

ST. DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ELLSWORTH

TID BITS FROM THE TABLE ~ MARCH 22, 2024

Dear ones,

We're about to begin Holy Week, the most sacred part of our church calendar year, with Palm Sunday this weekend. As we all know, Palm Sunday contains SO much--and I mean that in theological and emotional terms. We begin our liturgy by remembering and enacting Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; we end our liturgy with Jesus' crucifixion. I'm always here to offer spiritual support to any one of us as we all prayerfully and individually navigate this holy day.

And, I extend my gratitude to everyone including all those worshipping this Sunday, as well as those involved in facilitating each aspect of the liturgy and time afterward (for example, our sacristans, readers, servers, Zoom hosts, ushers, counters, coffee hours hosts, among others). We are a warm and welcoming community, and are truly blessed to be able to worship and enjoy fellowship together.

This coming Holy Week, we'll have the chance to worship together for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Our service times are 5pm for each of these occasions. If you've not been to a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service, or haven't for some time, you're most welcome! If you're very familiar with these services, welcome to you, too! We follow our Book of Common Prayer liturgies for these days (BCP p. 274 and 276, respectively).

Many of you have reached out and connected with me because Holy Week is approaching, you're thinking about and re-reading the texts of our Passion narrative in the Synoptic Gospels as well as John's Gospel, and your thoughts have extended to your Jewish family, friends, neighbours and loved ones. You all know I'm married to a Jew and the mother of a Jew who's growing up with a sense of his own deep connection to his St Dunstan's family of Episcopalians; we're no strangers to these conversations in our own house, by any stretch.

Before Palm Sunday and Holy Week, I wanted to reassure us that we Episcopalians are very right at this (liturgical) time of our Christian year to read and hear our Passion narrative as sensitively as possible, and to note for ourselves points in which this narrative proves highly problematic throughout history—and, indeed, in our own time and our Episcopalian theology and tradition. Yes, our Gospel texts are sacred texts to us; yes, our tradition and lectionary bring them before us on Holy Week. And, at the same time, we are absolutely wise and correct to read and hear these texts and simultaneously to evaluate them in the fullness of their being, to contemplate them in our hearts and to consider their problematic elements.

It's obvious to us all why, historically, instances of pogroms (attacks on Jews) often spiked dramatically at Easter and Holy Week before it. As many Christian theologians including Rowan Williams and N. T. Wright have made clear, 'we' (meaning, all of us humans) are all complicit in the death of Jesus-- not simply 'the Jews' of St. John's gospel text. I'm always ready and glad to pass along resources to us all from different authors, authorities and voices for this most holy time of year.

Our Holy Week and Easter services are an opportunity for theological reflection, humility, and, ultimately-- I believe--spiritual growth for us all.

My prayer for our St Dunstan's family is that this Palm Sunday and the Holy Week ahead bring us illumination of heart, mind and soul.

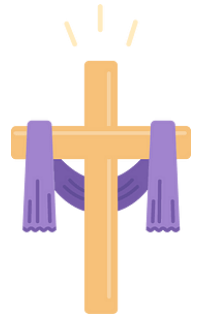
Yours, with love, Carolyn+



Left to right: Dave Wells, Deputy Warden; the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Rosen, Priest-in-Charge; Tom Hancock, Senior Warden and the Rev. Tracy Shaffer, Deacon.

ST DUNSTAN'S LENTEN SERVICES:

- Palm Sunday 3/24 – Eucharist 9:30 am
- Maundy Thursday 3/28 – Eucharist 5:00 pm
- Good Friday 3/29 – Prayer 5:00 pm
- Easter Sunday 3/31 – Eucharist 9:30 am



2024 Easter Flowers Fund:

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Flowers fund, please place cash or a check in a "flower" envelope with your name and the dedication/celebration name clearly written on the envelope. Place the "flower envelope" in the collection plate or give it to Marian Wells no later than Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.

The donors and the dedications will be recognized in the Easter Sunday program.

Thank you very much for helping us decorate St. Dunstan's beautiful church.



A very special Sunday as we celebrated the first birthday of Calvin Moss Gowie.

It has been requested that I again put in my Holy Week article on where and what Jesus did during this last week before his crucifixion. Jesus was not idle but intent on doing what he did best by seeing and caring for others. My hope is that I can learn from Him and reflect on how I can do more for others. May your Holy Week and Easter be thoughtful and joyful. Love, Dianne

Perhaps this will help us to think about how important and historical this coming week is to all of us.

Holy Week

Holy week is coming right around the corner. This year, our Jewish friends are observing Passover in April, around when our Easter usually occurs. It is a religious observance of the freeing of the Jews from Egypt. As I was growing up my best friend was Jewish, and I was able to help prepare their home for the Passover. It was and is very memorable and special. At my home, even as I was brought up as an Episcopalian, the only activities were getting new clothes or shoes, going to church on Palm Sunday to get my palms and Easter to be joyous. I knew about Maundy Thursday and Good Friday but with both parents working, we did not observe them. I knew that my Catholic friends got out of school at noon where I stayed until the end of the day. Looking back, I know it was a necessity, but I feel somewhat cheated, especially now I know about the significance.

Holy week! It is a week of rejoicing like our Jewish friends, they for freedom from the Egyptians and us from death. Do you know what Jesus did each day of week? Remembering that Jesus was Jewish, he came into Jerusalem ready to prepare for Passover with joy, mixed feelings, and action, and ultimately his final sacrifice for us.

Palm Sunday was a day of triumph and hope. Humble, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Branches of palms that had great value to the people littered his path. The people have so much joy and hope that Jesus was their savior, but from the Romans not spiritually.

On Holy Monday, Jesus went into the temple. He was outraged at what he found. He threw out the vendors. He also healed the blind and lame, enraging the Pharisees. He did not make many friends with the priests of the temple.

On Holy Tuesday he challenged the Pharisees and Sadducees about many things including taxes on marriages, on the widows and not caring about justice, mercy and faithfulness. Many parables were spoken that day to help us later to be more like what God wants us to be.

Holy Wednesday is also called Spy Wednesday since it was on this day Judas Iscariot agreed to betray Jesus by making a deal with the Pharisees in exchange for money. Jesus went to Bethany to the home of Simon the Leper to visit and was praised and anointed by Mary with expensive perfume.

Thursday is known as Maundy Thursday. It was the first day of Unleavened Bread – observed 2 days before the start of the Passover. We know it as the day when Jesus and his disciples had their last supper of unleavened bread and wine. Jesus told them what was to happen and then went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. It was here at midnight Judas betrayed Jesus.

Friday is Good Friday, a day of trial, betrayal by the people, and crucifixion. Jesus suffered torture and much pain. His followers suffered with guilt, fear, and unbelief at what was happening. So why Good? Good also meant Holy, Sacred where we were given a victory over death by Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus died a few hours before the official beginning of Passover.

Saturday is known as Black Saturday when Jesus descended to the dead. It was the first full day of the Passover with his followers in deep mourning. An Easter Vigil is kept by many churches.

EASTER! The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the gift of triumph of life over death demonstrated and promised to us. Joyous music, uplifting songs sung and so much more happiness is in our services.

It was a week of much action and deep emotions. It was a week I did not really know or understand except for the happy ends, Palm and Easter. I am so thankful for the patience God has shown so that I could know the true meaning of Holy Week. I am still learning and receiving so much more from Him, from Jesus and from his people, you.

Thank you all.

Dianne

Happy Birthday to John Edmonds, Cameron Swan, and Carolyn Nowodzinski! Enjoy!



Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Christ Church, Gardiner. We pray especially for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in his final year and for those who will help choose our next faithful pastor.

We Pray Especially For: Kathy O'Connell, Robbie Johnston, Jesse Pierce, Eve Mitchell, Skip Stevens, Larmie Knuesli, Tony Rowan, Sally Rowan, Jennifer McCall, Dorothy Sweeney, Robert Abshear, and Lorna McCormick for comfort and healing.

(Prayer requests will remain for three weeks unless notified that the request needs to remain longer.)

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or continue a name on the list, please let us know at stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com or leave a message at the church (667-5495).

It is important to us that the list is up-to-date and accurate.
To everyone, please stay well and safe. Blessings to you all.

Almighty and merciful God, we ask in our prayers that the conflict in Ukraine and the others around the world can be resolved peacefully. Bless the people that have been affected by the unrest and grant them peace and justice. We also ask for the people in our own country that have been impacted by the hurricanes, violence and loss of loved ones as they grieve, pick up their lives. Grant them strength, comfort, and healing. All this we ask with the power of your love to all through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ UPCOMING WORSHIP / EVENTS SCHEDULE ~

At this time the Sunday services will be both in church following safe practices and via Zoom. Compline is every Thursday at 7:00p.m via Zoom

The sanctuary is open for quiet reflection and prayer on Mondays from 1 to 3.

Access to the sanctuary is available through the lower level parking lot doors of the church during this time.

March 24 ~ Palm Sunday, 9:30 am

March 31 ~ Easter Sunday, 9:30 am

Upcoming Events:

- **March 23** –Diaper drive at the Ellsworth Walmart 10-2.
- **March 30** – The Hancock County Food Drive kicks off at Friends & Family market
- **April 19th** – Literacy Night and spaghetti dinner at the pantry

Loaves & Fishes
of Ellsworth

News for
Congregations



Dear Hancock County Church Historians,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Wayne H. Smith, and I'm a Member of the Boards of both the Ellsworth Historical Society and the Hancock County Genealogical Society. I also serve as Historian at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth. I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to you and your colleagues to a special presentation on the preservation of church history.

Date: Monday, April 1, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth, 121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, Maine

I am organizing this event with the aim of bringing together representatives from all houses of worship across Ellsworth and Hancock County. My goal is to engage in an enlightening discussion about best practices in the collection, preservation, organization, and digitization of church records.

Regardless of whether your faith community boasts a lineage stretching back two centuries or has just taken root within the past year, your role in safeguarding our histories is invaluable. As custodians of our religious heritages, we bear a responsibility to ensure that these records endure for generations to come.

During this presentation, I will share some of my personal insights gleaned from the past 30 years of research and experience in the field of church history. The discussion promises to be both enlightening and enriching, offering an opportunity for us to learn from each other's experiences and forge a path toward the meticulous preservation of our cherished records.

In recognition of the vital importance of your contributions to this endeavor, I sincerely hope that you will join us for this gathering. Your presence and insights will enhance the discourse and contribute to our shared goal of preserving all of our religious heritages for future generations.

Please RSVP by Thursday, March 28 to confirm your attendance. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at wayne@ellsworthhistory.org.

Thank you for your dedication to the preservation of our collective histories. I'm eagerly looking forward to coming together in fellowship and collaboration.

Warm regards,

- Dr. Wayne H. Smith

Ellsworth Historical Society (wayne@ellsworthhistory.org)



**American
Red Cross**

National Blood Shortage

Please schedule your next blood donation at redcrossblood.org

Faith in Maine:

This is a podcast produced by our Episcopal Diocese with various members of the clergy giving their thoughts and prayers. The podcast changes each week. Feel free to call and listen.

You can call **207-223-6402** at any time. They last approximately 4-5 minutes.

**FAITH IN
MAINE**

GOD AT WORK IN OUR
COMMUNITIES

A PODCAST OF THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE



Family News



We would love to hear about **your news** and for **what you are thankful for during this year**. Submit your news to stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com

This week we are **Green** according to CDC for our county.



Even with the wind down of **COVID 19**, we know that it will be with us for some time to come. The CDC is now resuming coding the occurrences of COVID. We will keep you informed.

We at St. Dunstan's we will continue to follow CDC data and the practices in our Diocesan parishes. Our vestry has voted to not require masks. If you wish to wear one, masks will be available. Of course, if you are feeling unwell, we ask that you rest and join us on Zoom. Our hope is that you will stay well and will join us for our worship services each Sunday.



Priest - Rev. Dr. Carolyn Rosen
Deacon - Rev. Tracy Shaffer
Senior Warden – Tom Hancock
Deputy Warden – Dave Wells
Junior Warden - McKim Peterson

www.saintdunstansellsworth.org

You can contact us by leaving a message by telephone or email:

Phone: 667-5495 Email: stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com

Muffet Stewart and Mary Delong: stdunstanstreasurer@gmail.com

Rain is in the church office Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 8 – 9 am