



## THE CATHEDRAL CHIMES

HOLY WEEK 2016

### On Holy Week and Easter

I have met many people for whom the word, “no”, is difficult. People, in general, want to be helpful, and we want to be involved. We have many interests, and perhaps we belong to multiple groups. We get asked to do things, to participate in work to help our family or community, and we find it hard to say, “No.”

This inability to place limits on our involvement leads to the underuse of another word in our daily lives: Stop. Certainly, it is a hallmark of modern society that we are rushing to and fro as fast as we can, trying to cram into 24 hours what might be comfortably accomplished in 48. We eat at our desks, if we lunch at all. We talk on our phones as we drive, even though we know it’s hazardous to do so. As we drive our children to their many events and activities, go to the market, prepare meals, volunteer at school or at a local non-profit, attend our book group, participate in church events, answer our e-mail, keep in touch on social media, and engage in all the other parts of our social fabric, we often fail to make room in our lives for that which can be most fulfilling and healing: quiet.

Stop. It isn’t an easy thing to do, unless you make a conscious effort. To choose time apart, quiet time to think and pray, to sit with family or friends, is critical to our spiritual, mental, and physical health. So, I’m asking you, beginning on Palm Sunday, to stop.

Stop and make room for the powerful and beautiful liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. Every year people say to me, “I’ve never attended all the services between Palm Sunday and Easter. This year I did, and they were so powerful. Easter had a completely different meaning for me this year.” That is the deep blessing and richness of this week before we celebrate the Resurrection, and I ask you to stop the busyness of your routine and make room, take time, to be here at the Cathedral, beginning on Palm Sunday.

The schedule for Holy Week you will find elsewhere in this issue of the Chimes. Please note it carefully and add the services to your calendar. Tenebrae on Wednesday evening (23<sup>rd</sup>), the Maundy Thursday Liturgy on Thursday, our Good Friday liturgy on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday (26<sup>th</sup>) are all times when we come together in the quiet of the Cathedral to hear what God speaks to our hearts, to experience God’s presence in the words and music of the liturgy, and to contemplate the vastness of God’s love for us in the person of Jesus, who we follow through the events of Holy Week and Easter.

Stop. Come. Receive and be filled.



## Children on Easter

At the Cathedral, we welcome children to all the Easter services. At the 9:00 a.m. liturgy there are special opportunities for our younger members.

Alleluias that were created and 'buried' during the Shrove Sunday breakfast are opened. Children lead the congregation in proclaiming the first Alleluias of the 9:00 a.m. service.

As is our custom, children follow the cross to Children's Chapel at the *Gloria*. On Easter Children's Chapel is held in Kaseman Hall, where the youngsters have a chance to learn about Easter and 'flower the cross'. This cross is then brought into the church during the Offertory for all to enjoy.

Following the service, all ages are invited to the Garden for the Resurrection Party. This is a time when the children are encouraged to find plastic eggs. They can exchange their prizes for goodies at the table in the lower level. Refreshments will be available on the upper level.



**Note:** Children are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets to church for the Resurrection Party!

### Music List: HOLY WEEK 2016 Year

March 20 Palm Sunday 9AM Sung Eucharist  11AM Sung Eucharist	Palm Sunday Antiphon O Vos Omnes Hosanna to the Son of David My Soul there is a country O vos omnes The Crown of Roses	David Morgan Pablo Casals Weelkes C H H Parry Pablo Casals P. I. Tchaikovsky
Tenebrae. March 23 7PM	O vos omnes Ierusalem, convertere ad domium Si iniquitates observaveris O remember not	G. P. da Palestrina G.P. da Palestrina S. Wesley Henry Purcell
Maundy Thursday. March 24 7PM	Missa Pange Lingua A Litany I sat down Miserere mei	Josquin William Walton Edward Bairstow Allegri
Good Friday. March 25 7PM	The Reproaches St. John Passion	Tomas Victoria Tomas Victoria
The Great Vigil of Easter. March 26 9:30PM	Awake, thou wintry earth The day draws on with golden light	J. S. Bach/Marlow Edward Bairstow
Easter Day 9AM Sung Eucharist & 11AM Choral Eucharist	Messe Solennelle ( S/B, A) This joyful Eastertide Consider the Lilies Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem Haec dies Sing ye to the Lord Alleluia!	Louis Vierne William Harris Andrew Carter C. V. Stanford William Byrd Edward Bairstow Randall Thompson

## Musings on India

During my time in India, I have had many opportunities to reflect upon the season of Lent and its meaning for us as Christians. I'd like to share a few of them with you.

The first city to which we travelled, after our initial time in Delhi, was to Varanasi. It lies along the banks of the Ganges River, and it is the holiest city in India in the eyes of devout Hindus. Pilgrims from all over India come to Varanasi to bathe in Ganges, believing that special blessings are imparted by doing so at this particular place. The bathing takes place at structures called ghats, large steps that descend the bank from a temple into the water. There are dozens of ghats along the southern bank of the river at Varanasi, and many thousands of people attend to ritual bathing each day. There is another ghat, however, which is different from the others. It is the cremation ghat. It is here that funeral pyres are built and lit to consume the mortal remains of the dead. Hindus believe that, if you are cremated at Varanasi, the cycle of reincarnation is ended, and your soul immediately is assumed into heaven.

To see the funeral ghat at night, with the fires of a dozen pyres blazing in the dark, is unique experience. Our visit happened not many days after Ash Wednesday, and so the words, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return," came to mind with great force as we watched the cremations in silence. Here, before your very eyes, life is returned to the dust of ashes, and those ashes are then consumed by the Ganges. At the same time that the reality of our mortality was impressed upon me, I was filled with this thought: Life is such a gift! How wonderful God is to give us life that we can share with those we love.

During our presidential election season, we are, unfortunately, subjected to the vitriol that candidates often unleash upon one another. It is a poison that corrodes our common life as acid corrodes metal. Surely, life is too short and too precious a gift to live it in a spirit of hatred, division, and animosity. In India, where 1.3 billion people live in an area one third the size of the United States, an awareness of community is a necessity. There are exceptions, certainly, but people of many different religious traditions live in harmony in India: Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Parsi, Jain, Buddhist, Jew. There are extremist voices, of course, and they are but a drop in the ocean of cooperation and mutual respect that rules day-to-day life. As Lent is a season in which many consider giving up something, why not continue a spirit of Lent and commit to giving up the bitterness of partisanship? Why not set our hearts to concentrate on the miraculous gift of life and to treasure that gift in others? "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another."

There is a great dichotomy that exists in India in how God's creation is treated. On the one hand, life is treated as sacred. In Delhi and Varanasi, for example, there are people who sell seed of various kinds to feed to the pigeons. Fairly large areas along busy thoroughfares are set aside for the intentional care given to birds that we often think akin to vermin. I don't know if the seed costs "tuppence a bag," but scores of people feed the birds. Dogs are sometimes kept as pets in India, but much more often one sees them along the streets, sometimes lying down near the passing traffic. All the drivers and pedestrians take care not to disturb or injure these animals. In my entire time in India, I didn't once see a dog injured or killed by a vehicle. Cows, of course, we know are sacred to the Hindus. They are thought to hold the gods within them, and they provide nourishment throughout their lives. So abundant are the cows along some streets that great care must be taken to avoid the deposits they leave behind. Life is respected and valued in India.

On the other hand, the environment in India is notoriously polluted. You wouldn't dare set foot in the Ganges, the Indus, or any other river in India. They are receptacles for trash, raw sewage, dead bodies, and whatever else needs to be disposed of by people who live along their banks. Mr. Modi, the Prime Minister, has declared that the Ganges will be restored by 2020; he has a long way to go. Piles of trash litter the urban landscapes, and it's not much better in the rural villages. The mounds of refuse are an eyesore and a health hazard. What do you do with the trash generated by 1.3 billion people daily? The people of India revere life as a sacred part of God's creation, and yet the created world in which life exists is treated with a disturbing carelessness.

In Lent, we are reminded that "you are dust, and to dust you will return." Our lives are short and fleeting in the span of the story of Creation, some 13.5 billion years for this universe. So, too, are the lives of all living things. The earth, too, will end its existence in dust, having been created out of the dust of a collapsing interstellar cloud aeons ago. "Dust to dust" is not a thought meant to depress us; it is simply a statement of a reality of Creation, and it reminds us to live our lives with purpose and care, seeking God's love every moment of the time we have.

Life, and the world in which we live, are sacred gifts from God. Shouldn't we treat them as such? As we come to the end of our Lenten journey, let us look at life and the world with new eyes, seeing them as the holy gifts that they are. Find ways to cherish the lives around us and look for opportunities to show care for the world we have been given.





## ***The Cathedral of St. John***

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### **Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday at the Cathedral**

#### ***Palm Sunday, March 20***

- 8:00 a.m.: Blessing of Palms & Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m.: Blessing of Palms, Procession & Eucharist
- 10:00 a.m.: Mediterranean Nosh Reception
- 11:00 a.m.: Blessing of Palms & Choral Eucharist (Sung by Choir)

#### ***Holy Week Schedule***

- Tuesday, March 22: 10:00 a.m. Chrism Mass
- Wednesday, March 23: 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae
- Thursday, March 24: 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Eucharist  
*Watch with me Vigil* follows the service until Good Friday
- Friday, March 25: Noon Stations of the Cross;  
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

#### ***Great Vigil of Easter***

- Holy Saturday, March 26: 9:30 p.m. Great Vigil and Eucharist
- Easter Sunday, March 27***

- 8:00 a.m.: Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m.: Festival Eucharist
- 10:00 a.m.: Resurrection Party (children are asked to bring Easter baskets!)
- 11:00 a.m.: Festival Eucharist (Sung by Choir)



*Think Harris Photography*