

St. John's Journal

April 2023



Mary Speaks:

**O you who bear the pain of the whole earth,
I bore you.
O you whose tears give human tears their worth,
I laughed with you.
You, who, when your hem is touched, give power,
I nourished you.
Who turn the day to night in this dark hour,
light comes from you.
O you who hold the world in your embrace,
I carried you.
Whose arms encircled the world with your grace,
I once held you.
O you who laughed and ate and walked the shore,
I played with you.
And I, who with all others, you died for,
now I hold you.**

**May I be faithful to this final test:
in this last time I hold my child, my son,
his body close enfolded to my breast,
the holder held: the bearer borne.
Mourning to joy: darkness to morn.
Open, my arms: your by work is done.**

By Madeleine L'Engle

(Thanks to Bobbi Neason, who sent this poem to us.)

Fr. Doug's Iconic Column

I was reading in a devotional book for the season of Lent and found one of the day's entries compelling. It began with this biblical quote:

“Jesus’ fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them.”
(Matt 4:24)

The meditation then went on suggesting that we are all “among the sick who need the physician.” While we all may identify with having “various diseases and pains,” the author went on to ask “Can I find within myself a demoniac?” By which he meant for us to consider, do we have “pockets of craziness” in our makeups, in our nightmares? Even more was the question of finding forces within us that may seem fairly normal to us but force us into separation, isolation and competition in relation to other people. The author then chose examples such as racism and sexism and pointed out that these attitudes can hide “behind a polite mask” nursing condescension and contempt toward others.

I have to say that I appreciated this meditation for the most part, until the author picked the particular issues of racism and sexism. His choice of issues seemed to be classic liberal social justice issues. These are issues that I imagine that most of his readers would agree need to be addressed. I think he was trying to get us to think about how these divisive issues still reside within us individually even while we support addressing the issues in our world. The Lord knows (and so do I) that I have remnants of racism within me. It is painful when I am confronted by that reality. So, I wish he had reflected more upon how he saw that within himself and then encouraged his readers to have some truth telling about themselves. And while people might be able to see some of their own expressions of this, it would be much easier to point to other people as racist or sexist than it would be to point to themselves.

I also think that people can be condescending and have contempt toward others not only with “a polite mask” but also with very harsh words. Some conservative Christians will label people like ourselves who support addressing liberal social justice as “demonic.” On the other hand, those who see themselves as rising above such rhetoric will throw back at such people “polite” words like “idiot.” The rhetoric of “You demon” and “You idiot” in fact add to the separation, isolation and competition we experience in our society and our world. Rather than polite condescension, we very easily move into outright verbal contempt. And what is amazing is that somehow we can think that our verbal assaults are justified, while those assaults by whom we disagree with are not.

The author pointed out at the beginning that the Gospels record that Jesus spent a lot of time with sick people and that “to experience his nearness means that we must find ourselves among the sick in need of the physician.” The temptation in such encounters is to focus upon other people’s “disease” rather than our own. But Jesus stands before each of us to heal the brokenness within us.

“Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”
(John 9:40-41)



Fr. Douig's Iconic Column (continued)

It is when we truly recognize our own blindness, our own disease, and stop comparing ourselves to others to make ourselves feel better about ourselves, then we will know Jesus' healing and forgiveness.

“Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens. Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb. 4:14-16)



CHECK IT OUT!

Our Junior Warden, Sally Glunt, has obtained this excellent sign to announce our Holy Week services./

After Holy Week, Sally will obtain similar sinage announcing our regular service schedule.

She has found a superb solution to our need for a sign, and at a much more affordable price.

Thank you, Sally!

Bishop's Advisory Committee Notes – March 2023

BAC Highlights

St. John's Bishop's Advisory Committee met after church on March 5, 2023. Attending were Fr. Doug, Senior Warden Laurea Arnoldt, Junior Warden Sally Glunt, Treasurer Denise Skillman, Clerk Ginny Hall, and members at large Gail Pray and Kathy Webb.

BAC Membership

Our Bylaws allow the BAC to include the Vicar, two Wardens and 3 to 10 "at-large" voting members. For the last several terms there have been 4 "at-large" but this year we started out with 3 (Gail, Kathy, and Denise). By unanimous vote, the BAC elected Ginny Hall as a voting member to fill that fourth position.

Finances

Resolution 2023-1 Authorizing Opening a Bank Account to Purchase a Certificate of Deposit was adopted as a first step toward converting \$20,000 of the Clergy Reserve Fund to a CD at the best available annual yield. (The CD, which was purchased at a discount at Edward Jones a couple of days later, will have an effective annual yield of 5.15%.)

Resolution 2023-2 Authorizing Participation in City of Bandon's H2O Program was adopted, providing a donation of \$5.00/month through the end of 2023 to a fund that helps low-income households pay their water bills. (The BAC has been discussing this program for two or three years as a form of outreach, but action was not taken until now.)

Building & Grounds

The BAC learned that choir member John Cotrufo had donated a 42" high angel statue for St. John's, to be delivered in the coming week. It will be in Theresa Hall until a permanent place is selected.

Calendar

Holy Week Palm Sunday (April 2, 9:30 a.m.), Maundy Thursday (April 6, 5:30 p.m.), Good Friday (April 7, 5:30 p.m.) Easter Sunday (April 9, 9:30 a.m.)

South Coast Convocation Meeting was scheduled to be held at St. John's on Saturday, April 15 for all Convention Delegates and Alternates elected at the member churches' annual meetings.

NOTE: meeting postponed to date unknown at this time. (The Dean of the Convocation is the Rev. Patti Hale, and the President is Kathy Lennox.)

Clergy Conference will be attended by Fr. Doug April 24-26 (Monday-Wednesday).

Next BAC Meetings will be held after church on Sundays: April 16th and May 14th

Please Note

Our vicar, Fr. Doug, will be away on these weekdays in April:

Apr. 5: for Renewal of Vows (and thus no evening prayer that date)

Apr. 24-26: At diocesan clergy conference.

CAN YOU HELP?

Before you run and hide, just look at what we in the pews do. Can you help?

- **We greet and usher. This means we greet churchgoers with a bulletin, see that the elements are taken to the altar, we pass the alms basin, and we guide folks to the rail for communion.**
- **We read the lessons and lead the psalms.**
- **We lead the intercessions.**
- **We serve the celebrant at the altar.**
- **We sing in the choir.**

Let Fr. Doug know what you will do.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

Fr. Doug is leading Evening Prayer at 7pm on Wednesdays using the Zoom platform at this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5042346656?pwd=eGlTMEthTnUyQWk3TW9hNm5zemRsQT09> The same link can be used each week. The link to the gathering can also be found in his weekly Saturday evening emails. The same link can be used each week. Join and be blessed by this time of prayer and interaction with other folks from St. John.

BANDON FEEDS THE HUNGRY

The ecumenical food pantry depends on each of us for our gifts of food each month. As you bring the non-perishable food items for this ongoing need, please remember, too, the family dog or cat. Since these items are not for human consumption, they cannot be obtained with food stamps. You also cannot obtain any of these needed items with food stamps: deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, safety razors, soap (bath and laundry), and women's sanitary products.

“Love God, love our neighbor, and serve one another.”

April 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						<p><i>1</i></p> <p>2:00 Choir Practice</p>
<p>2 Palm Sunday HE I</p>	<p>3 7:30 AA</p>	<p>4 6:30 ACOA 8:00 AA</p>	<p>5 7:00 Eve. Prayer 8:00 AA</p>	<p>6 Maundy Thursday 5:30 HE I</p>	<p>7 Good Friday 5:30 service</p>	<p>8 2:00 Choir Practice</p>
<p>9 Easter-Sunday HE II</p>	<p>10 7:30 AA</p>	<p>11 6:30 ACOA 8:00 AA</p>	<p>12 7:00 Eve. Prayer 8:00 AA</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10-2 Convocation</p>
<p>16 1st Sun. after Easter HE II 11: BAC</p>	<p>17 7:30 AA</p>	<p>18 6:30 ACOA 8:00 AA</p>	<p>19 7:00 Eve. Prayer 8:00 AA</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 2nd Sun. after Easter HE II</p>	<p>24 7:30 AA</p>	<p>25 6:30 ACOA 8:00 AA</p>	<p>26 7:00 Eve. Prayer 8:00 AA</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 3rd Sun. after Easter HE II</p>						

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

4: Donna Flammang

28:Sally Glunt

30:Roy Arnoldt



IMPORTANT DATES!

The Convocation meeting has been rescheduled due to some significant folks not being able to attend. (I learned about this just a few minutes ago)
The meeting will now be held on April 15, 10am to Noon.

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week occurs in the first week of April, so some advance warning would be helpful.

Palms Sunday - April 2nd
Maundy Thursday – April 6th at 5:30pm
Good Friday – April 7th at 5:30pm
Easter Sunday – April 9th

St. John Episcopal Church

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Medical Loan Closet

Phone: 541-590-2443

**A Believe Out Loud
Congregation**



W H O W E A R E

St. John Episcopal Church is a community where God leads us in healing, teaching, reaching out, and stewardship.

We are a community that sees Christ in all people and judges none. We believe in inclusion for all people regardless of race, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation. We aim to break down barriers that separate us from one another and to provide a home for anyone on their spiritual journey. Our work brings together people of faith who believe in the inherent dignity and worth of all people on their journey.

BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)

Bishop's Warden: Laurea Arnoldt

Junior Warden: Sally Glunt

Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Clerk: Ginny Hall

Members at large: Gail Pray & Kathy Webb**

Convention Delegates: Laurea Arnoldt & Kay Marino

Alternates: Sally Glunt & Judy Jackson

CHURCH STAFF

Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale

Music Director: Cynthia M0horko

Administrator: Virginia MacCallum

OFFICE HOURS

Our Vicar, Fr. Doug, is generally in his church office Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m.

"Love God, love our neighbor, and serve one another."