

Benediction Weekly

March 20, 2016

St. Benedict's Church is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry and commitment to social justice.



CALENDAR – This week at St. Benedict's:
(at the church unless otherwise specified)

Today PALM SUNDAY

- 8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with Procession of Palms and Passion Gospel

Tuesday, March 22

- 5:30 pm – Vespers in Holy Week

Wednesday, March 23

- 10:00 am – Intercessory Prayer Circle
- 6:00 pm – Renewal of Vows Service with Bishop Mary at St Paul's, Cambria
- 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal at Trinity UMC

Thursday, March 24

- 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Eucharist with optional foot-washing

Friday, March 25

- 12:00 pm – Good Friday Liturgy
- 2:00 pm – Stations of the cross
- 7:30 pm – Readings and Music with combined choirs at Trinity UMC

Saturday, March 26

- 7:30 pm – Easter Vigil, the first service of Easter

Sunday, March 27: EASTER DAY

- 8:00 am – Contemplative Communion
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Festival Eucharist

Christus Paradox

Today's anthem, *Christus Paradox*, reflects the paradox of today's service; our celebration of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, followed by the grief of the crucifixion.

Jesus Christ has two natures - God and human, and is also seen in three "states" - the Word who has always existed from before time and is essential in the act of Creation; the Jesus who became human and died an ignominious death; and the Christus Rex who was resurrected, ascended and now is sovereign of all things.

These different aspects of Christ are contrasted in this hymn, Christ is "both lamb and shepherd", "both prince and slave", "peacemaker and sword-bringer". Our own ambivalence is also portrayed; "him whom we both scorn and crave", "You who are both gift and cost". And every stanza returns to the paradoxical idea of Jesus as "the everlasting moment."

The anthem anticipates Easter with the triumphant "Alleluia" fugue before honoring Christ finally as "You who are our death and our life."

ACTIVE HOPE STUDY-ACTION GROUP

Linda Seeley of Mothers for Peace is leading a Study-Action Group using the book *Active Hope* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone at St. Ben's on alternate Tuesdays at 7:15pm. The next meeting will be March 29th. You don't have to be at every meeting in order to participate. A study-action group allows everyone to participate equally, and it helps people discover their own gifts and resources for healing the world. Active Hope is a great guide to work from. Participants will read 2 (or so) chapters before each meeting, discuss the chapters, and practice the Work that Reconnects together. Read more about the book here: <http://www.activehope.info>
Please contact Linda if you plan to attend, lindaseeley@gmail.com

Serving God and the People of St. Benedict's this Week:

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Celebrant: The Rev. Barry Turner; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple;
Eucharistic Ministers: Brian Spolarich & Alan Kiste; Lectors: Ann Edwards & Janelle LaFond;
Ushers: Esta Kandarian & Steve Hirahara; Greeter: Ken Kenyon;
Altar Guild: Stef Shuman & Gigi Rivinus; Coffee Hour Hosts: Ron & Laura Thompson and Margaret Fegan;
Tellers: Francis Rivinus & Mary Ellen Rico; Drum: Alek Speck; Music Director: John Cribb



**On-Going
Activities
at St. Ben's**

BIBLE STUDY - Come join us for Bible Study at 9:20 a.m. every Sunday except first Sundays.

DREAMS & SPIRITUALITY GROUP— First and third Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm.

HEALING SERVICE – a time for prayers for healing at the 10:30 service on 5th Sundays.

HOLLISTER INSTITUTE – Opportunities for stimulating discussion and thoughtful exploration for everyone, whether or not they are members of a church. See website.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE— Prayers for the community and the world. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 10am.

LITLOVERS' BOOK CLUB – Discussion and fellowship. 4th Saturdays 1pm in members' homes.

LUNCH BUNCH – lunchtime social gathering following church, 2nd Sundays at Celia's Garden Café.

MEET ME IN MORRO – lunchtime social gathering, 3rd Tuesdays at varying restaurants in Morro Bay.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – morning social gathering, 2nd Saturdays 9am at Sea Pines Golf Resort Grill.

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN – Providing and serving food at Prado Day Center, 1st Saturday of odd-numbered months.

POTLUCK AND PRADO on the 1st Sunday of each month donations to Prado Day Center are collected, and potluck lunch follows 10:30 service.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND On the last Sunday of each month, the loose plate offering is designated to this fund to help those in need.

VESPERS AND CONVERSATION 5:30 pm Tuesdays. Vespers service using varying liturgies, followed by potluck supper.

VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL:
Maria Kelly, Sr. Warden
Anne Kanter, Jr. Warden
John Cribb, Francis Rivinus,
Lisa Gonzalez, Barbara Schippers,
Elaine Goodman, Kathie West,
Esta Kandarian and Jo Oliver.

Palm Sunday

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

“Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life.”

Welcome to our Parish. Today is the first day of Holy Week and the last Sunday in Lent, known as Palm Sunday or the Sunday of the Passion. The day begins by marking Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Many churches participate in the Liturgy of the Palms, first offered in The Episcopal Church in the 1960 *Book of Offices*. In this liturgy, the celebrant blesses palms or other branches, and, following a reading from the Gospels, leads the congregation in procession into their church—often singing “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” or “Ride On! Ride On In Majesty!”

This liturgy evokes the early observances of Palm Sunday. According to Armentrout and Slocum’s *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church* (Church Publishing, 2000), by the year 381, the faithful would process from the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem, waving palm or olive branches. As they processed, they sang songs from Scripture – including the exultant antiphon of Psalm 118 sung also at Christ’s entrance into the city: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

When the Palm Sunday service includes the Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Palms is followed by the salutation and the collect of the day. Afterward, the tone of the service shifts noticeably. In contrast to the earlier song of joy, Psalm 31, appointed for today, cries, “For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.” The Gospel reading is likewise sorrowful, recalling the events of Jesus’ Passion (that is, the events and suffering before and during his death). Still, we are reminded throughout the difficult days ahead that this is *not* the end of the story.

Despite the Savior’s death on the cross, he promises to rise again. The Man of Sorrows remains the one at whose name, “every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [and] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

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Everett needs some volunteer grandparents. We baptized Everett last year, welcomed him into the household of faith and promised to do all we can to support him in his life in Christ. Now he needs someone or some people who will babysit so that his Mom can get some work done. He is almost one and just walking. If you could use some wriggly one year old energy in your life please get his Mom and Dad's contact info from Caro+ or Danna.

Keeping in Touch during the Week. For counsel & spiritual care, please contact any of the clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, 704-5826; The Rev. Mary Elizabeth Pratt-Horsley, 528-7497;
The Rev. Donna Ross, 235-5117; The Rev. Barry Turner, 784-0670; or The Rev. Faye Hogan, 541-4595.
Call Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974.

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