Inspiration from the Rector

Lent is a wonderful time of year. Some people in church circles find these 40 days “kind of depressing” with all the solemn music, prayers focusing on our shortcomings, and ascetic practices of giving things up. For some the season seems a lot longer than 40 days. For others, and I hope that is you at least this year, this is a season of renewal. As the world begins to come alive in spring, Lent can also be a time where the seed of faith, planted in us by God, begins to germinate and grow into full bloom in time for Easter and beyond.

The Christian life is about grace (unmerited favor from God). Physically, emotionally, and spiritually God has made it a part of our nature to grow. That growth is often not automatic and requires our effort and practice to find the places where spiritual growth is nurtured.

In the past I’ve used the images of Baseball’s Spring Training or the Physical Rehabilitation Hospital to describe the process of practicing the Christian life, or strengthening the spiritual muscles, but in reality Lent is a time to be open to God’s presence and grow in new and perhaps deeper ways in your day-to-day walk with God.

The "First Five" booklet the small groups are using during Lent is a study on the first five commandments given by God to his chosen people. These five deal with relationships (primarily our relationship with God).

As you read you will find daily readings, questions to provoke thought, and prayers to offer for the weekday in Lent. Pick up a copy in the Narthex. May you find this study and this time a blessing to your body mind and spirit and may you grow in your ability to follow the Great Commandment of Jesus as found in Matthew 22:37-40 The Message (MSG)

*Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”*

Rand Reasoner +
Senior Warden’s Message

As this is my first Peace Prints article, I feel the need to begin by saying what an honor and privilege it is to serve as Senior Warden. I would also like to thank everyone who attended the Annual Meeting and extend a welcome to our new members who were voted into the Vestry that day: Jesslyn Bothwell, Diana Kajobago, Dorothy Seguin, and Erika Wirkkala. They join current Vestry members Elizabeth Bates, Lynn Gilson, Ann Lowe, Richard Muniz, Rebecca Packer, and Joyce Prescott. We are all excited about the year ahead.

As we approach the Lenten Season, I’m reminded of a suggestion I’ve heard from both Father Rand and Deacon George: look at Lent as a time not to “give up” something but instead “take on” or begin a new routine or habit. Lent is a time of repentance and preparation for Easter and includes a time of reflection. It’s a natural starting point to begin a spiritual discipline that will draw us closer to our walk with Jesus.

I encourage everyone to enter this season of Lent prayerfully considering ways you can begin a new spiritual practice. We have several opportunities during the Lenten season to guide us including:

- Morning prayer via the online meeting website Zoom. 7am Monday thru Saturday, February 26 - April 11. (be sure to pick up the handout in the Narthex with instructions or contact the office for details)

- Small group opportunities to discuss the Ten Commandments. There will be many options to select from that will conveniently fit your schedule.

- Worship services thru Lent and Holy Week: Ash Wednesday (Feb 26), Palm Sunday (April 5), Maundy Thursday (April 9), Good Friday (April 10), Easter Vigil (April 11), and Easter morning (April 12).

For Lent this year my plan is to “give up” my old early morning habit of checking email and scrolling thru social media and “take on” learning a new routine during the 40 days of Lent that can be carried through Easter and beyond. Please join me.

Katie Palmquist
Senior Warden
Lenten 2020 Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Deepening Your Lenten Spiritual Practice

✚ Weekly Lenten Study Groups on the 10 Commandments

✚ Centering Prayer Every Sunday in Lent in the Chapel from 9-9:30am.

✚ Wednesday Morning 6:30am Holy Eucharist in the Chapel.

✚ Morning Prayer via the ZOOM app. 7am (except Sunday) Call or E-mail Hank Suzukawa for details on how to join.

Holy Week

✚ Palm Sunday, April 15
8am Holy Communion reading of the passion gospel
10am Palm Sunday Procession, Holy Community (Chapel)

✚ Wednesday in Holy Week, April 8th
6:30am Holy Communion (Chapel)

✚ Maundy Thursday, April 9th
Noon Holy Communion (Chapel)
6pm Agape Dinner, Communion, Program
8pm – noon Watch With Me Vigil

✚ Good Friday, April 10
Noon Prayer Book Good Friday Service
7:30pm Dramatic Presentation

✚ Holy Saturday, April 11
8pm Easter Vigil Lighting of the new fire, Holy Baptism, First Communion of the Feast of the Resurrection

✚ Easter Sunday, April 12
Feast of the Resurrection
8am Festal Choral Eucharist
10am Festal Choral Eucharist
(Easter Egg Hunt for the children after both services)
ATTENTION ALL MACY’s SHOPPERS! If you need to buy any clothing or household goods during the month of March, please, please, PLEASE, shop at the local Topanga Canyon Macy’s! Between March 1st and the 31st, the West Valley Food Pantry is the recipient of the ROUND UP Days at Macy’s. Every purchase you make, the salesperson will ask you if you’d like to ROUND UP to the nearest dollar on your purchase. Say, YES! Those pennies add up and will all come to the Pantry. So if you buy a shirt for 15.75 and you agree to the round-up… the Pantry will get the 25 cents! With all the people shopping those pennies mount up! Thank you in advance for your participation!

The Pantry has been a busy place for the first part of the year! As expected, our numbers dropped a little in January and February and it looks like we’re serving between 3300 to 3500 a month. Seniors are still our biggest clientele!

I’ve been invited to join a “Senior Coalition” and a number of outreach items are being discussed. Did you know that Seniors are the new homeless people on the streets? Many lose a loved one and, reduced to one income, finances get tight and housing is expensive. Various reputable groups are experimenting with pairing seniors together for financial reasons and social ones too. If you have a spare room at your house/apartment OR if you’re interested in shared housing with another senior OR a college student, please email or call me and I’m happy to speak to you more about this new program.

Have you seen the Pantry/Kitchen floor???? It’s beautiful! Take a walk after church and see how big and clean it all looks!

At the end of March, the Pantry will be saying goodbye to our Senior Program Manager, Katie Warrick. (the late, great Monica Warrick’s daughter.) She and her new husband have purchased a home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She has been a joy to work with and the loss will be felt by the Pantry and the Church. We wish you many blessing in your new home, Katie!!!
We Appreciate You!

Thank you to our retiring Vestry members, Patty Papps, Ginny Kruezberger, Etta Litterini, Brain Tucker for the service that they have shared on behalf of this community. Welcome to our new Vestry members, Jesslyn Bothwell, Diana Kajabago, Dorothy Seguin, and Erica Wirkkala.

The Lenten small groups have been ably organized and prepared for by Bill Prescott. Many thanks for your tireless work on this!

Fixin’ It Right

Special thanks to Dennis Bartz for the many repairs, fixes, and cost savings he has performed throughout the Pop campus this year. Thank you, Dennis!

The Facilities' Committee has completed many projects that keep our beautiful grounds and aging buildings looking their best. Taylor Hall had a face life in January with windows cleaned inside and out, new blinds ordered, carpets cleaned, and the two doors into the kitchen upgraded and working. In conjunction with the WVFP, our kitchen now has beautiful new floors! The floors increase the safety of all using the kitchen as well as making them look their best! The UCLA Master Gardener group has met in the orchard and prepared the fruit trees for their beautiful spring growth. And our faithful Ladies of the Watering Cans have pruned and fed the roses in anticipation of a glorious Easter season. Thanks to all who help and those who pray for Prince of Peace.

Creative Contributions

How can we ever thank Karen Van Den Brink enough for her beautiful and creative rendering of our Christ window onto the front of a chasuble for our priests to wear while celebrating the Holy Eucharist! This piece coordinates with the stoles she previously made of the symbols in the stained-glass windows. What a truly unique and treasured gift this is to the entire parish. Thank you, Karen
Next Baptism

Our next baptism will be at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11 at 8pm. If you are interested in the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself or are inquiring for someone else, please contact the parish office at 818-346-6968.

Patio Fund Raiser

Save The Date: Palm Sunday, April 5
ECW-PATIO SALE Fundraiser. Includes: Candy and Baked Goods; Succulents gardens; Antique sales and More!! We will need your help to make this a success. Watch for more details during the coming weeks.

Lenten Offering

The Outreach Committee has selected RIP Medical Debt as the recipient of the Lenten/Easter offering. RIP Medical Debt is a 501c3 dedicated to removing the burden of medical debt for individuals, families, and veterans across the United States. Medical debt issues are tied to 66% of all US bankruptcies. Medical debt destroys the financial stability of large segments of America’s most vulnerable communities: the sick, the elderly, the poor, and veterans. RIP buys medical debt at a fraction of the cost to wipe out debt for those most in need of relief. Every $1 donated abolishes $100 of medical debt!

Guild Room Refurbishing

You’re probably wondering, “What’s going on in the Guild Room?” The lovely antiques that we had, were getting ruined by lack of care from our many groups. They have all been taken to various homes to be restored and loved. We, the committee, are in the process of procuring new sofas and chairs, carpet, paint colors and de-cluttering. Please bear with us as we complete this project. Our goal is to make this room more comfortable, and a lovely place for us to meet. Blessings, Sandi Totter, Chair, Rosemary Stewart, Nova Heiss, & Patty Papps.

Collecting Candy & Mini Toys

We are collecting candy and small toys that will fit into plastic eggs for our hunts on Easter. Please no peanut butter or nuts.

The Big Fill

will be in Taylor Hall on Palm Sunday, April 5th, following the 10am service. All are welcomed to come & stuff plastic eggs with candy & small toys that we will use for our Easter egg hunts on Easter morning. Come & Join the FUN!
Beginning March 1\textsuperscript{st}

Our children will follow the events leading up to Jesus’ resurrection on Easter. Our children will learn about:
- Christ’s Triumphant Entry
- The Last Supper
- Judas’ Betrayal of Jesus
- Jesus’ Trail
- Jesus Crucifixion
- Jesus’ Resurrection

Easter Sunday, April 12th

During the 9am & 10am services there will be an opportunity for your child to bring up a flower to flower the Easter Cross. There will also be Easter Eggs Hunts after both the 8am & 10am services with paper bags provided. We will have an area for children ‘under 4 years’ & an area for children ‘4 years and over’.

Bunny Helpers Needed

If you or your family would like to help with the Easter bunny’s decoration of the lawn, putting out Easter Eggs, or helping to clean up, please contact Linda at family@popwh.org even bunnies can use help!

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, April 19th, on the patio at 10am. All children are invited to bring their loving pets or a favorite plush animal for a blessing. No Sunday school classes, nursery only.
Children & Families Ministry

March

01  Get Ready for Easter, Who is This? Christ’s Triumphal Entry
08  Why Are You Here? The Last Supper, *Daylight Savings*
15  What Should I Do With Jesus? Judas’ Betrayal of Jesus & Trial
22  Why Have You Abandoned Me? Jesus Crucifixion
29  Who Can I Tell? Jesus’ Resurrection

April

05  Start on Lawn, Making Empty Tombs, Lent Review, *The Big Fill*
12  Easter Sunday, Eggs Hunts after 8am & 10am Services
19  Blessing of the Animals, Nursery Only, No classes
26  Classes begin at 10am, The Ten Commandments

Coming April 26th

**The 10 Commandments**

Our POP children will be taking an exciting journey filled with Bible stories, fun, & prayer. Our children will learn that God gives us laws because He loves us. And best of all, these commandments lead us to Jesus!

Youth Ministry

Thanks to all who participated in helping with the Shrove Tuesday dinner — from the youth who prepared and served the food to the parents who brought egg dishes and to Chris and everyone else who helped set up. Once again, a great success: accolades from those who feasted, and the youth group raised some funds as well.

Look for more announcements of activities and upcoming class schedules during the Lenten and Easter seasons in the upcoming Youth Happenings newsletters.”

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