, and a "Stations of the Resurrection" meditation in Easter Week.

Many of us have experienced Lectio Divina. Most of us, probably, have not engaged in Art Lectio.

It is a way to stay with a work of art, to sit with it, to allow it to speak, to pull you in, so that the story inside the art engages with the story inside of you, allowing the Holy Spirit to move and inspire.

Looking forward to this new spiritual experience with you.

Stations of the Cross

Holy Week Wednesday,
April 1, 6:00–7:00 pm

Stations of the Resurrection

Easter Week Wednesday,
April 8, 6:00–7:00 pm

Keeping Watch: Holy Week Lock-In

MEGAN ATKINSON

This year marks a meaningful first for our youth group as we step into a new Holy Week tradition, a Maundy Thursday lock-in that carries us into Good Friday. Rooted in the ancient practice of “*keeping watch*,” this overnight experience is an invitation for our students to slow down, reflect deeply, and encounter God in a powerful way.

The evening will begin with the Agape Family Meal from 6:00-7:30 PM, where the entire church gathers for a time of fellowship. This meal, inspired by the love and unity of Christ’s final evening with His disciples, sets the tone for what is to come. Our youth will remain after the meal as the church quiets, transitioning into a more intentional and reflective space.

Maundy Thursday is the night when Jesus asked His disciples to stay awake and keep watch with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. While they struggled to do so, we are giving our students the opportunity to step into that moment in a tangible way, choosing to stay, to be present, and to engage their faith in a deeper way.

Throughout the night, students will participate in guided spiritual practices centered on the theme of being broken and redeemed. These experiences may include prayer stations, Scripture readings, quiet reflection, worship, and small group conversations. The goal is not to fill every moment, but to create space, space to think, to feel, to ask questions, and to encounter God honestly.

At the same time, this will not be a heavy or overwhelming experience. There will be moments of connection, lightness, and community-building woven throughout the night. As this is our first time, we are especially mindful of creating an environment where students feel comfortable, supported, and open to whatever God may be doing in their hearts.

As morning arrives and we enter into Good Friday, our hope is that students walk away with a deeper understanding of both the weight of the cross and the beauty of redemption. More than that, we hope they leave knowing what it means to “keep watch,” to stay with God even in the quiet, uncertain, or difficult moments.

We are excited to begin this new tradition together and to see how God works through it in the lives of our youth.

Youth Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 5, 11:30 AM

Easter isn't just for the little kids! All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for a Youth Egg Hunt immediately after worship on Easter Sunday. We will meet on the playground to find some awesome prizes like gift cards, squishes, and more. This hunt won't take long but will help make Easter extra special for our older students. Bags will be provided!



You Who Witness Luncheon

APRIL 19, 11:30 AM

As witnesses to this transformative moment in the lives of our young confirmands, your presence is valued and cherished. Those who register for this “You Who Witness” luncheon will enjoy lunch together with students going through the confirmation process. You will share why the church is so meaningful to you and how your faith has shaped your life.

The *You Who Witness* luncheon is a unique opportunity for our church community to connect with our youth confirmands. Join us in this special occasion and make a lasting impression on the lives of our young people.

If you would like to join us for this special luncheon or learn more about this event, RSVP on Realm.

Dust is not the end.

RENEE STEPHENS

A few years ago on Ash Wednesday, I wasn't able to get my kids to service. I was able to go early in the day, but their schedules didn't allow them to make it. So, as we were getting ready for bed, I shared with them the significance of Ash Wednesday, our rituals, and what everything means. I even had our palm leaves from the year before which we used to make our own ashes. As I explained that we do this to remind ourselves that we come from dust and that one day we will return to dust, my then five year old, immediately burst into tears and cried out "Whhhhhhhhyyyyyyy???? I don't want to do that!!! How long are we going to be dust?" and sobbed hysterically.

I comforted him as best as I could, and his older brother and I tried to explain that this isn't going to happen anytime soon and that we have long lives to live in our human bodies exactly the way they are. Eventually, he settled down enough to begin to imagine all the stuff he could do if he were dust. "Well, if I am dust then I can float around and play with things and no one will notice me." And, "Mom, when I'm dust, I can pass through the walls, and I don't have to use doors." Finally, he took a deep breath and said "Fine, I'll do it but I don't want a cross, I want my name written in ashes across my forehead." And so we did.

Every year during Lent, I think about his reaction and how it's probably the most genuine human reaction to being confronted with our own mortality. It's great to be a human being and



have access to all kinds of creaturely comforts. It's easy to keep a limited view of the here and now and not think about how tiny we are in comparison to all of space and time and the spiritual realms. And if we're honest with ourselves, Lent is a huge disruption to that comfort.

It's hard to have the bandwidth to do another thing. It's hard to remember to pray more and to keep up with our Lenten disciplines. But that is exactly why we do it. We keep a different pace and routine and set of rituals during lent to remember that we don't do all things through our own strength but by the power of God at work in us. In the midst of our sacrifice, we are formed. By letting go of some of our creaturely comfort, we make room in our hearts for the risen Lord. In a short time, we will gather for Holy Week and Easter to mark together the conclusion of our Lenten journeys. What we will discover is that Lent was never about the ashes or the sacrifices alone. It was not just about what we give up or confronting our own mortality. It was about making space for the astonishing promise that

dust is not the end of the story.

Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 5, 9:30 AM

The hunt is on! Children are invited to bring a basket and gather near the entrance to the playground behind the church. Kids will hunt for eggs in age-specific groups. After the hunt, everyone is welcome to head inside for refreshments, and children can gather to open their eggs together before worship begins at 10:15 AM.

So if you have said "Why?" and "I don't want to do that" at any point this lent, know that you are not alone. Just by saying those things, you are participating and making room the incredible promises that lie in the weeks ahead. Because once we are honest about our own finitude then we can begin to grasp the depth of God's love for us. So, join us for Holy Week services, especially our Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner where kids will demonstrate foot washing with their stuffies and then lead us in a solemn stripping of the altar. Come exactly as you are, with your grief, your burdens, your distractions and remember with us that we are called to a sacred journey together.

GROUPS

Prayer Shawl

APRIL 7, 7:00-8:30 PM

Join us in the Parlor as we knit and crochet shawls for those in need; but bring any project— needlepoint, cross-stitch, even mending— and enjoy fellowship while you work.

Contact: Cammie Ives (cammieives@gmail.com)

Men's Third Friday Breakfast

APRIL 17, 7:30-8:30 AM

Enjoy warm hospitality, engaging discussions, and a fresh breakfast in the Frost Youth Center. Come for the conversation and stay for the fellowship.

Contact: Charles Crosby (charles@corepm.net)

Women of HI: Spring Dinner

APRIL 23, 6:00 PM

Enjoy a delicious meal while sharing meaningful conversation with one another as we gather for this special evening. We are honored to welcome Peggy Whitlow Ratcliffe, Founder and Executive Director of Live Thrive, as our guest speaker. At its heart, Peggy's story is an entrepreneurial journey—she saw a need in our community and quite literally filled it in tons. Through her work, she has made recycling more accessible across Atlanta, founding Live Thrive in 2010 and launching CHaRM (Center for Hard to Recycle Materials), which has since diverted millions of pounds of waste from landfills and waterways. Her work beautifully connects with the spirit of Earth Day, reminding us of our shared calling to care for and steward our environment. Come be inspired by Peggy's story, learn about impactful work happening right here in our community.

Men's Retreat

APRIL 24-26, 2026

Bill Harkins returns as retreat leader for the Men of HI Retreat at Lake Logan Episcopal Center in the mountains of North Carolina. This year's theme is "Arete, Faith, and a Rule of Life for Connection Among Men." Bill will serve as both facilitator and homilist, offering the grounded presence and depth many have come to value over the years. Register on Realm.

Contact: John Harris (harris4338@gmail.com)

BOOK CLUBS

Bucket List Book Club

APRIL 7, 1:00 PM • PARLOR

This co-ed group is reading *Three Men In A Boat* by Jerome K Jerome. We'll meet at 1:00 pm in the Parlor room.

Contact: Audrey Sumner (audreysum4833@gmail.com)

Reading Connections

APRIL 13, 6:00 PM • INGLETT HALL C

This month's book is *March* by Geraldine Brooks. The meeting begins with light refreshments and the book discussion begins at 6:30 PM.

Contact: Michelle Driscoll (dris1296@yahoo.com)

Men's Dinner and a Book

MARCH 10, 6:30 PM

The book is *Mattering: The Secret to a Life of Deep Connection and Purpose* by Jennifer Wallace. Kevin Nuffer is hosting.

Contact: Jeremy Webber (jhwwebber@gmail.com)

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Choir

MARCH 29, 9:00 AM

Our awesome kids have been working hard on our Palm Sunday piece! They will lead the Palm Sunday processional at the 10:15 AM service and then sing our anthem at the very beginning of service. Kids meet in Sunday school at 9:00 AM before we start rehearsal at 9:30 AM and get our big palm leaves!

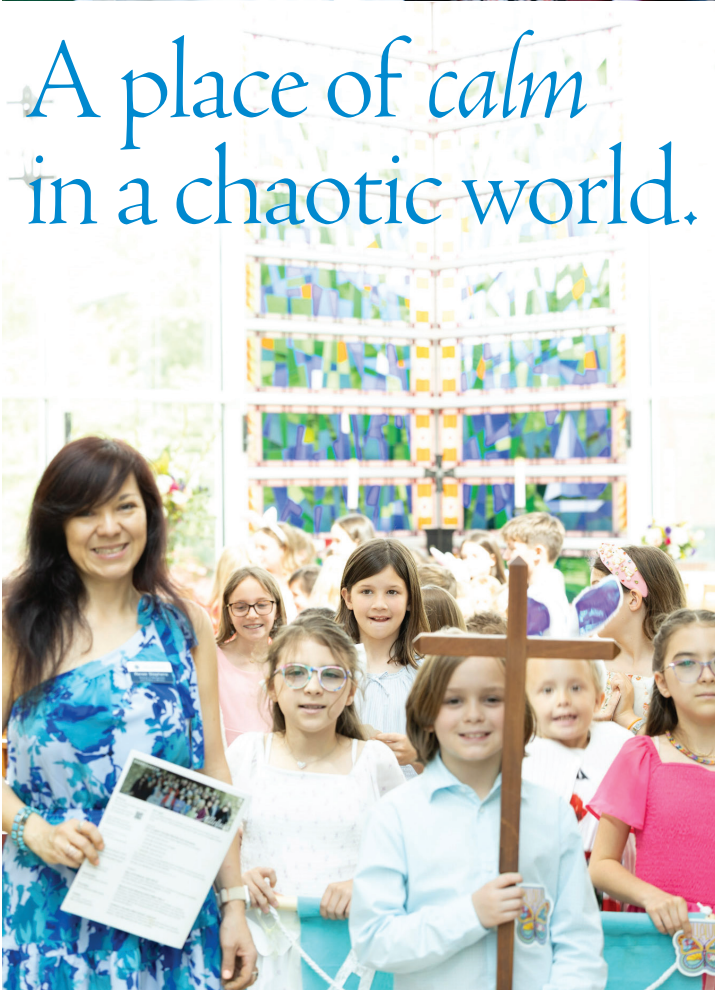
Contact: Renee Stephens (rstephens@holynnocents.org)

VBS 2026: Knights of the North Castle

JUNE 1-5, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM

Join us for an unforgettable week at VBS! Children will step into a world of courage, faith, and fun as they learn what it means to "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power" (Ephesians 6:10). Through exciting Bible stories, music, crafts, games, and fellowship, campers will discover the Armor of Faith and how God equips us to stand strong in every season of life. Optional aftercare is available until 3:30 PM for families who need a longer day of fun and supervision. The week will conclude with campers sharing their VBS song during the 10:15 AM service on Sunday, June 7. Families are warmly invited to stay after the service for a picnic lunch as we celebrate a wonderful week together!

Cost: \$85 per camper, \$85 additional for aftercare





Holy Innocents'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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