

March 2017



Communicator

is a publication of

Grace Episcopal Church

555 E. Mountain View Road
Glendora, California 91741

www.GraceGlendora.org

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Sunday Services:

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist ~ Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist ~ Rite II
Choral Family Service

Nursery Care ~ Available 9:00 AM -
11:15 AM in St. Martha's Room.

Sunday School ~ 10:00 AM
Kindergarten - Grade 5

Youth Group ~ Grade 6-12
Meetings are bi-monthly in the
upstairs Youth room. 11:30 AM - 1 PM

Bible Study ~ Wednesdays at 10:00
AM in the Fireside Room in Baxter
Hall.

From your Rector ~ The Rev. Susan Scranton



Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ Collect for Palm Sunday

As we come to the end of Lent, the Church enters into the most solemn and sacred time of the Christian Year. Holy Week brings us face to face with the final events of Jesus' life and his death on the cross for our redemption. It is the necessary journey that opens the gates to the joys of Easter.

Growing up in the Episcopal Church has afforded me many opportunities to experience Holy Week, and the mystery and wonder is that it still holds enormous power no matter how many times the story is told. Over the years I have participated in numerous classes exploring the theological depths of Holy Week. I have experienced the eloquence of well articulated and persuasive sermons, and today, as a priest, I can present a logical theological treatise proclaiming the truth of our redemption. But what has always attracted me to Holy Week, even as a child, are the Holy Week liturgies that allow us to fully enter the Passion story and participate in the mystery of redemption.

Palm Sunday marks Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and our entry into the events that would change the world forever. The palm branches that we will wave in glorious anticipation of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem will quickly give way to the emotional gut wrenching reading of the Passion Narrative.

On **Maundy Thursday**, the story of the Last Supper takes center stage, and spiritually we come to the place where Jesus will feed us with his body and blood. You are invited to a Maundy Thursday dinner and worship service in Baxter Hall, where we will experience a meal such as the disciples had when they gathered with Jesus for the Last Supper. During supper, we will seek to understand the Jewish background of a Passover meal and gasp in wonder as Jesus takes bread and wine, blesses them, and then blesses us with the eternal gift of Holy Communion. Following communion and in preparation for Good Friday, you will be invited to walk the road to the Garden of Gethsemane and into the church sanctuary to strip the altar and surrounding area of any and all decorations, reminding us of the abject desolation of Good Friday.

Good Friday must have been a terribly long day. As Jesus cried from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me," we sense our own sorrows and feelings of abandonment, but we also rest in the promises that the One who has been there will never leave us in our own sufferings.

I invite you to walk through the journey of Holy Week so that you may know the true joys of Easter, for Easter promises us that our sufferings, our sorrows, and our struggles are met in the redeeming love of our risen Lord. May God bless you, love you, and strengthen you as you live through the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

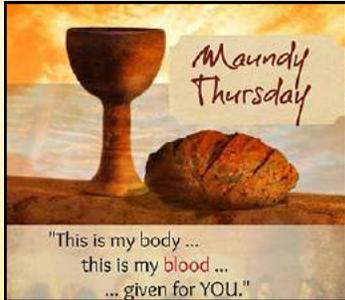
In Christ's love,
Susan +

Holy Week Services



Palm Sunday ~ April 9

Services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.



Maundy Thursday ~ April 13

NEW this year... Walk in the footsteps in Jesus' disciples as they celebrated Passover and received the gift of Holy Communion. A soup supper will be served and communion will be celebrated in Baxter Hall at 6:30 PM. At the conclusion of the service we will enter the church for the stripping of the altar.



Good Friday Service

April 14 ~ 12 Noon and 7:30 PM

Palm Saturday Work Party

Please join in with your Grace Church family to do some light spring cleaning and help with preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter on

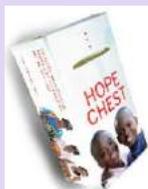
April 8 ~ 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon.

Windows need to be cleaned inside and outside along our Sunday School Classrooms and the side of the church.

The Altar and Flower Guilds will need help decorating the church and making ready for Palm Sunday in both the church and in Baxter Hall. Palms of all sizes will adorn the church inside and outside, and smaller palm branches need to be made into palm crosses. Able assistants are also invited to clean up and de-clutter the shelves in the narthex, sharpen the pew pencils, and make sure the Red Books have pens.

We also need to prepare for the always favorite Easter Egg Hunt. Both plastic eggs and candy are needed. Donations may be dropped off in the church office at any time up to Palm Saturday. In the past, 300-500 Easter eggs have been hidden. And, of course, egg stuffers are needed!

Come, join in the fun!



Lenten Mite Boxes

All proceeds will go to Episcopal Relief and Development. Mite Boxes will be collected and placed at the base of our flowered cross on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017.

The Altar: From Lent to Holy Week to Easter Sunday

During these long weeks of Lent, our altar has been tastefully decorated with driftwood, rocks, and succulents – all pointing to the desert of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness and the austerity of our Lenten 40 day journey. Each Sunday, care was taken to mirror the liturgical season, whether it be accented with purple

flowers for the Bishop's visit or more starkly decorated for the final week before Holy Week. I offer my thanks to Nancy and Todd Rice for their artistry and care in providing this gift for us.



On Palm Sunday (April 9), the colors will shift from purple to Passiontide Red, and the altar decorations to palms, crosses, and roosters. You are invited to help make this transition by helping out at our Palm Saturday Work Party (April 8).

On Maundy Thursday (April 13) dinner and Holy Communion will take place in Baxter hall. Following the service, worshippers will be invited to help strip the altar and surrounding area of any and all decorations, reminding us of the abject desolation

of Good Friday. It may be a somber day, but we remember that Easter Sunday is coming.



By Easter Sunday (April 16), the once barren altar area, along with the rest of the sanctuary, will rise with Jesus in His Resurrection, and the church will come alive with the sights and smells of glorious flowers. The radiant glory of the church is possible only with the help of your generous donations for flowers. This is also a lovely way to honor a loved one or a special occasion. Easter Flower donation envelopes are now available in the pews and in the church office. Simply fill them out completely with your name and dedication, enclose your donation, and place the envelope in the collection plate or hand it in at the office.



Easter Flower Donations

Donations need to be received by Monday, April 10, so that all dedications and memorials may be published in our Easter bulletins. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping to make our Sanctuary look beautiful this joyous Easter.

Farewell to long time parishioners Walt & Marti Kadyk

Grace Church said farewell to Walt & Marti Kadyk in March. They were very involved with social activities. Marti served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, and Walt was an Usher and Vestry member. We will miss their continued support as they move out of the area in retirement.



A visit from Father Philip of Taiwan

Father Philip was happy to experience Shrove Tuesday and Eucharist with us. He brought Grace a memento that reads: "Look upon to Jesus" at the top. "Christ is Lord" and "The Lord Blesses peace." It also says "Love Each Other at the bottom of the scroll. *It was wonderful spending time with Father Phillip.*



IT'S A BOY

We would like to welcome

Liam Richard Stone

to our Grace Episcopal Church
community.

He arrived on

Thursday, March 23
9 lbs. 11 oz. ~ 21 inches

Clint & Leslie Stone are blessed and
happy he has arrived!! And so are his
grandparents, Rick & Liz Sandona.



Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce visits Grace and confirms John Peter William Boyd and Karson Lakin.



Please remember that all parishioners are always invited to attend our Vestry meetings. Normally we meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 PM (Note our new start time). However, the February meeting consisted of a half-day retreat on Sunday, February 19 following the 10:00 AM service.

The February 19 Vestry Retreat opened with prayer

Rev. Susan, Todd Rice, Senior Warden, and Bobbi Patterson, Junior Warden, gave an overview of Vestry work and responsibilities. Church By-Laws and parish policies were reviewed.

A Master Calendar was offered so as to avoid unnecessary conflicts and insure that all programs and special events are well supported. Anyone wishing to schedule an event or meeting is asked to come to the church office, check the calendar for existing ministries and possible conflicts before scheduling.

Discussion was held over lunch, after which, Todd Rice led vestry members on a tour of the facility, noting possible projects and needed repairs.

Karen Cleland, Parish Treasurer, led a discussion concerning our 2017 budget and the spending policy. Following that, Karen presented the January 2017 financials, including the income/expense sheet and balance sheet, each dated January 31, 2017. She also presented reports on income and expense of our funds.

Upcoming Parish Events: Vestry hosts the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, scheduled for Tuesday, February 28. Bishop Suffragan Diane Bruce will visit Grace Church on Sunday, March 19, during which time she will preach, celebrate, and offer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Vestry will meet with Bishop Bruce at 9:00 AM. A festive lunch will follow the one service at 10:00 AM.

Parish Growth: Considerable discussion was held concerning Parish Growth.

Emergency Preparedness: Rick Sandona, chair of the Emergency Preparedness Task Force gave an overview of emergency preparedness and gave his thoughts on how the task force might begin to tackle the various aspects of enabling Grace Church to effectively respond to an emergency. Rick Sandona, Reid Killen, Todd Rice, and Bobbi Patterson serve on the Task Force.

Adjournment and closing prayer.



Grace Youth Group hits Mammoth Mountain

