

APRIL TIDINGS

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As we prepare to celebrate Easter in the church for the first time in three years, during what is (in my lifetime) an unprecedented period of global and national conflict, we are perhaps especially awakened to the meaning of Resurrection.

The story of the Resurrection is the story of the creative breath of God.

The breath of God brought forth light from formless darkness and created from mud a creature who can explore the universe.

The breath of God made a rainbow to be a sign that the earth will never be destroyed by divine

wrath and that God will never be overpowered by human tyranny.

The breath of God turned the waters of the Red Sea into dry land and restored a scattered people.

The breath of God transforms our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh, so that the dry bones of our lost hopes and our squandered gifts may come to life again, and so that we may see with the eyes of a God to whom, in the words of Martin Buber, *rainfall is no more natural than the resurrection, and the resurrection no more miraculous than the rain.*

May this Easter bring us the wonder of a faith that is willing to risk everything for the sake of ordinary miracles and that awakens in us the wonder of our most ordinary relationships.

In May this Easter breathe into us us—again-- the grace to become a new Body, a living sign of God's ever-renewing breath.

Judith+

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.


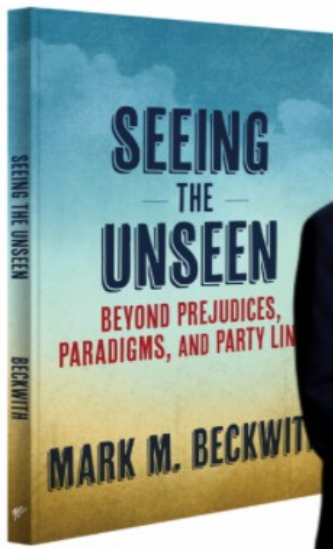
[Isaiah 43:19]



Social Studies Opportunity


NEW SOCIAL STUDIES OPPORTUNITY. Although we are not formally meeting, the diocese just announced an evening program introducing a new book by Bishop Mark Beckwith: *Seeing the Unseen: Beyond Prejudices, Paradigms and Party Lines*. On April 20th at 7:00 via zoom they offer a virtual meeting with the author who will read and discuss the thesis at the heart of this work. Please see the full announcement and how to register below.

Mark Beckwith to offer reading and discussion of *Seeing the Unseen*



Author's Reading & Discussion

Wednesday, April 20th
7:00 PM
via Zoom



Yesterday, Church Publishing released *Seeing the Unseen: Beyond Prejudices, Paradigms, and Party Lines* by Mark M. Beckwith. The Rt. Rev. Mark M. Beckwith is bishop (retired) of Newark and has served as Missioner for Spirituality and Leadership since 2019. Many of our congregations have enjoyed Mark's presence and his missional approach to congregational life.

Mark's ongoing involvement with Braver Angels and Bishops United Against Gun Violence has shaped a vision of human relationship that rejects the "us" and "them" dialectic. He suggests that thinking is not sufficient to get us out of the issue-based log jam. "This book is an invitation to see what we don't see. To see beyond our prejudices, paradigms, and hidebound thinking, all of which can shroud us from, if not blind us to, injustice. And to see moments when those veils of prejudice, paradigms, and thinking are mysteriously and wonderfully taken away and we can feel the blessing. Which then prompts us to share the blessing with others."

We are please to announce a virtual meeting with the author who will read and discuss the thesis at the heart of this work. You must register for this event to receive an access link from Zoom.

Vestry Highlights: March 9, 2022

Resolved

- ✓ Approved a proposal by Tamsin Lucey for a new ministry in collaboration with St. Luke's Guesthouse: Cooking for Life
- ✓ Appointed members to the Faith Formation Steering Committee (Chair: Eileen DeMings)
- ✓ Approved the Letter of Understanding for the new Parish Administrative Assistant
- ✓ Thanked Emily Thompson for her service as Parish Secretary

Discussion

- ✓ Planning to make the May Vestry meeting a retreat, with dinner and discussion of the transition
- ✓ Worship for Maundy Thursday, overnight Vigil, Good Friday, Community Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, and Easter at Holy Trinity
- ✓ What have we done well: Family Sundays and the Pancake Supper
- ✓ Committee Reports



1—Karen Ballou
 1 – Anna Burns
 6 – David DeMings
 18—Susan Howland
 20 – John Dirlam
 23—William Nelson

Bishop Visitation: May 15, 2022

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
 I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

[Isaiah 43:19]

On Sunday May 15th we will welcome Bishop Fisher to Holy Trinity. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to affirm our faith together. While we will not have confirmation this year, we will prepare for the Bishop's visitation during the weeks after Easter to learn more about the Episcopal Church and reflection on our Baptismal Covenant. As a congregation we will renew our Baptismal vows, but if you would like to be received into the Episcopal Church, please let me know.

Please contact me at jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com or by phone at 716.949.8194 so that we talk together about what will be most meaningful for this exciting moment in the spiritual journey we share.

Judith+

Cooking for Life

A ministry of Holy Trinity in Partnership with Friends of St. Luke's, Inc. in Southbridge.

For many years – at least 25 – I have pondered and explored different ways that I could share my love of cooking to benefit those in need--not only by providing a meal – a fish – but by providing a fishing pole so that they might fish for themselves.

I serve on the board of Friends of St. Luke's – which oversees St Luke's Guesthouse, the only Homeless Shelter in southern Worcester County--located on Main St. in Southbridge. Marie Smoker, director of St. Luke's Guesthouse, and I recently chatted back and forth about an idea I had. We shared it with the Board, then with Mother Judith and the Executive Team; a proposal was drawn up and shared with the Vestry – who approved it. That proposal was shared with the Board of Friends of St Luke's who accepted it and **Cooking for Life** was born... So what is **Cooking for Life**?

Cooking for Life is the opportunity to share with guests at St Luke's and those in the Finding Hope Program (a program that helps prevent homelessness) the skills to cook from scratch – to provide them with a fishing pole. Once a month participants will spend a couple of hours in the undercroft kitchen at Holy Trinity Church and prepare a meal, of their choosing, from scratch – using ingredients they can access using SNAP / WIC benefits and local food pantries.

Did you know that SNAP recipients receive extra money each month if they use SNAP to purchase fresh produce from a farmers market? This summer a Farmers Market will be setting up in Southbridge to distribute fresh produce.... Did you know that there is a group of people in Sturbridge who grow organic fruit and vegetables that are all donated to John Paul II Food Pantry! Cooking For Life will help the people who are using these resources to maximize those benefits.

Food will be provided free of charge – donated by local farms and stores. Holy Trinity will provide the space, insurance coverage and volunteers to help run the ministry. Starting in May 2022, classes will be held once or twice a month, either on Monday or Friday afternoons/evenings or Sundays after 12:00 noon. The schedule is deliberately loose to accommodate the participants who work non-traditional hours. If you would like to help and have flexibility to volunteer with one weeks' notice, please get in touch with me. 774 200 4279 or email abritinusa@gmail.com

With every best wish and blessings,
Tamsin Lucey

Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter at Holy Trinity

April 10: Palm Sunday – Youth will lead the worship

9:30 am Liturgy of the Palms & Dramatization of the Passion Gospel

After the service we will have the opportunity to make palm crosses and to paint rocks that will be put in our outdoor shrine for our neighbors to have. All supplies will be provided

Holy Week, and Easter at Holy Trinity continued

April 14: Maundy Thursday

7 pm Holy Eucharist with Footwashing & Stripping of the Altar

8pm – 9am on Friday Overnight Vigil

April 15: Good Friday

9:45am – Outdoor family-centered Stations of the Cross

St. Anne's & St. Patrick's - 16 Church St Fiskdale, MA 01518

Noon – 1pm – Church open for private prayer

7 pm Service of Tenebrae with music

April 17: Easter Day

6am – Community Sunrise Service– Meeting House of Old Sturbridge Village

9:30am - Festival Holy Eucharist with Flowering of the Cross

Over The Counter Medical Supplies for Ukraine

WE are Truly Blessed:

Thank You for embracing this call to Stand with and Support Ukraine.

I write this on Friday March 25 – just 21 days after I contacted Mother Judith to see if Holy Trinity would partner with me in collecting Over the Counter Medical Supplies to be shipped to L'viv, Ukraine. Mother Judith and the Executive Team gave me the Thumbs Up. Flyers were made and distributed, Facebook Posts and Announcements were made and emails sent. Donations started pouring in from the local and wider community as well as from parishioners. With the realization of just how much we might collect: the need to cover shipping costs – at a greatly reduced rate – became a reality. The need for shipping funds was shared and within 4 days – the total anticipated shipping costs were covered and then some. So much so that The Federated Church in Sturbridge graciously agreed that their contribution towards shipping could be used to purchase supplies. With that donation we were able to obtain some much-needed surgical items not available over the counter. As of writing this for the April Tidings we have collected and packed 7 boxes of supplies with many more still to pack and donations still coming in. Everything will be packed on April 2 and taken to Boston for shipping – our contribution should arrive in L'viv by Friday April 8. Supplies will be used to treat soldiers and civilians suffering from bullet, shrapnel and bomb blast wounds as well as to treat those who need more extensive medical attention. Thank You for Supporting this Ministry, with: donations of supplies, funds for shipping, time and energy in facilitating the effort. I thank you and the People of L'viv, Ukraine Thank You. In the May Tiding I will share the total number of boxes and the weight of supplies that we shipped. Please let me know if you have any questions 774 200 4279 or email abritinusa@gmail.com



With every best wish and blessings: Tamsin Lucey, Mother-in-law to a Ukrainian living in Boston.

Family Worship Updates April 2022

Family Sundays- April 10 (Palm Sunday), May 15 (Bishop's Visitation), and June 5 (Feast of Pentecost). Children and youth are invited to join in leading the worship service! Readers, ushers, musicians, acolytes, altar guild and coffee hour participants are welcomed.

Holy Communion Class- This class will be offered in a retreat format for our young children aged 5-7, but other ages can be included (Please see Mother Judith for questions.) The class will be held Friday evening May 13 and Saturday May 14. The class will have their Holy Communion together during the Bishop's visit on May 15, 2022.

Please regularly check our Family Worship Facebook page for other updates and discussions!

Easter Sunrise Service at OSV

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the Meetinghouse in Old Sturbridge Village on Sunday, April 17th at 6:00 AM. After pausing for two years during the pandemic, this beautiful setting and joyous service is a wonderful way to celebrate the Risen Christ!

A free will offering will be taken to benefit a charity. The Easter Sunrise Service is an ecumenical service, this year sponsored by the Federated Church of Fiskdale & Sturbridge, celebrating their 100 year anniversary. Please enter through the main gate and proceed to the rear of the parking lot near the security office. All are welcome!



March & April "Lent" Mission Plate

For March & April "Lent" the Mission Outreach will be **Human to Human**, www.humantohuman.org. Human to Human supports outreach programs that provide direct services to community members facing economic, social support, and services challenges. It is a direct action ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. A few of these ministries include: **Walking Together -Worcester** walking-together.org. Director: Meredyth Ward. A ministry of presence with our neighbors. Laundry Love; provides regular free laundry service for financially challenged individuals & families, includes food, activities, and volunteer support. Community building; includes coffee, snacks, occasional lunches & arts & crafts. Recovery support; includes regular volunteer supported recovery meetings. **Marie's Mission-Worcester**; mariesmission.org. A ministry that provides support for young families who have demonstrated a need. They provide diapers, education on childhood health, hygiene supplies & youth literacy training. **Building Bridges -Holyoke area-** buildingbridgesma.com. Director: Rev. Chris Carlisle. This ministry is committed to embracing & reconciliation of Veterans who continue to be isolated from the very society they once fought o protect.

Robin Yates

Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee

Daughters Of the King Update

So much has recently happened in the world, it can seem that the global human need for aid can be insurmountable. With the war in Ukraine in the forefront of everyone's mind, the "Daughters" will be purchasing a considerable amount of medical supplies to help with Tamsin's request to provide these supplies for Ukraine. With these supplies, we send our fervent prayers to the people of Ukraine.

Our prayers and concerns continue for the people of Liberia. Lorraine recently said to me that it is quite different over there (in Liberia). This was in regard to our conversation about the abundance of what we have here in the USA, and how sometimes we don't realize how our global brothers and sisters are struggling to have their basic needs met. That got me thinking about the poor standard of living and poverty that is evident in Liberia. I started seriously thinking about the guarantee that I have a tube of toothpaste and a bar of soap conveniently there for me every day. I also thought about the children of Liberia and their families that don't have that guarantee of a simple tube of toothpaste and a bar of soap to ensure their personal hygiene and human dignity. Our mission boxes for Liberia are looking quite SAD and empty. We really need your donations of children's and women's clothing, school supplies, toiletries, and P.P.E. supplies.

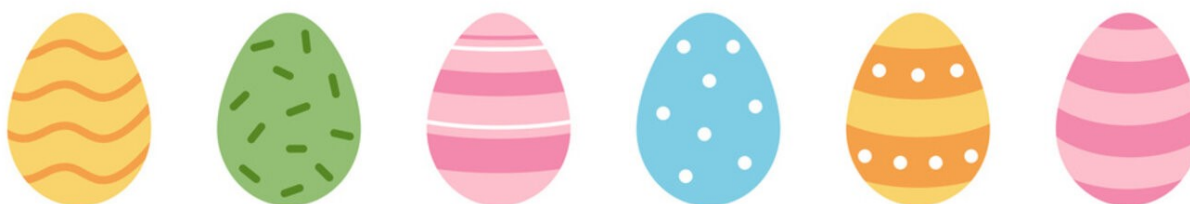
As you are doing your "spring cleaning", if you have any women's and children's clothing that you no longer can use, please, donate it to Liberia. Lorraine's sister, Gracine, who is visiting here from Liberia, told me that the children and their families were very happy with the clothing and supplies we have sent them. However, there remains an on-going and critical need for these donations with the widespread poverty in the country. The "dollar stores" have very good prices on toiletries (bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.). Please, consider buying some of these articles when you do your shopping. Every little bit helps these children and their families. Please, help fill our mission boxes, and remember our shipping costs to Liberia are 100% funded by a grant. Donations can be dropped off in the foyer before and after our church services.

The global human need for aid is great, but each of us can do something. I close this letter with "*the Motto of the Order of the Daughters of the King*".

*For His Sake... I am but one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
Lord, what will you have me do?*



Sincerely, Susan Grant,
President of the Mary and Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King



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(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist

Mother Judith Lee

Priest in Charge



Website



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Tithe.ly—Giving