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For Sunday April 18 2021

Easter 3

Alleluia
He is
+
Risen

See us on the [WWW](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#)



This spring, the rock garden beside the Rectory will be rebuilt, as it is now dangerously unstable. Allan Goddard is doing the work, hopefully at the end of April. Our hope is that as many folks as want to be involved in creating the garden. Allan encourages us to save some plants as we start to thin out our beds, and has included a list of possible plants. This is not set in stone; we will

collaborate with Allan as the project progresses.

Allan Goddard's vision for the refurbished rock garden:

"I want it to look like a mosaic, or quilt-like, and the plants must be no taller than 10-12", preferably lower. I will plant sections in groups of plants to give the effect I'm looking for, so

numerous plants of a single species is better than just one or two of each. I suspect those who need to thin out groundcovers will be able to provide more than one or two !!"

The following are good examples of what could be used. Some folks may think they are invasive, and they are in the right conditions. But here there will be a lot of rock to contain any wanderings!

Groundcovers are the key. Variegated goutweed, vinca, bugleweed, low grasses, lily-of-the-valley, lamium, and the like. Dwarf Iris is nice too, but would need more than a few for the desired effect. Taller grasses (non spreading) and ferns would be useful too, and will give extra dimension.

Questions and offers of plant materials to Katrina Ayling please: katrina@magma.ca or 819-665-4992.

NEWS FLASH!!

Rock garden construction -- or at tis point, DE-struction -- is underway.



Allan Goddard directing; Oliver Toop in the backhoe.

Lawn Care Opportunity St. Paul's Community Cemetery is in need of someone to cut the grass at the Cemetery for the months of May and June 2021. You will need to supply your own equipment, but we are able to pay a modest amount per cutting.

If you are interested please contact

Michael Mavis 613-256-2431.



Living In A Pre-Easter World

Last Sunday our Gospel reading was the story of Thomas, whom the Church has named "Doubting Thomas" because of his lack of faith. Thomas doubted the news he had heard from the other disciples that Jesus had been raised from the dead. In fact, Thomas even doubted his own eyes when he saw the risen Lord and instead insisted on touching Jesus' wounds from the crucifixion before he would believe.



If you were watching the service very closely, you might have noticed that I was wearing a *purple* chasuble (the outer vestment that priests wear on top of their white robes). In previous newsletter articles I have written about how the colours of my vestments, the decorations in the church, the prayers we use, and the music we sing are all carefully planned to match the liturgical season in the Church's calendar. Purple is traditionally the colour used for Lent (and sometimes Advent), while white is traditionally the colour used for Easter (and sometimes Christmas and Epiphany).

So why was I wearing purple if we are in the season of Easter? I could give you a theological explanation and tell you that I was wearing purple in honour of Thomas, the disciple who doubted that the resurrection had taken place. But there is a much simpler explanation - I made a mistake! My vestments are stored in different garment bags at home, and on my way to Church on Sunday I simply grabbed the wrong garment bag!

As I was reflecting on this, though, I realized that I may have stumbled upon a deeper theological truth through my mistake. In a sense, Thomas was living in a pre-Easter world. Liturgical seasons and colours didn't exist in the Church until much later, but it could be said that Thomas was still living in the season of Lent while the rest of the disciples were living in the season of Easter. It wasn't that Easter hadn't happened. Christ HAD risen from the dead. Jesus' other disciples saw Him and believed in the resurrection.

Thomas didn't have the proof that he wanted, so he didn't believe. This story demonstrates to us that an objective, verifiable event (like the resurrection) can take place, but some people (like Thomas) can choose not to believe in it. Because Thomas chose not to believe, the resurrection wasn't real to him, and he lived his life at that point as if Jesus was still dead.

As I was further reflecting on this, I realized that there are a lot of people like Thomas in our world. People who haven't yet encountered the resurrected Christ. People who are unconvinced by the evidence of the resurrection or the testimony of believers. People for whom Jesus is just another historical figure who was killed by the Romans and remains dead. People who are still living in a pre-Easter world.

The good news for Thomas, and for many others like him, is that Thomas didn't believe YET. And that is the key word. With time, and with appropriate convincing, he went from being "Doubting Thomas" to being Thomas the Apostle, who went out and told others about the reality of the risen Christ. This story should bring us hope. There are times when I'm sure we can identify with Thomas and his doubts. And I'm sure there are people in our lives (friends, family, neighbours, coworkers) who like Thomas are still living in a pre-Easter world. Take heart, because if there is one thing the story of Thomas teaches us, it is that people can change from a doubter to a believer simply from one encounter with the risen Christ.

Beloved is Where We Begin

By Rev. Jan Richardson

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,

from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:

Beloved.

Beloved.

Beloved.

-- from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*
Submitted by Vicki Bassett



Virus Precautions - A Rainstorm Analogy

If the pandemic is like walking around in a heavy downpour, masks and social distancing are like an umbrella and a pair of boots. Getting the vaccine is like wearing a raincoat: I'm still carrying that umbrella and wearing the boots. Eventually, when the rain slows down, maybe I can drop the umbrella.

Because no vaccine offers 100% foolproof protection, you still do not want to take the small risk of getting infected or spreading infection to somebody who is at high risk for severe illness.

Dr. Henry Wu (Source: Medscape Coronavirus Centre, April 13th, 2021)

Provided by Vicki Bassett

How Can We Be Church?

An editorial from Michael Mavis

Another lockdown...stay at home order...whatever. After a year of life being turned upside down, then sideways, improving to slightly askew, but turning upside down again...it has all become a frustrating blur. The worse part of it is the isolation. God has wired us to be social beings and called us into community. And so we respond: we are all members of a variety of communities which guide us, support us, sustain us and give our lives fulfillment.

But for over a year we have been told to avoid family members that do not live with us; avoid friends and neighbours; avoid coworkers; and avoid fellow church members. But what is worse: we know the reason for this avoidance is that these very people are a potential danger to us, and we are a potential danger to them. The very practice of community is the exact activity that carries and perpetuates the gravest risk.

So, as this latest round of restrictions settle in for another few weeks, I have been increasingly wondering: how can we be church? How can we be the active, relevant Christian community God is constantly calling us to be in such an environment? It is through community that we engage in effective ministry. It is through community that we participate in relevant worship. It is through community that we give and receive the support and guidance which moves us along our individual faith journeys.

So what do we do when we are denied everything but "virtual community"? How do we talk, share, listen, care and love? As I have thought this through, increasingly an old poem keeps coming to mind. I will leave it to the doctors of psychology to argue with the doctors of theology as to why a poem I had not read since high school keeps coming to mind now, but here it is:

On His Blindness *by John Milton*

When I consider how my light is spent,
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,

And that one Talent which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless, though my Soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide,
“Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?”
I fondly ask. But patience, to prevent
That murmur, soon replies, “God doth not need
Either man’s work or his own gifts; who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state
Is Kingly: thousands at his bidding speed,
And post o’er land and ocean without rest;
They also serve who only stand and wait.

In trying to understand this poem in the context of our present situation, I think the things our church accomplish in and through community are our “...Talent which is death to hide.”

While it is reassuring to know that “they also serve who only stand and wait”, I find more comfort in thinking of it as “they also serve who only stand and make ready”. Because even though, despite the current limitations, we still each retain the ability to “do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can...”

I think we also need, as a community, to make ready for the tasks that await us when we start to get the upper hand on covid. While we do not have to worry about our current circumstances, we do need to think of the post-covid path that lies ahead of us. What will that path look like? That is another topic for another day.

Blessings! *Michael*

More Signs of New Life



Forsythia in the Seniors' garden



Iris peeking through at the Wionzek's'

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Easter 3

**Click on a reading to see the text from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on the Bible Gateway**

- **First reading:** [Acts 3:12-19](#)
 - **Psalm:** [Psalm 4](#)
 - **Second reading:** [1 John 3:1-7](#)
 - **Gospel:** [Luke 24:36b-48](#)
-



Holy God, you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son, and to care for those who are our companions, not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love. Seeking to be true friends of all, we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world. Amen.

In the World. The Church of Ireland. In our Companion Diocese of Jerusalem and The Middle East, we pray for the clergy and people of St. Peter's Church, Birzeit, West Bank. The ministry of SchoolBox in Central America and in Canadian indigenous communities.

In Canada. The Most Rev. Anne Germond, Archbishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Algoma and the right of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior and informed consent and a renewed commitment to responsible resource extraction.

In our Diocese. The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop; Good Shepherd, Barrhaven - The Reverend Margo Whittaker; St. George's, Clayton - The Reverend Patricia Blythe.

In Our Community. We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being. We pray for the volunteers and clients of our local satellite Food Bank service, the Almonte Food Cupboard, providing support to local area residents. We pray for the health, safety and well-being of our neighbours in the face of increased numbers of covid-19 cases in our area and for everyone involved in the distribution of covid-19 vaccines.

In Our Parish. We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other. We ask for God's healing hand to cover our members who are struggling with health issues. We ask for God's blessing on our members Jack and Jo-Ann Donaldson, John and Irene Emig, Richard Evans, Sue Evans, and David Carter and Bonnie Everitt..

We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.



“He’s not in there! Oh, wait - he’s changed his status to ‘risen’ ”

From <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/religionprof/2014/04/status-update.html>

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