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We Give Thanks for new Life at HoCo (Babies!)

*Drexel Thomas
Ligon Rayford!
Drexel's parents are
Melissa and Maureen
Rayford, and his
grandparents are
Julie Edwards and
Nan Ottenritter.*



*August Kairo Skinner Herr
was born 3/18 at 6:51,
weighing 7lbs 3oz.
Born to Katherine Mary
Skinner and Evan Auguste
Herr.*





Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy gets Easter donation

By Bruce MacAlister, Editor

Businesses lobby the Virginia legislature. Local governments lobby the Virginia legislature. So do unions; and conservation groups; and shipping companies. Thanks to VICPP (Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy) so do churches, synagogues, and mosques. They lobby collectively through VICPP. The people who listen for the voice of God, Yahweh, Allah tell the legislature what they think are the morally correct actions to take.



As parishioners, we can further the work of our lobbying arm by putting cash in the plate this Easter, write a check with VICPP on it for the plate, or go to the parish website at <https://hocorva.churchcenter.com/giving>, enter an amount to give and use the pulldown arrow to select VICPP to direct the funds to them.

You can sign up to be a citizen-lobbyist next year at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/get-involved/volunteer/. They will train you. It can be an exciting time.



CMSCVA Concert at HoCo April 11th

By Ron Cox

The Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia will present a concert at Holy Comforter at 7:00pm on Monday, April 11. Discounted tickets are available to HoCo parishioners. Here's the information provided by CMSCVA:

Coffeehouses in 18th century Germany were much like today - places where people could enjoy stimulating conversation, a comforting beverage, and musical entertainment. Travel back in time with CMSCVA to enjoy a program you might have heard at Leipzig's most famous and

elegant coffeehouse, Café Zimmermann, where famous composers like Bach and Telemann ran their own concert series. CMSCVA is excited to return to Holy Comforter for the first time since December 2019, bringing this wonderful Baroque musical evening. The program includes sonatas



and concertos by Pachelbel, Fasch, Pisendal, and Vivaldi, performed by a 15-piece orchestra of period instruments.

Discounted tickets (\$5 students / \$10 adults) are available to the Holy Comforter community through our online ticket outlet and at the door. For online tickets, please visit us here, click <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-baroque-spring-pachelbel-and-vivaldi-tickets-154872665311?aff=ebdsoporgprofile> and then the "Enter a Promo Code" on the following page. Use the code "*HolyComforterDiscount*" to access the special pricing.

Hoco Birthdays **For the month of April:**

Kathy MacAlister, 1st; Will Jackson, 8th; Michael Rey, 8th; Joe Klenzmann, 9th; Laura Hunt, 11th; Rose Woodward, 18th; Steve Van Voorhees, 22nd; Donna Brodd, 23rd; James Munro, 23rd; Bonnie Atwood, 27th; Carli Nelson, 28th; Sage Goode, 29th



A Message from Hilary +

Dear Friends and Companions in Ministry,

On April 17, at 10:00 a.m. we will celebrate Easter in person for the first time since 2019. We don't have to look hard for signs of resurrection; we are living it as we come out of the pandemic, at least for now. How will Easter Sunday feel



for us; what will God share with us through our celebration and worship? What is the Spirit's message for you this Easter? Is God calling us to come out of a tomb and live?

There are so many tombs in our world and in our lives. Places and situations that seem

lost or struggling are all around us and part of our lives. How can we celebrate anything while our siblings in Ukraine are losing everything, including their lives? And what of the young Russian soldiers who had no idea what they were being asked to do? We see lives broken and lost; towns destroyed; millions of new refugees created. This is the world that Christ came to love and transform.

Perhaps the services of Holy Week will help us prepare for Easter in a powerful way this year as we witness and process the tragic events taking place. After all, the first Easter didn't just happen; joy was not born in a vacuum. The story of Jesus' resurrection is a story of God's love overcoming and transforming the worse that humanity can do. As babies are not just born one day but develop in their mothers' wombs, what we call the Resurrection came to be not as a single event but as part of a long history of God at work in the world. The Bible was written by people just like you and me; they were trying to find hope and blessings even in times of trouble.

When we enter into the stories of Holy Week, we join with many through history who have longed for meaning. Easter has meaning, not as

a single event or day, but as part of this longing. On Maundy Thursday, April 14, we will enter the story of Jesus calling his friends to love and serve as he loves and serves. As well on this day, we share the story of how the body and the blood of Jesus came to be part of our lives, to strengthen us, through ritual. This will be the first service of Holy Communion since 2019 that will include sharing the wine from a common chalice. On Good Friday, we remember the death of Jesus and the death-dealing ways of the world. If Jesus were to die in our time, would he be a soldier, a refugee, an elderly Holocaust survivor killed by a missile strike? On Holy Saturday, we enter tomb-time with Jesus; there was time between his death and resurrection. What happens in this in-between time? We know something about being on a threshold, having lived through many. We know what fallow time has been like for us. Jesus enters that part of our story too. In the evening of Holy Saturday, we will enter God's story with our Easter Vigil service. This is the first service of Easter and places our celebration in the context of God's love of humanity that we find in the Hebrew scriptures. We are having at least one baptism that night, which is one way that our longing for God finds expression. Baptism is also one way that God's longing for us finds and claims us as God's own in Christ, through the power of the Spirit.

I'm so glad that we can journey through Holy Week and celebrate Easter Sunday in person. May you be blessed as you enter these stories; may you know God's longing for you. May we be blessed as a faith community.

Wishing you a sense of God's grace in your life,

Hilary+





Senate Joint Resolution 88
By Virginia Legislative Information
System

2022 Session

Celebrating the life of the Reverend Canon John Fletcher Lowe, Jr.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 3, 2022

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 7, 2022

WHEREAS, the Reverend Canon John Fletcher Lowe, Jr., esteemed spiritual leader, accomplished social justice advocate, and beloved member of the Richmond community, died on August 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, born in Greenville, South Carolina, Fletcher Lowe graduated from the Gilman School in Baltimore before earning degrees from Washington and Lee University and the General Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe was ordained to the priesthood in 1960 and served parishes in the Episcopal Dioceses of South Carolina and Southwestern Virginia before assuming the role of Executive Secretary of the Department of Christian Social Relations with the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe subsequently led the parish of Church of the Holy Comforter in Richmond as rector from 1970 to 1985 while holding positions on various leadership bodies with the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, including its Liturgical Commission, Executive Board, and Standing Committee, which he served as president; and

WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe devoted his last decade of full-time ministry to parishes under the Diocese of Delaware before retiring in 1994; he then held several interim positions around the world, first at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Richmond and later with churches in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and France; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his efforts in 1971 to protect Christian clergy who had faced persecution under the administration of Ugandan president Idi Amin, Fletcher Lowe was made

a canon of St. Paul’s Cathedral Namirembe in Kampala, Uganda; and

WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe was a tireless advocate for economic, racial, and social justice throughout his life and was integral to the founding of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, the largest statewide advocacy organization for the faith community, where he served as Executive Director in 1997 through 2004; and

WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe was particularly concerned for the religious rights of incarcerated individuals, serving many years as a visiting chaplain at state penitentiaries, and spoke often and ardently in favor of criminal justice reform; and



Mary Fran Lowe after the resolution vote

WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his loving wife of 62 years, Mary Frances; his children, John, Elizabeth, and Suzanne, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of the Reverend Canon John Fletcher Lowe, Jr., whose sagacious spiritual counsel and unwavering commitment to the less fortunate members of society were an inspiration to all who knew him; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of the Reverend Canon John Fletcher Lowe, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly’s respect for his memory.



Update from your Vestry

By Susan Carvell

Since our vestry election on Jan. 30, your vestry has been organizing to provide leadership to our many ministries. We had an orientation meeting on Feb. 5, and held regularly scheduled monthly meetings via Zoom on Tuesday, Feb. 22 and Tuesday, March 22. If you would like to read the full minutes of the meetings, we will be returning to the practice of posting them on our website. The February minutes will be posted soon.

During our February and March meetings, topics discussed included: providing support to Fox school from the rector's and deacon's discretionary funds, and sending a letter of support to the First Unitarian-Universalist Church following the unexpected and tragic death of their senior pastor, Jean Pupke.

We are working on property matters, including getting bids for a new HVAC system for the Parish Hall and repairing the ceiling in the church entryway from the garden.

With our clergy, we have been navigating the pandemic and seeking to regroup and begin again as many pre-pandemic activities as possible during the current decline in the infection rate. For example, our first Connection Time (formerly known as coffee hour following the Sunday service) will be hosted by the vestry on Easter Sunday, April 17. Information for signing up to host Sundays after Easter will be available soon.

We reviewed and approved the Parochial Report that was due in March to the Episcopal Church and our Diocese.

We have been attending committee meetings as liaisons and are working to reestablish committees that have not met during the pandemic such as the property and parish life committees.

We have elected Terry Long to be our delegate to the diocesan convention in November. Terry is already our delegate to the Electing Convention for our new Diocesan Bishop that will be held on June 4.

Working with our newly elected treasurer, Judith O'Brien, and the Finance committee, we

monitor our church's financial health, which is good, especially given the uncertain times in which we have been living.

We will be attending an overnight vestry retreat May 13-14, facilitated by our diocesan Canon to the Ordinary, Abbott Bailey.



Connection Time resumes on Easter Sunday

By the Rev Dr Hilary Smith, Rector

We call that time following the Sunday service, Connection Time, rather than coffee hour because our focus is on connecting with each other. How wonderful it will be to do so again after church starting Easter Sunday, April 17. Our vestry members will be the leaders on Easter Sunday; if you would like to contribute food to the celebration, you are welcome to do so. The following Sundays are open for leadership; we are hoping to have two leaders each Sunday. If you are new to this ministry, we will work to pair you with one who has experience. Please sign up here: https://bit.ly/hoco_parish_life.



Parish Life

By Hilary Smith

We are getting our parish life ministry back up and running. Parish Life includes groups that meet for fellowship and other community-building fun activities. Do you have an idea for an activity? Before the pandemic, were you leading a group? Would you like to see an activity come back?

We need you to make this ministry possible. We are looking for a person to chair the committee or two people to co-chair. If you would like to help, please contact Joella Rhoades, our vestry liaison for this ministry, knitmaster1845@gmail.com.





The Rev Bruce Gray passed away

By Bruce MacAlister, Editor

A friend’s house was on fire! We quickly went to see that they were alright and found that the damage was minimal. There amongst the fire crew was their chaplain, the Rev Bruce A Gray, DMin, interim rector of Holy Comforter in the mid-1990s.

Bruce was an especially good fit for HoCo. He very much believed that the church in the world was largely the ministry of lay people. He saw his role as encouraging and supporting those ministries. His liturgical style was “low church Eucharistic.” Had church rules not prohibited it, HoCo’s parishioners probably would have called

him to be their rector.

He was quite comfortable with HoCo as the somewhat “edgy” church testing the next thing. When some parishioners wanted to bring the controversial Christa statue to display, he helped make it happen. (It is

a crucifix with Jesus portrayed as a nude woman being crucified, see [Huffpost-christa](#).)

As a skilled interim rector, he looked for the hurts and angers in the church to help heal the parish. Bruce provided the events and the occasions for expression and healing. It takes a year or more to heal a parish.

After his time at HoCo he became rector of St John’s on Church Hill. On his retirement, he served as on-call clergy in the Richmond area including another brief time at Holy Comforter where he was warmly welcomed.



Bruce’s really unique role was as a volunteer chaplain for fire departments. He had loved bring a volunteer fireman in his native Troy, NY. He continued to be involved in fire departments while rector of various churches. He volunteered to become the official chaplain of the Richmond Fire Department. He pointed out that firemen and women see things no one wants to see; burns, injuries, deaths, lives turned upside down. As chaplain he provided prayer and counseling to the firefighters, the survivors of the fire, and the families of those who did not survive. He was author of “A Fire Chaplain’s Manual.”



Photo by George Collier

He passed away March 17th in northern Virginia where he and his wife K-Anne had moved to be closer to their children and grandchildren.



The Rev Lindon Eaves has died

By Bruce MacAlister, Editor

It doesn’t often get warm enough in England to wear shorts, Lindon would tell you, so on a warm day, shorts it is. But this is church so a sports coat with the shorts. Long a priest-in-residence at



Holy Comforter, he was mostly a well regarded scientist founding and heading the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics at VCU that used the study of twins to understand behavioral genetics. He held the prestigious Doctor of Science (DSc) degree. With his hair flying everywhere, his strong English accent, and a slightly ruffled look, he looked every bit the British don but without the robe.

Being a serious scientist and an ordained Anglican priest is an unusual combination. He is esteemed for building - and sharing - mathematical models used in studying behavioral genetics. A short summary can be found in <https://prabook.com/web/lindon.eaves/2371172>. He was a part of the Society of Ordained Scientists (<https://ordsci.org/>).

And then there were Lindon's sermons at HoCo: direct; dug in the soil; practical; and not especially reverential. They were usually remembered. Lindon, his wife Sue (the Rev Susan Nuthall Eaves), and children Hugh, Helen, and Thomas were very active in the social life of Holy Comforter. Lindon and Sue occasionally assisted in worship services.

Lindon died on March 8, 2022 and the memorial service was held at St Paul's on March 13th. The service is on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=543rca6Tm7I>.



Meet & Greet Bishop Nominees
From Diocese of Virginia Communiqué

The nominees for the next bishop of the diocese were announced on March 28th. The dates and location of the “meet & greet” opportunities are in this table.

Friday, May 20	All Saints, Richmond	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 21	St. Margaret's School, Tappahannock	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 21	St. John's, McLean	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 22	Christ Church, Winchester	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, May 23	St. Paul's Memorial, Charlottesville	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 24	Trinity, Fredericksburg	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Dates and locations are confirmed. Times may be adjusted. Some, if not all, of these Meet and Greets will be livestreamed.

All members of the Diocese are invited to submit questions to the nominees for consideration by the Transition Committee in developing these sessions. Send your questions to bishoptransitionva@gmail.com using the subject line “Meet and Greet Questions.” Please provide your name, church name and location in case someone needs to contact you for clarity.

You can see pictures and info about the nominees at <https://www.virginiabishopsearch.org/meet-the-nominees/>.



Holy Week and Easter Services 2022

- back in person

Palm Sunday, April 10

Liturgy for the Day, 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Liturgy for the Day, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15

Stations of the Cross, Noon
 Liturgy for the Day, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 16

Liturgy of the Day, 10:30 a.m.
 The Great Vigil of Easter, 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 17

Come celebrate! 10:00 a.m.



*Prepared -
 by Hannah Garrity
 Inspired by Luke 24:1-12
 Paper lace*

Easter Graphic from [Sanctified Art](#)

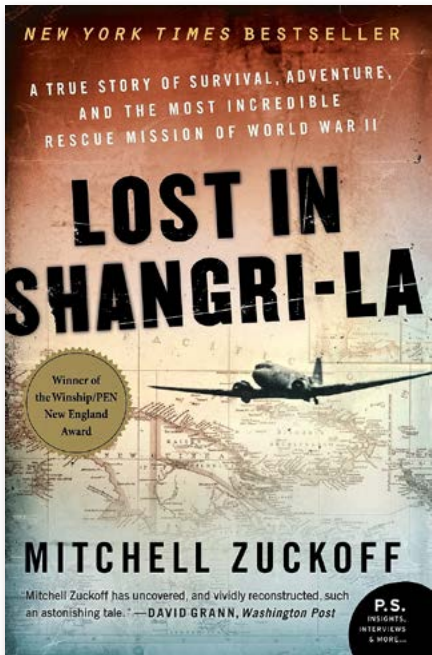


April book club - Lost in Shangri-la

By Stephanie Turner

We'll be reading a true story from 1945 as our next selection, *Lost in Shangri-la* by Mitchell Zuckoff. Based on what I've looked at about the book it sounds like an incredible story. I think we will all really enjoy this read. Our Zoom link for the meeting is <https://zoom.us/j/99461451877> I'm really looking forward to reading this one!

"A truly incredible adventure." - *New York Times Book Review*



From the Back Cover:

"On May 13, 1945, twenty-four American servicemen and WACs boarded a transport plane for a sightseeing trip over 'Shangri-La,' a beautiful and mysterious valley deep within the jungle-covered mountains of Dutch New Guinea. Unlike the peaceful Tibetan monks of James Hilton's bestselling novel *Lost Horizon*, this Shangri-La was home to spear-carrying tribesmen, warriors rumored to be cannibals.

"But the pleasure tour became an unforgettable battle for survival when the plane crashed. Miraculously, three passengers pulled through. Margaret Hastings, barefoot and burned, had no choice but to wear her dead best friend's shoes. John McCollom, grieving the death of his twin brother also aboard the plane, masked his grief with stoicism. Kenneth Decker, too, was severely burned and suffered a gaping head wound.

"Emotionally devastated, badly injured, and vulnerable to the hidden dangers of the jungle, the trio faced certain death unless they left the crash site. Caught between man-eating headhunters and enemy Japanese, the wounded passengers endured a harrowing hike down the mountainside - a journey into the unknown that would lead them straight into a primitive tribe of superstitious natives who had never before seen a white man - or woman.

"Drawn from interviews, declassified U.S. Army documents, personal photos and mementos, a survivor's diary, a rescuer's journal, and original film footage, *Lost in Shangri-La* recounts this incredible true-life adventure for the first time. Mitchell Zuckoff reveals how the determined

trio - dehydrated, sick, and in pain - traversed the dense jungle to find help; how a brave band of paratroopers risked their own lives to save the survivors; and how a cowboy colonel attempted a previously untested rescue mission to get them out.

"By trekking into the New Guinea jungle, visiting remote villages, and rediscovering the crash site, Zuckoff also captures the contemporary natives' remembrances of the long-ago day when strange creatures fell from the sky. A riveting work of narrative nonfiction that vividly brings to life an odyssey at times terrifying, enlightening, and comic, *Lost in Shangri-La* is a thrill ride from beginning to end." - Courtesy Amazon.com



Men at the Movies - Gosford Park

By Steve Van Voorhees

This month we will visit *Gosford Park*, a movie. It is 1932. It was a now vanished time and culture that found its most perfect expression in England. In many ways it was even more **golden** than the so-called "Gilded Age" that came in the late 1800's and was finished off by World War I.

Did you ever wonder why the *Upstairs, Downstairs* and *Downton Abbey* television series were so popular in the United States which has no royalty or titled nobles? You can answer that

for yourself! Those stories and this *Gosford Park* illustrate the great chasm between Lazarus the Beggar (us) and the Rich Man (England) that Jesus talks about (Luke 16:19-31). Only after death does Lazarus find peace and happiness in Abraham's bosom

That Rich Man had everything; so do Sir William McCordle and his Lady Sylvia. Then, as the old saying goes, "Life happens while you are making other plans." This **golden** period was not so rich and wonderful for the underlings who served the aristocrats and the *nouveau riche* strivers who joined them in their weekend frolics at their country places.

We will go through this weekend with an ensemble of characters, including those titled ones and an American movie producer, Morris Weismann, and an actor Ivor Novello. Novello, Weismann and his valet Henry Denton are essentially representing us as "third party" witnesses. We are clearly not of the gilded set, nor are we servants.

We are wedged in between the upstairs and downstairs people. We are looked down upon by the upstairs people and are almost worshiped by the downstairs people. While you are at Gosford Park, you can pretend you are Mary, the Countess of Trentham's maid or Denton, the valet for Mr. Weismann. Put yourself in their shoes - this is the very technique that St. Ignatius recommends for understanding stories in the Bible.

This 'murder mystery' is only a vehicle for a generous, sardonic, deeply layered movie in which you experience a party with no boring guests and, at the same time, examine and deconstruct the system that both separated and joined the 'upstairs and downstairs' worlds.



So here we are at Lord McCordle's 'Shooting Party' Weekend (not a hunting party). Someone commits a crime and interlopers, a detective and a constable, enter to find the criminal. It's almost a "Who Cares" situation for the 20-30 people at the grand estate. So the weekend rolls on as we talk, dance and drink and witness this final act of the "gods at play on Mount Olympus." World War II will end it all.

We are greatly aided by some serious directing and design by Robert Altman, Julian Fellowes, Bob Balaban and technical staff. Altman miked the actors instead of using boom mikes and used two cameras in constant motion. He told the actors to stay in character in the scene the whole time the cameras rolled. The star-studded cast had to ad lib and improvise, while not knowing whether they were on or off camera, in or out focus. Fellowes and other experts, like actual butlers, maids and housekeepers, got every little detail just right. Reality is honored in the Great House details, costumes, decorations, and even the jewelry.

Altman also made *Nashville*, *MASH*, *The Player*, and *Short Cuts*. He didn't much care about this murder and was more interested in having us live in this bygone time

and place using our 21st century American anti-authoritarian eyes. As the third person, we see the servants, aristocrats and arrivistes as they really are in full.

Two other titles have been suggested for this film: 'The Return of the Repressed' and 'The Inheritance Plot'. You can choose or come up with your own. This movie is the last one Altman made before his death. He was ever the counter-culture man who disassembled institutions, subverted authorities, and questioned norms.

Men at the Movies will gather in the Parlor on Tuesday, April 12th at 6:00pm for fellowship, film viewing, and discussion. Contact me for questions.



Holy Week, the journey

By Ellen Johnston

The time from Palm Sunday to Easter is the very heart and soul of the Christian faith. That Sunday-to-Saturday is called “Holy Week,” since it is during those days that we enter the events that accomplished our salvation. *Above all others, this is the time when Christians are to be most faithful in responding to God through worship.*

These services come to us from the practices of the earliest Christians. The liturgies form a sacred journey, by which we prepare ourselves for the greatest of all celebrations: Easter. Indeed, these several services are actually one protracted liturgy, and for full meaning we must go from start to finish. We cannot truly know the surpassing joy of Easter without taking part in those shattering events that led to Christ’s death and burial.

Holy Week is a real “roller-coaster,” and is emotionally draining (which is just how it should be!). It is a time when - mystically - you become part of what happened during those last fateful days of Jesus’ earthly life. From that, you will come to experience more meaningfully your sharing in His Resurrection.

PALM SUNDAY

April 10 - Holy Eucharist - 10am



Even the Stones Cry Out -

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 19:28-40

Digital painting with photo collage

The Church’s preferred name for this day is “Sunday of the Passion.” Yet it is universally called Palm Sunday. Of course, it is both. The liturgy runs the course of those extremes: from the triumphant, clamorous pageantry of the Liturgy of the Palms to the numbing Gospel account of Jesus’ passion and crucifixion.

The service begins in the Parish Hall with the blessing and procession with palms. We hear the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ read dramatically

and then conclude with a silent procession out of the church - pondering what we have heard and what lies before us in these holy days ahead.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 14 - Holy Eucharist - 7:00 pm

This is the night when Jesus gave the very first Holy Communion. But our remembrance of that event is not only “historically” oriented; it is essential for the personal Christian experience of the present. Jesus said to “do this” to bring Him into our midst.

This liturgy’s form is that of a usual Eucharist, though the context is re-set: the Upper Room as Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, first gives us the Holy Communion and His new commandment - to love one another as He loves us. After that, our Lord was wrenched by His agony in the garden, and then betrayed and arrested.

The liturgy concludes quite dramatically with the ritual stripping of the altar and sanctuary area - a very graphic reminder of the stark and brutal reality of Jesus’ suffering.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 15 - Liturgy of the Day - 7:00 pm

This liturgy focuses on the Crucifixion through Scripture, hymns, and the prayers of the day. With black draping before us in a church stripped bare, we are led by the word into the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death. Nonetheless, we are reminded that our focus on the Crucifixion is not to be separated from the Resurrection.

A unique time is realized as a large rough-hewn



Threshold -

by Rev. T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Oil on wood panel



Posca -

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by John 19:1-30

Acrylic on canvas

wooden cross is brought to the altar, and the people may come forward for personal devotions before the cross, such as kneeling or genuflecting, brief prayer, or simply touching it. Then we will all share in corporate devotions. This is a time of focused reverence for what the Cross means, and thanksgiving for what Jesus accomplished on His Cross for us.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 16 - The Great Vigil of Easter - 8:00pm

The Great Vigil of Easter is the very heart of the Christian year, the mother of all our celebrations. This liturgy has four parts - we light the new fire outside (weather permitting) and then light the Paschal Candle from that fire. After processing into the church and hearing that most beautiful chant, the Exsultet, which praises God for this night in which the ancient people of Israel were delivered from Egypt at the Red Sea, in which Christ rose from the dead, and in which we are baptized into his death and resurrection, the service continues with an extended Liturgy of the Word. We listen to the stories of our salvation and respond in song. By reminding us of our sacred story, the readings reaffirm our identity as the people of God, the Body of Christ. The readings are followed by the renewal our own Baptismal Covenant. The last portion of the liturgy is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist - the one of which all other Eucharists are repetitions.

In sign and Sacrament, holy story and song, the dying and rising of Jesus in the midst of the people is once again enacted. Sharing in the holy gifts of the altar, we find ourselves made one with Christ and rejoice in this foretaste of the glory of God's kingdom.

- Notes about Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday are by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston.

- Notes about the Great Vigil of Easter are adapted from *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and seasons of the Church Year* by Michael Merriman. Copyright 1998, Church Publishing,

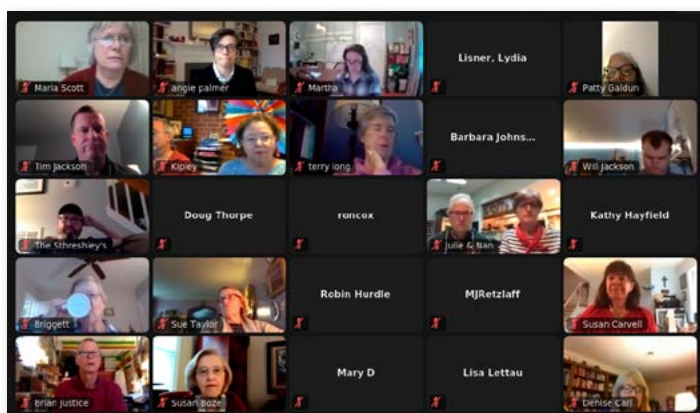
Holy Week Graphics from [Sanctified Art](#)



The Impact of our Online Ministry

By Hilary Smith

One of the positive aspects of the pandemic is that many churches, including ours, went “all in” with the live-streaming of services and sharing services through social media. We have been using Facebook and YouTube to share love and hope. Love and hope are always needed, and we are now able to reach many more people. When I posted a Saturday evening prayer service saying that it would focus on the war in Ukraine, it received 112 views on Facebook; my prayer



videos average 60 views. Our Sunday Services receive between 55 and 120 views, usually around 80. We also offer Morning Prayers and sometimes Evening Prayers during the week that have 35 to 100 views. When we touch into the concerns of our world and communicate that we get it, our view count goes up. Whether in person or virtual, we cannot know the full impact of what we are offering, but we can know that we are connecting and helping, perhaps inspiring, many more because of our online ministry.



Church of the Holy Comforter, Richmond

a parish in the Diocese of Virginia under the Episcopal Church in the USA
which is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion
Monument Avenue at Staples Mill Road
web - www.hoco.org; e-mail - office@hoco.org;
phone 804-355-3251; fax 804-355-0049

Coming Events at the Church of the Holy Comforter
See the [Hoco web site calendar page](#) for detailed calendar and rota

Schedule of church events following the Covid-19 period (still evolving)

- **Sundays**, 10:00am service Eucharist in person with streaming on Facebook and YouTube
 - **Sundays**, 4:30pm Story Time, a service for children, their families, and friends of all ages on Facebook
 - **Tuesday**, 7:30am Morning Prayer, Facebook
 - **Wednesday**, 11:30am Centering Prayer via Zoom
 - **Thursday**, 7:30am Morning Prayer, Facebook
 - **Saturday**, 7pm Night prayers on Facebook
- Food Pantry Hours:*
- First and third Saturdays, 11:00am to noon
 - First and third Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm
- Veterans' Shelter Dinner*
- Fourth Thursdays, prep between 5pm
 - Take to the shelter at 6pm and have dinner

Editing of the Messenger is done by Bruce MacAlister, the layout by George Collier.
The May Messenger will be available, Sunday, May 1st, 2022. The deadline for that edition is Friday April 22nd, but earlier is always encouraged.
If you feel that you have something you'd like to contribute, please contact Bruce MacAlister at editor@hoco.org

