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## *He Is Risen!!*



*Photo by Laura Hunt, taken following the Easter Vigil Service  
More pictures of Palm Sunday and Easter on Pages 10 & 11*



## ***Prayers for Ukraine - Words for Worship in a Time of War***

***By Ellen Johnston***

On Sunday, May 15, at 5:30pm join with the Holy Comforter community as we pray for the people of Ukraine who are undergoing immense suffering. We will pray in solidarity with those who are suffering and for those who have died. This will be a service of prayer, song, and scripture from the Wild Goose Community.



## ***Return of the common cup and the option of intinction***

***By Bruce MacAlister, Editor***

The pandemic has made us all very aware of spreading disease. Now that we again have the common cup at the Eucharist, is it safe? That raises the question “was it ever safe?” The decisive answer is “maybe, maybe not.” Is it liturgically acceptable? To that, the answer is “yes” in the Episcopal and many other churches that share a common cup ([www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/intinction/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/intinction/)).

“Intinction is the style of communion where a person takes a piece of bread (often ripping it off of the loaf) and dips it into a communal cup of wine... This practice is seen as early as the writing of Julius I in around 340 A.D.”, [www.pts.edu/blog/communion-church-symbols/](http://www.pts.edu/blog/communion-church-symbols/).

Ominously at the last supper, John 13:26 has “Jesus answered, ‘It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.’ Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.”

Amongst the varied churches over the centuries

there have been variations in what is considered “valid” communion or Eucharist. Intinction is mostly considered valid most of the time. Of course, Eucharist is valid even if you take only the bread, see [www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/concomitance/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/concomitance/).

After two years of a pandemic, intinction can feel safer for some. Using a separate - but still common - cup gives a separation that can feel even safer. So at Holy Comforter for the foreseeable future it will be two cups, a wide mouth for intinction and a standard one for sipping. When it comes to the wine at communion, to quote Peggy Hombs, it’s “sip, dip, or skip.”

Just put your hand under the bread after dipping. It can get drippy.



### ***Hoco Birthdays* ***For the month of May:*****

- Sarah Fenner, 3rd; Dr. William Stewart, 3rd;***
- The Rev. Dr. Douglas Thorpe, 3rd;***
- Charlie Souder, 5th;***
- Nathalie Clara-Marie Bowles, 6th;***
- Christopher Richardson, 8th;***
- Elizabeth Lahendro, 9th;***
- Jordan Matthew Stanley, 9th;***
- Barbara Davis, 10th; Patty Galdun, 13th;***
- John Stork Maddox, 15th; John Andrews, 16th;***
- Dustin Dyer, 17th; Maria Scott, 17th;***
- Byron Hensley, 20th; Betty Vineyard, 20th;***
- Martha Kelly, 23rd; Robert Payne, 24th;***
- Christopher Hall, 26th;***
- Keyan James Herron, 26th; Joanna Suyes, 30th***



## *A Message from Hilary +*

Dear Friends and Companions in Ministry,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

I experienced so much joy, Resurrection Joy, celebrating the Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Sunday with you in person. Maundy Thursday



and Good Friday also touched me deeply, in part, because this was the first time since 2019 that we could gather in person for these special, once-a-year services. I commented to Joe, our deacon, that our lives as clergy feel right when we can be with

you in the same space to share the Holy Week stories of Jesus and to share the sacraments. I give thanks to God for this time of respite from strict pandemic protocols.

We continue to offer our Monday night class and our Lectionary Study on Zoom. We have found that it is much easier for people to attend in this way, and we have better attendance than we had before making use of Zoom. However, for services of prayer and sacrament, most of us prefer in-person worship. We will return to our in-person Wednesday worship on May 18. For those who would like to come to a time of Centering Prayer, we will start a bit after 11:30 am in the church, followed at Noon by a service of the Holy Eucharist. Healing prayers and anointing will also be offered. Typically, and in the past, our Wednesday Eucharists have a small attendance - small and intimate. Such a service might appeal to you, knowing that not many will be there; this might appeal if you would like to receive communion but are concerned about being in a larger group because of Covid.

I've been focusing on the expansive love of God as related to the Resurrection. The key point being that the event of Jesus' Resurrection is best

understood, not as a stand-alone experience, but as part of God's efforts to reach humanity. Now, I do hold the Resurrection of Jesus close to me, in my heart; for me, it is not just one other thing that God did. But as a priest who knows and cares that many who are not members of the Church find the Resurrection to be a stumbling block that keeps them closed to what our community has to offer, I want to share a more expansive message.

In my Easter Sunday sermon, I quoted Richard Rohr: "I want to enlarge your view of resurrection - from a one-time miracle in the life of Jesus that asks for assent and belief, to a pattern of creation that has always been true, and that invites us to much more than belief in a miracle. It must be more than the private victory of one man to prove that he is God." (Rohr, Richard. *The Universal Christ*, p. 169). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)

When we share the expansive nature of our faith, when we show what it means to be people who believe in "a pattern of creation that has always been true," more people can understand what we believe and hold dear. More people will see we are not focused as much on belief in one event as we are on justice, for God's pattern of creation has always been about peace and love and justice. May the story of Jesus' Resurrection, and a more expansive consideration of the new life that we have in God, inspire you and ground you in God's love as the place from which to live your life.

Wishing you Resurrection Joy,

*Hilary+*



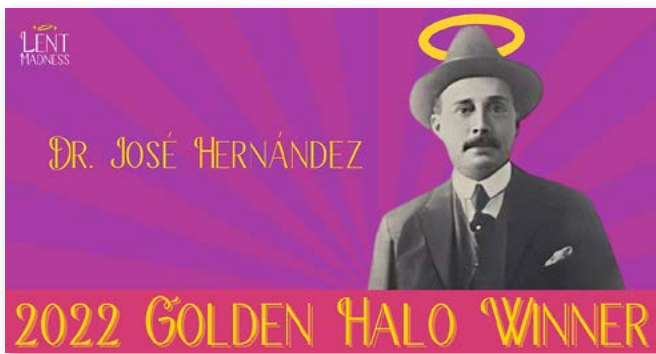
*June 5th bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson will visit for Pentecost*



## **José Gregorio Hernández wins 2022 Golden Halo**

**By Supreme Executive Committee**

In a year marked by razor-thin margins of victory, the championship round between Teresa of Avila and José Gregorio Hernández did not disappoint! In the end, José snuck past Teresa in a photo finish to win the 2022 Golden Halo. Both of these saints captured the imaginations of the Lent Madness global voting public and both are worthy of this ecclesiastical accolade. We are pleased to award Teresa the (rare) Silver Halo to mark this year's accomplishments.



Rest assured the result, while exceedingly close, is accurate. The Supreme Executive Committee spent the morning in the mezzanine-level review booth conducting a forensic analysis of the voting. There was some cheating involved on both sides and we eliminated those votes (come ON, people!).

José joins previous Golden Halo winners George Herbert (2010), C.S. Lewis (2011), Mary Magdalene (2012), Frances Perkins (2013), Charles Wesley (2014), Francis of Assisi (2015), Dietrich Bonhoeffer (2016), Florence Nightingale (2017), Anna Alexander (2018), Martha of Bethany (2019), Harriet Tubman (2020), and Absalom Jones (2021).



## **'Jesus in America' study**

**By David Paulsen, Episcopal News Service**

*Episcopal Church releases 'Jesus in America' study; polling data shows wide-ranging faith views*

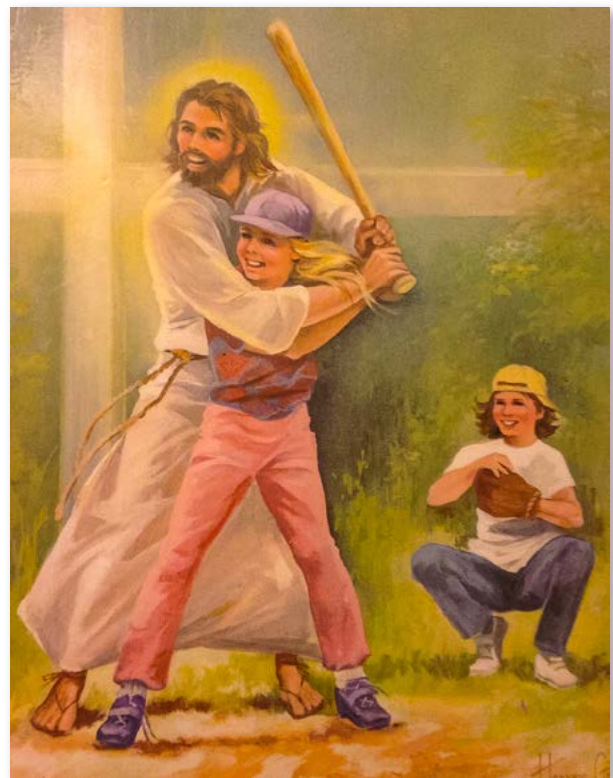
Most Americans see Jesus as an important

spiritual figure. More than 30% of Americans have decreased their participation in religious activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. And only one in 10 thinks those who attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, were associated with organized religion.

Those are some of the findings of a national study commissioned by The Episcopal Church and conducted by the polling firm Ipsos. The results of the "Jesus in America" study, released March 9, highlight the wide-ranging faith perspectives of a diverse cross section of Americans, including those who identify as nonreligious. See <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/jesus-in-america/>.

Episcopal leaders say the study points to both the popularity of Jesus' teachings and the ways Christians are often perceived as failing to live up to those teachings.

"We are encouraged that the research shows Americans still find Jesus compelling, but we also



see that the behavior of many of his followers is a problem, and it's not just certain Christians: it's all Christians," Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said in a press release announcing the study. "This is a wake-up call for us, and based on what we have

learned, we are refocusing our efforts on being a church that looks and acts like Jesus and models its behavior on his teachings. In this process, we hope to ignite a revival of love that encourages all Americans to do a better job of loving their neighbors.”

To conduct the study, global market researcher Ipsos polled 3,119 Americans, ages 18 and older, from Nov. 22 to Dec. 2 in English and Spanish, with a margin of error of 2%. The results will be used by Episcopal leaders to help plan for the post-pandemic church.



### ***Story Time live and in-person***

***By Ellen Hall***

Mark your calendars! For the past 2 years, we've kept Story Time alive via weekly Facebook recordings. We've had music and crafts, and our regular cast of animals and characters, and a few special guest stars. They've been so much fun to do, but it has been hard not being able to see faces or hear the kids' voices. With the weather changing and things feeling slightly safer we're ready to venture outside! On Sunday, May 22nd at 4:30pm, weather permitting, we'll have our first in person Story Time in the courtyard!!!! It's been a long time coming. We'll still keep up our Facebook presence, but when the temperatures



are tolerable and the rain holds off, we will schedule in person services as well. Grab your drums and noise makers and a blanket or a chair and come be with us!!!!



### ***Altar Guild - a ministry***

***By Terry Long***

Have you ever noticed that the Episcopal Church is color coded? The seasons of the church year have their own distinct colors. At Easter and Christmas, the hangings are white, at Lent they are purple, and for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday they are red. Who makes sure the church is ready for these seasons and services? Who sets up all the items used during a service? It's the Altar Guild!

The Altar Guild is behind the scenes of almost every worship service. Like to know more? Want to join us? Please contact Hilary Raymond at [hcraymond@aol.com](mailto:hcraymond@aol.com) or me at [terrylong@verizon.net](mailto:terrylong@verizon.net). We'd love to tell you more. See you in church!

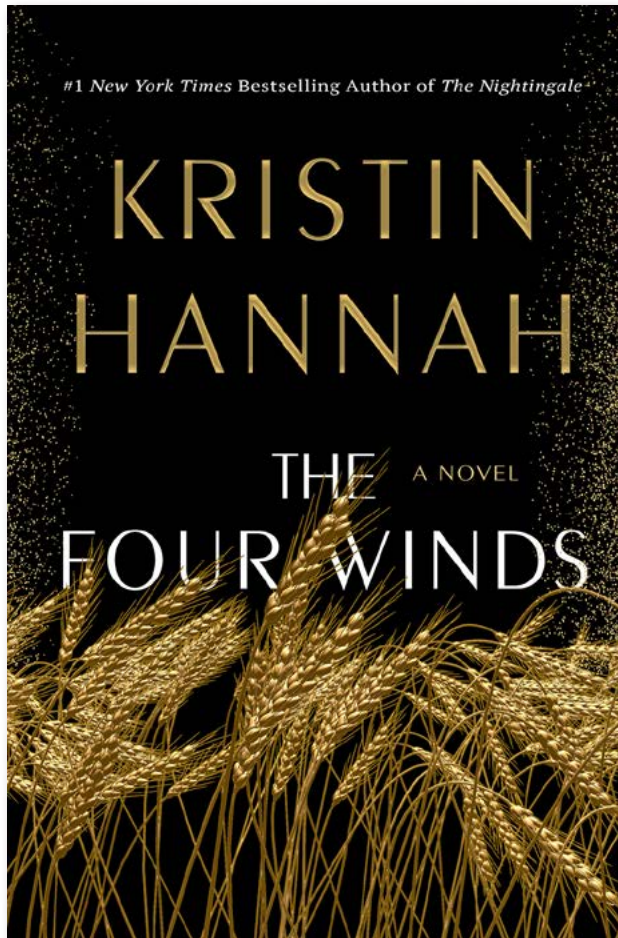




## May Book Club - The Four Winds

By Stephanie Turner

As I mentioned in my most recent email, we will be reading Kristin Hannah's *The Four Winds* in May. There is abundant library availability for the book. Ms. Hannah takes a 21st century look at the events that took place during the Great Depression's Dust Bowl drought that sent many farmers heading west to start new lives. Earlier this year we read Steinbeck's *The Grapes*



of *Wrath*, originally published in 1939. It will be fascinating to compare the two books and the points of view of each author. Our Zoom link for the discussion remains <https://zoom.us/j/99461451877>. Please let me know if you have questions.

Here's more about *The Four Winds*:

“From the number-one bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone* comes a powerful American epic about love and heroism

and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them.

“My land tells its story if you listen. The story of our family.”

“Texas, 1921. A time of abundance. The Great War is over, the bounty of the land is plentiful, and America is on the brink of a new and optimistic era. But for Elsa Wolcott, deemed too old to marry in a time when marriage is a woman’s only option, the future seems bleak. Until the night she meets Rafe Martinelli and decides to change the direction of her life. With her reputation in ruin, there is only one respectable choice: marriage to a man she barely knows.

“By 1934, the world has changed; millions are out of work and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as crops fail and water dries up and the earth cracks open. Dust storms roll relentlessly across the plains. Everything on the Martinelli farm is dying, including Elsa’s tenuous marriage; each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive.

“In this uncertain and perilous time, Elsa - like so many of her neighbors - must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west, to California, in search of a better life for her family.

“*The Four Winds* is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it - the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.” - courtesy Amazon.com

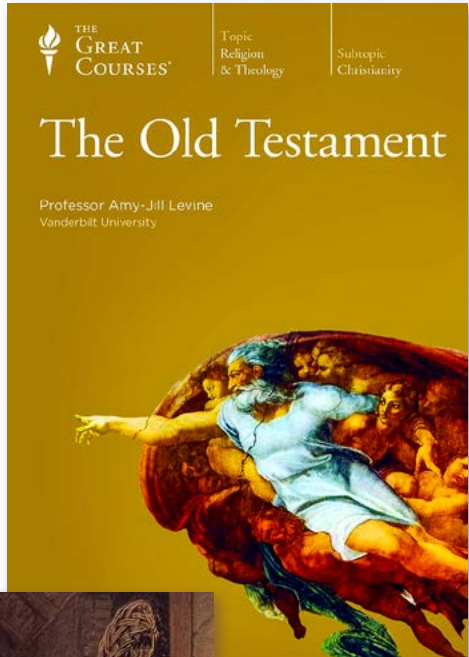


## Adult classes

By Peggy Hombs, Chair, Adult Formation Ministry

Sunday Morning Class: The Sunday Morning Class resumed April 24th after a Spring Break. The class meets only in-person on Sundays from 8:45-9:45am in the Parlor.

We are continuing with the DVD-based course *The Old Testament* with Professor Amy-Jill 'AJ' Levine. Our last lecture in this series will be on May 15th, after



which we will be on summer break. We will begin class again on Sunday, September 11th with a new curriculum the participants will choose over the summer. Contact me for questions.

Monday Night Class: The Monday Evening Class resumed April 25th after being on hiatus during Lent. The class meets by Zoom only on Mondays from 7:00-8:00pm. The Zoom link can be found on the HoCo website. The class is doing a 4-week scripture-based study of the Book of

Tobit (found in the *Apocrypha*) and the Book of Job. The last session will be May 16th before summer break. The class will resume on Monday, September 12th. The participants will choose a new curriculum over the summer. Contact me for questions.



## Japan ordains first female bishop in East Asia

From Anglican Communion News Service

The Nippon Sei Ko Kei (NSKK), the Anglican Communion in Japan, is set to ordain Maria Grace Tazu Sasamori as bishop of Hokkaido, making her the first female bishop in East Asia.



The service will take place on April 23 at 10 a.m. JST (1 a.m. GMT) at the Cathedral Church of Sapporo Christ Church. It will be presided over by the primate of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, Bishop Luke Kenichi Muto of the Diocese of Kyushu.

COVID-19 restrictions means attendance is limited, but the service will be streamed live on the diocese website.

Sasamori, a priest from the Diocese of Tokyo, was elected to her new role in November 2021, at the 80th Synod of the Diocese of Hokkaido.

She is only the second female bishop in Asia, and the first in Japan and east Asia.



## May men at the movies - history repeating itself?

By Steve Van Voorhees

On Friday, April 1st of this year, a Reuters/ UNICEF/WHO photojournalist, Maks Levin, was shot twice and killed by Russian soldiers. He was filming the physical destruction of towns and the bodies of executed civilians in the Lviv suburbs and other places in the region. Maks was 40 years old, a well-known international newsman with a wife and four sons. He was killed while documenting Russian atrocities committed against



Ukrainian people, even though he was wearing a Press jacket and was unarmed. He is mentioned in this article because his hometown is Boyarko, Ukraine, which also claims Sholem Aleichem as its own.

Sholem Aleichem is the author of many stories about Jewish life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and wrote about Tevye the Dairyman, his five daughters, and the Avatkeva shtetl. Our

movie for May will be *Fiddler on the Roof*, in which they are central characters. I chose this movie because I was deeply affected by the touring Broadway musical production I witnessed several weeks ago here in Richmond - and its relevance to current and historical events in Ukraine. I think that viewers will all be struck by both the humor and the very unsettling sense of déjà vu, when we experience the movie version of this story, while we remember what happened to Maks.

Sholem Aleichem once said, "This is an ugly



and mean world, and only to spite it we mustn't weep. If you want to know, this is the constant source of my good spirit, of my humor. Not to cry, out of spite, only to laugh out of spite, only to laugh..." Solomon Naumovich Rabinovich was born in 1859 in a Ukrainian village in the Kyiv region of the Russian empire and died in 1916 in New York City. His funeral was reportedly attended by 250,000 people. His Last Will and Testament was entered into the Congressional Record. He remains



today a literary titan and is often referred to as the Yiddish Mark Twain, a contemporary of his and an admirer.



Solomon Rabinovich became 'Sholem Aleichem' mainly to avoid censure from his father for writing in Yiddish instead of Hebrew or Russian, the two acceptable languages of Jewish high culture in Eastern Europe, where he lived. He chose the pen name because it is a universally accepted greeting, meaning "May peace be upon you," just as "Salaam Aleykum" in Arabic or the Peace we pass at Communion.

A "fiddler on the roof" is rooted in folklore. If you ever climbed on to a roof and were engaged in any kind of movement while up there, you would understand the precariousness of fiddling a violin and the entertainment and danger involved. This is a trope for both a scary and rewarding life. So, living in a shtetl is like fiddling on the roof. Russian pogroms wiped out Jewish Ukrainian and Polish villages in Czarist Russia and something akin to that is happening again.

In the movie musical, Tevye has three big worries: marrying off his five daughters successfully; accommodating modern developments and changes as a traditionalist; and the threat of more powerful and antagonistic Russian culture. He deals with all three of these as best he can with as much humor and sense as he can. The result is a warm, funny and very relevant experience. We will be lifted up and reenergized to go on "fiddling on the roof" in our own lives.

Maks Levin was buried with full honors from St. Nicholas Cathedral in Kyiv and given the Order of Courage medal posthumously by Ukrainian President Volodmyr Zelenskyy.

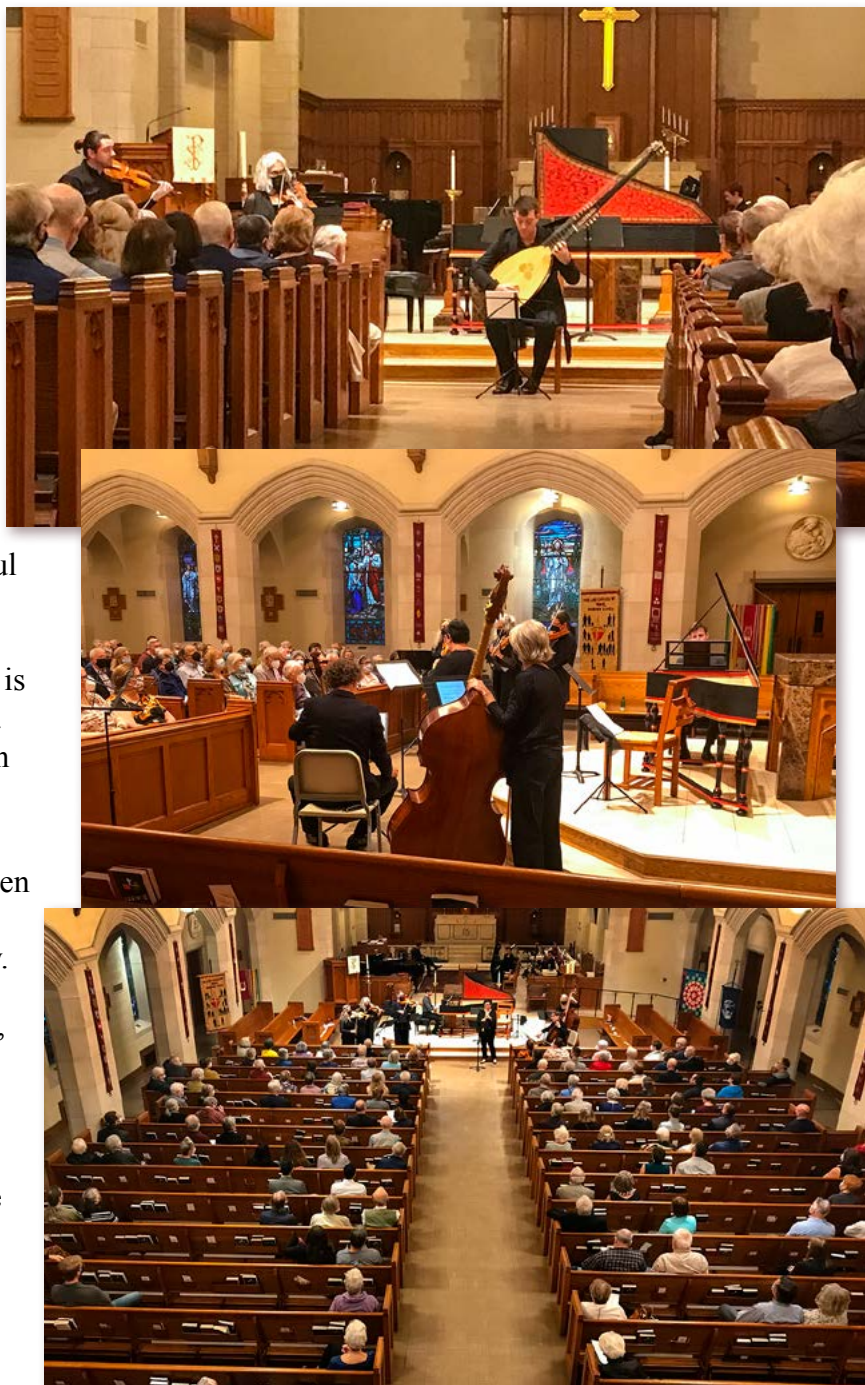
We will gather as usual on Tuesday, May 10th, in the Parlor - "doors open at 5:30pm." This movie is longer than most of our films at three hours viewing time, so we will start the film promptly at 6:00pm and latecomers can join us in progress. Contact me for more information.

"No matter how bad things get, you've got to go on living, even if it kills you."  
Sholom Aleichem

## *Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia*

Excellent concert, outstanding musicians, and a good-sized audience. As usual, the sound in the nave is wonderful. It was the Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia performing April 11th at Holy Comforter. On May 14th at 2pm these artists present a free concert at the Richmond Public Library Main branch.

See <https://www.cmscva.org/>.







# 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](http://www.hoco.org); e-mail - [office@hoco.org](mailto: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:**
    - ◇ 8:45am Sunday Morning Adult Class, in person in the Parlor
    - ◇ 10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II, in person with nursery available; the sermon can be found on Facebook and YouTube
    - ◇ 4:30pm Story Time, a service for children, their families, and friends of all ages on Facebook
  - **Mondays:**
    - ◇ 7:00pm Adult Class via Zoom
    - ◇ 8:00pm Compline for the BCP or the New Zealand BCP or from the Northumbria Community, Facebook
  - **Tuesdays:**
    - ◇ 7:30am Morning Prayer, Facebook
  - **Wednesdays:**
    - ◇ 11:30am Centering Prayer, in person in the Parlor and via Zoom
    - ◇ Noon Holy Communion, in person in the Parlor and via Zoom, so that you can join in the prayers
  - **Thursdays:**
    - ◇ 7:30am Morning Prayer, Facebook
  - **Fridays:**
    - ◇ 8:00pm Compline for the BCP or the New Zealand BCP or from the Northumbria Community, Facebook
  - **Saturdays:**
    - ◇ 7:00am Morning Prayer, Facebook
    - ◇ 8:00pm Prayers and a Reflection that previews readings and themes for Sunday, 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 June Messenger will be available Sunday, June 5th, 2022. The deadline for that edition is Friday  
May 27th, 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](mailto:editor@hoco.org)*

