

# MARCH TIDINGS

Volume 5, Issue 3

March 2023

## A Reflection from Your Priest-in-Charge

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.*

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**The Rev. Judith Lee—Priest in Charge**

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Walter Brueggemann's reflection on the wonder of God's mercy is our compass for our journey through Lent: *Once you had not received mercy, and now you have received mercy. That's all. That's everything.*

Mercy is a gift of faith that we tend to take for granted or that we assume is reserved for other people—people who “really need it.” But living with mercy is transformative. The hymn quoted above puts it well. Walking in mercy brings a tenderness to the world which may be needed more than the fierceness and passion that we are more likely to witness.

Trusting in God's mercy frees us to tell the full story of our lives—our personal story and the story of Holy Trinity—to include what we wish we had done and what we wish we had not done. For stories told and heard with mercy include dreams and hopes that still stir us. People who have received mercy can see that unrealized dreams may not be failures but rather they might have been wrong-headed, based on what we thought other people expected of us rather than on discernment of God's purpose.

When we ponder what a *merciful* God might be calling us to become, we may see unanticipated possibilities for our future.

When we consider the *wideness* of God's mercy and the *kindness* of God's justice, we may be more patient with ourselves and with the people who frustrate us.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the Vestry will meet with Canon Simpson to review the results of the CAT survey, and on March 29<sup>th</sup> the Vestry will meet to plan the next steps in your transition. As one Vestry member put it so well: *We will choose a path to walk together, and we will work cooperatively to prepare for what comes next.*

The words of John O'Donohue express the vision of people who have received mercy:

*You are in this time of the interim  
Where everything seems withheld.  
The path you took to get here has  
washed out;  
The way forward is still concealed from  
you.  
As far as you can, hold your confidence.  
Do not allow your confusion to squander  
This call which is loosening  
Your roots in false ground,  
That you might come free from all you  
have outgrown.*

*Mother Judith*





**March 5<sup>th</sup>      9:30 a.m.**      Family Worship: Youth will lead our service

**10:45-11:30** Teens meet after the service

**March 12<sup>th</sup>      9:15am      Children's Chapel**

**9:30-10:15am – Sunday School**

**Wednesdays March 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 6– 8 pm**

**6-6:30 Dinner [Soup/bread/dessert]**

**6:30 -7:30 – 3 separate modules**

**Adults- discussion; Children under 10 - craft; Tweens & teens – discussion**

## 7:45 – Compline together

## Spiritual Formation for Adults

*Faith Formation Steering Committee:* Eileen DeMings (Chair), Heather Bousquet, Lorraine Brumskine, John Grant, Susan Grant, Cat Reith-Lowery, Rose Reith, and Robin Yates

## Practicing our Faith: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices:

**March 2**      **Chapter 23**    Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit   on Zoom @ 7

**March 23**      **Chapter 24**      Finding Spiritual Practice @7at church

**March 30**      **Chapters 25 & 26**      Evangelism: Knowing Our Story; Telling Our Story  
@ 7 at the church

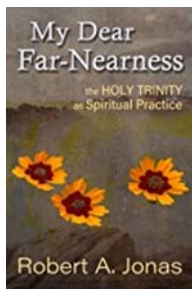
**Trinity Reading Group**

Robert Jonas, *My Dear Far-Nearness: The Holy Trinity as Spiritual Practice* [Orbis Books, 2022]

*“My Dear Far-Nearness: The Holy Trinity as Spiritual Practice* takes its title from the name that a 14<sup>th</sup>-century mystic, Marguerite Porete, used for God. Drawing from Scripture, the creeds, Christian mystics from the 2nd century to the present, and contemporary psychology, *My Dear Far-Nearness* shows how we can attune ourselves to God’s presence and live in union with God, who dwells within and among us.”

Dr. Jonas is founder and director of The Empty Bell, a contemplative sanctuary in Northampton, Massachusetts, whose website (<https://emptybell.org>) is a resource for contemplative Christians and for Buddhist-Christian dialogue. <https://mydearfar-nearness.org>

**In-Person Discussion: Thursday April 13th @ 5pm at the church**



## Lent at Holy Trinity

### February 22nd Ash Wednesday

**Ashes to Go** 7-7:30am & 3-3:30pm  
8-9am & 4-5:30pm

Hamilton Street  
Bethlehem Lutheran Parking Lot

#### Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

**Noon** Informal Service/Family Worship  
**7:00 pm** Contemplative service with music



#### Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent: Wednesdays

Weekly Study and reflection on spiritual practices in partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We will meet at Bethlehem Lutheran Church [345 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566]

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** 7 – 8 pm Adult Discussion led by Pastor Dan:

**Turn**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** 6 – 8 pm Family potluck supper followed by groups

**Pray**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm Evening Prayer with shared reflection  
led by Pastor Dan & Mother Judith:

**Worship**

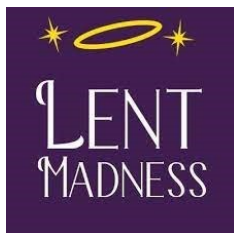
**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** 6 – 8 pm Family potluck supper followed by groups

**Bless**

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** 7 – 8 pm Adult Discussion led by Pastor Dan:

**Learn**

To learn more see [www.episcopalchurch.org/life-transformed-the-way-of-love-in-lent](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/life-transformed-the-way-of-love-in-lent)



**Lent Madness:** Beginning on Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> and culminating on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>. A link to biographical information and ballots will be sent each week.

To learn more see <https://lentmadness.org>

**What is Lent Madness?** Lent Madness is a Lenten devotion that offers an opportunity to learn about 32 outstanding, faithful followers of Christ, to have some fun, and to build up our community at Holy Trinity through sharing our learning and insights.

**How does Lent Madness work?** The format is modelled after the NCAA “March Madness”: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; 8 advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; 4 make it to the Faithful Four; 2 to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. In subsequent rounds quotes, quirks, and legends are added to each bio.

This year's bracket is broken up into four quadrants: Ancient & Apostolic; Mostly Monastics; Royals Roundup; and Modern Mayhem. Each bracket contains some well-known saints along with some obscure ones. But they all inspire us by following Jesus in their own times and in their own ways.

**How do I participate?** You will receive an email from the Holy Trinity with a link to biographical information of the saints who are paired for the specific competition and a ballot. Rose Reith and Tamsin Lucey will tally the votes and prepare the subsequent ballots. There will be a deadline for each vote. The first email was sent on Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the competition between the final two candidates for the “Golden Halo Award” will be held during the service on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>. **You may join in the voting at any time; you do not need to begin with the first ballot.**

**Family Devotions:** Available in the back of the church:

**The Journey through Lent:** A board game for learning about Lent

Hope Box: Daily offerings to raise funds for Episcopal Relief and Development

UTO Daily Offerings

**Other Online Resources:**

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent>

<https://www.abbeyofthearts.org>

<https://dianabutlerbass@substack.com>

[www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/lent/](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/lent/)

<https://diocesewma.org>

## March & April Mission Plate

The Mission Plate funds for the months of March and April will go to Episcopal Relief & Development. E.R.D. is working with *Action by Churches Together Alliance (ACT Alliance)* in response to the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Turkey and Syria that killed over 43,000 people.

Of the 4.2 million people living in Syria alone more than half of them have been displaced by the earthquake. The devastation in both countries is unimaginable. Donations to the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response Fund will help Episcopal Relief & Development provide supplies such as blankets, food, medical support, and other emergency support to the victims.

Susan L. Grant, Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee



### March Donations to the Food Pantry: Cereal

Many thanks to our Teens for collecting 56 boxes of cereal from Big Bunny on Ash Wednesday: Leenah Gossman, Sam Pieczynski, Nick Sargent, Jace Reith-Lowery, Anna Burns, and Madisynn Segarra. Thanks to Karron Lacey for organizing this service project.

## Daylight Savings

begins **Sunday, March 12th**

Remember to turn your clocks

**AHEAD** one hour before you go to bed on  
Saturday March 11th.



- 1—John Grant
- 2—Susan Grant
- 4— Cat Reith-Lowery
- 4— Sue Smith
- 7—Laura Gervais
- 8— Bethany Reith-Lowery
- 9 — Jack Burns
- 9— Bridgette Bachand
- 10 — Benjamin Normandin
- 12—Abigail Bullard
- 16— Lynn Garland
- 18—Ron Teixeira
- 28— June Mosher
- 31—Christopher Ballou

## Vestry Highlights—February 1, 2023

### Resolved:

- Designated Souper Bowl of Caring funds to be given to Wales Community Food Pantry
- Set March 29<sup>th</sup> to be the date of the Vestry Retreat
- Isaiah 43:19 will continue to be the guiding scripture for our transition
- Planned logistics for distribution of the CAT survey
- Appointed Standing Committees



## Daughters Of the King: Update on the Liberian Project

I am happy to report great joyous news. After over thirty-three years, Lorraine Brumskine will be returning to Liberia to visit her family and homeland. Lorraine will be visiting her oldest son and three grandchildren whom she has personally never seen. She departed on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and will return in April.

During her stay in Liberia, she also will visit the Sons and Daughters of the King of the Episcopal Church in Buchanan. Upon her return, Lorraine will give us an update on how our shipments of supplies are being utilized there.

Lorraine has recently informed us that the schools, run by the churches, are in critical need of supplies. The schools need children's textbooks in math, science, social studies, and language arts. There are not enough books to provide for their learning. If anyone has access to textbooks (yes, even older ones) they would be more than happy to receive them. Also, we are actively seeking donations of all kinds of children's reading books (trade books), and workbooks, and school supplies such as writing paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, scissors, glue, etc. Every donation helps keep the schools running and the children getting the precious gift of an education. We hope to send out our next shipment of supplies in late spring. Please, give what you can.

For His Sake,  
Susan Grant

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## Praying Hands Ministry

Our Praying Hands Ministry makes prayer shawls and lap blankets for anyone in need of prayer and comfort. There is a basket with blessed prayer shawls at the back of the church. Shawls can be taken for anyone in need of prayer, love, and comfort. A card is attached to write in the person's name. Have you considered learning to knit or crochet a prayer shawl to be your Lenten discipline? Contact Susan Howland to learn more.



If you would like more information, or wish to request a shawl for a particular person, please email Susan Howland, [howlands@charter.net](mailto:howlands@charter.net), or call/text 508-612-3198.

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## The Fitzpatrick Fund Scholarship

The Fitzpatrick Fund is a memorial to Royce Fitzpatrick Jr. and his mother, Loretta P. Fitzpatrick.

Scholarships are given to a young person who is a member of Holy Trinity Church to be used toward the purchase of textbooks and/or learning materials, including electronic devices, and used in an institution of academic or vocational learning after secondary school.

Criteria for this award are church membership, need, good character and the desire to better oneself and begin anew, not necessarily previous standards of scholarship.

The Fitzpatrick family wishes the recipient perseverance, faith, and the joy of learning in any goal of learning after secondary school.

To apply send a letter addressing the above criteria, the school you will be attending and school year. Send to the priest and wardens:

The Rev. Judith Lee: [jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)

Lynn Garland, Sr. Warden: [lynn24gar@gmail.com](mailto:lynn24gar@gmail.com)

Susan Howland, Jr. Warden: [howlands@charter.net](mailto:howlands@charter.net)

or Holy Trinity Church: 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550





## EASTER MEMORIALS

This Easter, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for His blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office by **Sunday, March 26th**. The donations collected for these memorials are used to purchase the flowers that decorate the sanctuary on Easter Day.

**Exact wording of memorial will be:**

Easter gifts for flowers are given to the Glory of God...

\_\_\_\_\_ in Thanksgiving for the life of \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of your loved one or ones)

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ in Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of your loved one or ones)

**OR**

If this gift is in Thanksgiving of a person who is living, choose the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of person or blessing)

given by \_\_\_\_\_

[Your name(s) – please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, say something like “by his family” or “by her husband” followed by your name or you may simply use your name(s).]

Please return this information sheet, along with your donation, to the church office or drop it in the offering plate by **Sunday, March 26th**. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will offset the cost of the flowers for decorating the church on Easter Day. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Church with the notation “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.

Do you know someone who would appreciate Easter flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so arrangements can be made to bring them flowers:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DONATION WITH THIS FORM. THANK YOU!**

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**E-mail:** [holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)

**Web site:** [holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://holytrinitysouthbridge.org)  
(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Services**  
**9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee**  
*Priest in Charge*



**SUNDAYS IN MARCH**

- March 5<sup>th</sup>** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent. Family Worship  
**10:45-11:45 am** Teens meeting  
**11 am** Choir Rehearsal
- March 12<sup>th</sup>** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
**Daylight Savings Time begins**  
**9:15am** Children's Chapel  
**9:30-10:15am** Sunday School  
**11am** Choir Rehearsal
- March 19<sup>th</sup>** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Morning Prayer  
[Mother Judith will be away.]  
**11 am** Choir Rehearsal
- March 26<sup>th</sup>** Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Lent Madness: Golden Halo Selection  
**11am** Choir Rehearsal



Website



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