

the monthly BANNER



The Gospel of John is one of the most popular and quoted books in the Christian Testament. In this gospel Jesus makes extraordinary statements about his identity and mission: "I am the bread of life," "I am the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep," "I am the light of the world," and "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Jesus declares that his arrival is about bringing life to the world that is the object of God's love.

Jesus uses familiar images from Jewish scripture and his culture; bread and manna, sheep and shepherds, wine and vines, drawing his listeners into his story. And the author of John employs different literary devices; metaphor, irony, contrast, words with double meanings, and characters that are complex and multidimensional.

The contrast of love and hate, light and darkness, blindness and sight create a dualism in this gospel that New Testament scholar Rudolf Bultmann calls a "dualism of decision." Each reader must decide which side they are on, light or dark and other moments of decision run throughout the gospel.

We read one of my favorite stories in John every year on the second Sunday of Easter, the story of Thomas. It begins with the disciples locked away in fear for their lives. Jesus has been betrayed by one of his own, convicted of a crime he did not commit, and brutally executed by the Romans. They cower in fear as they expect to be arrested. Not even the news from the women that Jesus' tomb is empty brings them solace. Suddenly, Jesus appears out of nowhere, greeting the disciples and showing them his wounded body. In that moment their fears give way to joy and wonder. Then Jesus disappears.

This is the way that faith is supposed to work – right? God appears among us and all the questions and the fears and the sense of failure simply melt away, replaced with a steadfast, immovable faith. If that is the way it is for you, then be thankful. But I'm not sure that is the reality for most of us.

When Thomas rejoins the disciples, they tell him what happened, but he is unwilling to believe without seeing and touching Jesus himself. The very idea that Jesus has returned is absurd to Thomas. He needs to see, hear, and touch Jesus just like the other disciples to become a believer in resurrection.

Another week passes when Jesus appears in that same room and this time Thomas is present. Jesus speaks to Thomas asking him to touch his wounds. Everything that Thomas believes about what is possible and what is impossible changes. Thomas "sees" him, and he is no longer blinded by unbelief. Thomas proclaims – "My Lord and my God."

Have you ever felt like Thomas did before meeting the risen Jesus? Trusting only in what you can see and measure. Having a vision that is small and uncompromising. Many people have a faith that is limited by what is called realism. I know I have.

Easter tide is when we can try letting go of our fear of failure, our need to have all the answers, and risk leaning into the mystery of a resurrected God who wants to be in relationship with us. As disciples, we are called to look at the world through Jesus' resurrection. And to trust that our proclamation, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again," is a reminder to be people with a purpose. Having a vision of what the world can be as fear gives way to love. To "see" the possibilities that creating the beloved community is within our grasp.



Happy Eastertide,

Buddy +



It's not too late to pick up and fill a UTO BLUE BOX - they are available in the Narthex.

UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women and all are invited to participate! 100% of offerings are used to support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. You can learn more at UnitedThankOffering.com.

Wednesdays

April 10 and 24



Saint Anne's hosts an Urban Recipe food co-op. Co-op members - 30 families - come to campus every other week to sort food items and take home a 2-week supply of food. Urban Recipe delivers the food in a refrigerated truck.

To find out more about Urban Recipe, to volunteer or to find out ways you can support the co-op at Saint Anne's, contact: Katherine Kinzer (404-247-2677) or Jane Sibley (678-612-5686).

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN *in April*

The Monday Night ECW

The Monday Night ECW April meeting is scheduled for **7pm on April 8, at Martha McClatchey's home.** Martha's address is 3391 Ridgewood Rd, Atlanta. Our guest speaker is Edith Woodling - she will be speaking on her Icons. Please join us for a glass of wine, apps and community! Please reach out to Heidi Swygert at 404-513-3250 or hswygert@hotmail.com to be added to the Monday Night roster.

Mom's Group

Join us in the Parish Hall for our next gathering **Sunday, April 14 from 5-6:30 pm.** We're having a MEAL SWAP.



St. Dorcas

The next meeting of the ECW group will be **Thursday, April 11 at 10am** when we prepare a meal for Agape to be delivered there. We need members to shop, cook chicken nuggets, make brownies or cookies, pick up, deliver and serve the meal. If you have not signed up, please let Lynn Brentnall know how you would like to help. This is a great project and Saint Dorcas is pleased to support Agape.

Alleluia!



Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Great 50 Days is upon us and I couldn't be more excited! After a holy Lent, I am ready to rejoice and experience a truly joyful season in church with one another. You may have noticed that our timing this year has felt a little odd: Ash Wednesday coincided with Valentines Day and Easter came almost as early as it possibly could.

Easter is a movable feast, which means its date differs from year to year. Although your calendar will always have it calculated for you, the way the date is determined is by the moon cycle. Easter is always the first Sunday following the full moon after the March equinox. So this year, the first full moon after the March equinox was March 24-25, making Easter the following Sunday, March 31.

The Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council of the Christian church, established how the date of Easter would be determined. Isn't it amazing that this method from the year 325 is still used today? There are 35 possible days that Easter might fall, the earliest being March 22 and the latest being April 25. Even though Easter can fall on these extremes, it is actually quite rare. The last time Easter fell on March 22 was in 1818, and the next time it will fall on March 22 will be in 2285—long after all of our lifetimes!

The earliest Easter in the 21st century occurred in 2008 on March 23, and that won't happen again until 2160. The latest Easter in the 21st century will occur in 2038 on April 25, and that won't happen again until 2190.

Maybe I've lost you at this point with all the dates in the mix, but I've always been someone who is fascinated by how tradition links our lives with people who existed centuries before us, and how it will connect us to people who will live centuries after us.

We celebrate Easter for 50 days to celebrate the forty days Jesus spent on earth before he ascended, and the 10 days after that before the day of Pentecost. It is 50 days of feasting to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ that prepares us for an eternal celebration and feast.

Eastertide is a season full of joy, and I pray that you find all kinds of things to rejoice over in the coming weeks. I am getting married this month, and I was intentional about choosing our wedding date so that our anniversary always falls within Eastertide. What better way to celebrate our marriage than by celebrating Jesus opening the gate of everlasting life?

Please let me know what is bringing you joy this season and how God is showing up in your life. You might notice God's presence most when you feel a strong affection for others, a deep sense of peace and serenity, or an exuberance for life. God's presence might show up to you through a clear sense of purpose and an ability to direct your energy wisely, or through people in need asking you for help. Feeling God's presence is different for everyone at different times, but I hope you are able to notice how the Holy Spirit is moving within your life this Eastertide. And if you are struggling with truly feeling the joy of that connection, consider praying with the collects for the season of Easter, which can be found starting on page 222 of your Book of Common Prayer.

I will be praying alongside you,

Hannah+

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Easter People



I was once with a group of friends playing the game Dissent. This game has you debate different topics to get as many people on your side before the timer is up. While the questions weren't too controversial, we still found a way to yell and scream about silly things like "Is a hotdog a sandwich?". On one of my turns I picked up a card that said "What is your favorite holiday?" My first thought was Easter. I am an Easter person.

I've always loved Easter! As a kid I enjoyed the dressing up in matching dresses and hats with my cousins and of course the egg hunt. As I grew older, I began to appreciate the family dinners we would have and the family that would visit. I loved watching my younger siblings search the house for their baskets and all the candy but if you were to ask me why I love Easter today it's a totally different answer.

Now as an adult, Easter reminds me of the incredible gift of second chances that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us. The story of Easter is a testament to this truth. It is a story of death being transformed into life, of darkness being overcome by light. It is a story of Jesus Christ, who willingly sacrificed himself on the cross so that we may have a second chance at salvation. Through his death and resurrection, we are offered the opportunity to start anew, to be washed clean of our sins, and to be reconciled with God.

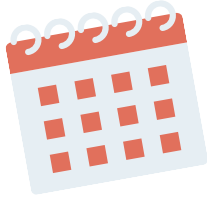
But Easter is not just a one-time event that happened two thousand years ago. It is a living, breathing reality that we can experience every day of our lives. It is a reminder that no matter how far we may have strayed, how many wrong turns we may have taken, there is always the possibility of redemption and renewal. Just as the women discovered the empty tomb on that first Easter morning, we too can find new life and new hope in the resurrected Christ.

Let us not waste this precious gift of second chances that has been given to us. Let us use this season of Easter to reflect on our lives, to confess our sins, and to seek God's forgiveness. Let us strive to live lives that are pleasing to him, lives of love, compassion, and forgiveness. And let us never forget the incredible sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross, so that we may have the chance to be reconciled with our Creator.

May this Easter season be a time of joy, of renewal, and of second chances for each and every one of us. And may we always remember the words of the apostle Paul, who said, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Let us embrace this new life that has been offered to us, and let us live it to the fullest, in service to our Christ.

Blessings,
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SAVE THE DATES



**May 5: Youth Sunday, Senior Send Off,
Choir Awards**

May 12: Mother's Day

May 19: Pentecost and Parish Picnic

June 3-7: Vacation Bible School



Youth Service and Senior Send-off

MAY 5 | 10:30AM

Vacation Bible School
"COMPASSION CAMP"
BE LOVED. BE KIND. BE YOU.
June 3-7 • 9am-12pm
Cost: \$50 per child

Registration forms at church, in the Ebanner, online.



Dear Saint Anne's Community,

On March 16th, the Day School hosted the inaugural Day School Dash, and it was amazing! The weather was beautiful. We had unbelievable attendance, including current families, alumni, families starting in the fall, staff, and grandparents. The music was lively, and the coaching staff facilitated exciting activities. Children laughed and played and ran and ran and ran. In addition to each other's great company, we enjoyed Chick-fil-A biscuits and delicious coffee. There was a palpable sense of joy and connection at the Day School that morning, and it was evidence of the love and energy that each of us brings to our community.

If the happiness from Saturday's event was all we were taking away from the Dash, that would have been enough for me. We did so much more. Because of our children's enthusiasm, our parents' dedication, and our community's support, the Dash raised over \$27,000! This was truly a collective effort, with more than 90% of our children and families participating in the fundraising efforts. Classes earned prizes ranging from sweatbands to a visit from the fire department. And because we not only met our school goal but almost tripled it, we will all enjoy a petting zoo, carpool parade, and foam party!!!!

While it took every one of us to make this event successful, there is a core group of people who brought everything together and deserve special recognition. POPs Dash Chairs Molly McCullers and Nancy Pollock, with the support of POPs leaders Elizabeth Zuccherro and Erised Quintas and Day School Assistant Director Danielle Hutlas, did a tremendous job managing the fundraising and organizing the event. We are grateful for their vision and time. We also have to give a special thanks to our Dash Corporate Sponsors for believing in us and supporting our efforts. The Dash t-shirts are adorable and list all the companies who helped make the day possible. Thank you to the parents for sharing this opportunity with family and friends. Finally, thank you to the educators for encouraging the children by sharing the daily Dash affirmations and for wanting the petting zoo so badly that they reached out to parents with regular updates and requests for support.

We have big plans for the funds we raised to help us with our big growth plans. We will keep the community updated on our progress. Stay in touch by subscribing to Biscuit's Bulletin and following us on social media. Until then, enjoy the fabulous pictures from the Day School Dash. Thank you for all you do to make the Day School a magical place.

Take care.

Rhonda
Day School Director

THE
DAY
SCHOOL
DASH





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Palm Sunday *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*

