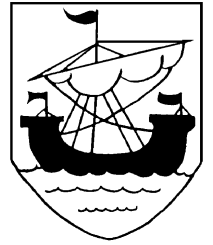


# Canterbury Tales

The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California



April, 2022

## *From The Interim Rector*

### **At the Foot of the Cross**

In 2017, singer Jaci Velasquez released her album, *Trust*, the seventh track of which is *Lay It at the Foot of the Cross*. Admittedly, I am not a huge fan of "Christian" music. But when I heard it, the lyrics spoke to me of where we are at St. Anselm's, and where we are going from here.

As I write this, we are on the threshold of two intertwined journeys, both of which set us on a new path. It is a path on which we are called to, or dare I say allowed to, leave some things behind – not just for the sake of leaving or unburdening ourselves of them, but for the purpose of allowing God to transform them into something new and life-giving.

We are about to enter Holy Week, that most sacred journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross. It is the place where Jesus' disciples will encounter the death of their hopes for and dreams of freedom, justice, healing, a new and renewed Israel, redemption. As two of them put it on the road to Emmaus, "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." But all those things would die with Jesus on the cross.

We also know that this would not, and will not, be the end of the story. We know that three days later, God resurrects Jesus along with the hopes and dreams that died with him. But they would not be the same as what had been left at the cross. Jesus, himself, will be unrecognizable at first to those who knew him best. Their dreams of a renewed Israel will become the reality of the renewal of the whole world. Their hopes of freedom from the oppression of the Romans will become the reality of true and lasting freedom to become children of God. God breathes into all their dashed hopes new and, importantly, transformed life!

A lot has been lost at St. Anselm's over the past couple of years. We have been unable to be all together for over two years, or even see each other's smiles. People have died. People have moved. Our live music has gone away. And, of course, John Sutton retired. We have each experienced personal loss and hardship, as well – the loss of a loved one, perhaps, or good health, or a relationship, or a sense of certainty or control, or the hope for the future we once envisioned for ourselves. It is a lot to lose.

And this is where Jaci Velasquez's song speaks to me and, I hope, to you, too:

## *Anselm's Angels*

*Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."*

*- Booker T. Washington*

Our Lenten season was solemnly begun with our traditional Ash Wednesday services. Thanks to the **Altar Guild, Chris Young and Marty Fischer** for preparing the ashes and transforming the sanctuary with the Lenten cross and purple drapes. Thanks to our lectors: **Sheila Wiegand and Sally Fisher**, LEMs: **Pam Green and Eva Woo**, and ushers: **Don Liddle and Doug Merrill**. And a very big thank you to **Jon Martin** serving as our Zoom cameraman for both services.

A very special thank you to **Marian Mulkey** for all the work in coordinating and leading this year's Lenten Series, "Tapping Into the Tree of Life." And an especially big thank you to **Rev. Kathy Trapani** for sharing her knowledge and offering questions for reflection throughout the 4-week series.



*(Continued on page 5)*

## EASTER LILIES



Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Day by donating an Easter Lily. The order/dedication forms are available in the service bulletin or contact Cathy Witkay in the office. Please complete the form and turn it in with your check for \$15.00 per plant, made payable to the Altar Guild, no later than this Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Please do not use the church Venmo account for Altar Guild payments.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the memorial garden following the 9:00 AM service on Easter Day.

Plus a special guest appearance by the big rabbit!



## COURTYARD COFFEE HOSTS

For those folks who have been attending in-person services, we have been holding coffee hour in the front courtyard. At this time, we are looking for volunteers to host coffee hour during the first half of 2022. Thanks to Joni Pearce, we now have a SignUpGenius form to streamline hosting signups.

If you are willing to help out, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044bada722a2f85-coffee> and select a date or dates that will work for you. Thank you!!!



Coffee Fellowship

## SOCK COLLECTION

It is time for the Deacon's Sock drive for our homeless friends at Trinity Center. A basket is off to the right as you enter the church and I will be collecting your gifts of new white heavy socks from now until Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. After Palm Sunday, I will deliver the socks to Trinity Center. If you would like to contribute but are not able to go to a store to purchase them, please write a check for \$20.00 made out to St. Anselm's with a notation on your check designated for the Sock drive, and I will do your shopping for you.

As always, I can't thank you enough for your generosity in helping to take care of those less fortunate than ourselves.

You are truly a blessing.  
Naomi



*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of

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Editor: Cathy S. Witkay

In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Anselm's Staff  
The Rev. Kathy Trapani, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

### **The Senior Warden**

Happy Spring from the Vestry and your Senior Warden! As everything blooms we can all look forward with hope for our continued blessings as a parish.

The Vestry is currently accepting applications from members to be a part of our Parish Search Committee for our next rector. The window for submission is through April 7<sup>th</sup>. After that date, the Vestry will prayerfully put together a team representative of the entire community. It is our intent to be sure we have representation from as many demographics as possible as well as the needed variety of skill sets. This committee will be supported in their work with the knowledge that Rev. Kathy and Denise Obando (from the Diocese) will impart as well as prayer and input from all of our congregants.

Though the Search Committee will lead the way and do the “leg work,” it is important that we all participate. This participation will be in the form of input. The committee will be gathering information in a variety of formats. Through this input, they will be able to put forth a parish profile to honestly show who we are and determine the desired gifts and skills we are looking for in our next rector. For us to find our best fit in a rector, it is important to partake in any opportunities given to share with the committee our historical background, desires and opinions. The Search Committee will use this input as they work toward finding our future rector.

During the Search, the committee will be reporting to the Vestry on their progress and next planned steps. The Vestry is involved in the final selection but only after the Search Committee has brought forth their final recommendation of a small number of candidates. The information about possible candidates is held in confidentiality. We are a long way from the final steps, but be assured you will all be kept informed as to where we are in the process.

Please know that you are welcome to reach out to Vestry members at any time.

Joan Martin

### **Search Committee Applications**

The search for a new rector for St. Anselm’s is about to be underway, and it begins with the appointment of a search committee. This committee will work on the vestry’s behalf to discern what future God is calling St. Anselm’s into, and who should lead it there. Its importance cannot be understated.

If you are interested in serving St. Anselm’s in this important capacity and would like an application, or would like more information about what it entails, please contact Kathy Trapani at [rector@stanselms.us](mailto:rector@stanselms.us), Joan Martin at [jkm@martinfamily.com](mailto:jkm@martinfamily.com), or Marty Fischer at [mfsford@earthlink.net](mailto:mfsford@earthlink.net). Applications are being accepted through **April 7, 2022**.

### **Vestry Meeting Update**

At the March 21 Vestry meeting our primary discussion items included:

- ♦ Review and approval of the annual Michael Lane Preschool budget.
- ♦ Ways to develop a flexible set of options for future Rector housing;
- ♦ The potential for live music to be added on an occasional basis to Sunday worship.
- ♦ Our obligation to identify a parishioner to serve as treasurer. We invite anyone interested in playing this role, which is not too time-consuming, to volunteer.

We also revisited COVID protocols but did not make changes at this time. We reviewed the rector search process and timeline, which includes a special meeting of the Vestry on April 9 to select the Search Committee.

For more information, contact any member of the Vestry, Rev. Kathy or Deacon Nami. Vestry meeting minutes and financial reports are available on request.

### **Church Treasurer Wanted!**

If you are looking for a way to serve at St. Anselm’s and like dealing with money (or at least, keeping track of it), and you have a background in or are familiar with finances, we hope you will consider serving as Treasurer of our parish. According to our own by-laws, the Treasurer “shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct books and records of account of this corporation.” Simply stated, the Treasurer is appointed by the Vestry (but does not have to be a member of the Vestry) to oversee our finances, with the primary responsibility of keeping track of our accounts and funds, and reporting to the Vestry (and the parish at the annual meeting) on our financial well-being, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet. Importantly, now that the parish has employed an outside service, *Ledgers*, to create these documents, the Treasurer is not responsible for doing so.

If this sounds of interest to you and/or you would like more information on the position, please contact Kathy+ at [rector@stanselms.us](mailto:rector@stanselms.us), Joan Martin at [jkm@martinfamily.com](mailto:jkm@martinfamily.com) or Marty Fischer at [mfsford@earthlink.net](mailto:mfsford@earthlink.net).

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## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. ANSELM'S

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Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Liturgy of the Palms, BCP 270*)

The forty days of Lent, which we began on Ash Wednesday, come to their conclusion with the most sacred days of the Church year. Holy Week, or "Great Week" as it is sometimes called, from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday, is for Christians the heart of our identity and our sacred story. For it is during this week that we remember, through Scripture, worship, prayer and song, the events of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem through which our salvation was assured.

Importantly, during Holy Week we do not just commemorate the events that took place during Jesus' last week. Rather, through the liturgies and the mystery of God, we are invited into the salvation story not just as observers but as participants. We walk with Jesus, as his disciples did, alongside our Lord from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem through passion, death and burial.

You are encouraged, therefore, as you make your own spiritual journey with Jesus, to participate in as many of the Holy Week services as you are able. Each of the liturgies is different, and each tells a different piece of the story, our story. When we have journeyed with Jesus through the week, we will know in a more profound way the joy and the reality of his resurrection at Easter.

### **Palm Sunday, April 10, 9:00 AM**

We begin the week with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the crowds hailed him as their king by strewing branches of palm along his way and shouting "Hosanna," which means "Save us, Lord." By week's end he will have done that, but not in the way that they expect. Usually, the Palm Sunday liturgy includes both the Liturgy of the Palms and a reading of Christ's Passion. This year, however, in an effort to live out more closely the events of the week as they occurred, we will limit our celebration on this day to the Palm Liturgy. The services begin in the courtyard (weather permitting) from where we process into the church waving palms and singing God's praises. We conclude with the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

### **The Three Great Days**

Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day) make up the Triduum Sanctum, or the "Three Great Days." The events that take place over these days, the Last Supper, Jesus' arrest, trial and passion, his death and burial and his resurrection, make up the paschal mystery. The word paschal means "Passover," and refers not only to God's deliverance of the Hebrews from bondage in Egypt, but also to Jesus' "passing over" from death to life through which we are delivered from the bondage of sin into new and eternal life.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:00 PM**

Named "Maundy Thursday" from the Latin mandatum, which means "mandate" or "command," on this night we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, his washing their feet and his commandment to "love each other as I have loved you." In keeping with Jesus' instruction to "do this for the remembrance of me," we celebrate the last Eucharist before Easter and, in anticipation of the events that follow, conclude with the stripping of the altar. There is no dismissal at this service; our participation in the events of Jesus' last days continues into Good Friday.

### **Good Friday, April 15**

#### 12:00 NOON: Liturgy of Good Friday

After his last meal with his disciples Jesus is arrested, tried, and crucified. At this solemn liturgy we remember the last hours of Jesus' life with a reading of his Passion.

#### 6:00 PM: Stations of the Cross

The earliest Christians in Jerusalem began to reenact the last hours of Jesus' life by retracing the final steps of his passion. Pilgrims would offer prayer at a series of places in the city that were associated with Christ's suffering and death. It was, for those pilgrims, a way of physically walking with Christ and attaining solidarity with him in that passion. We have come to know this practice as the Stations of the Cross. Join us as we move from place to place hearing the story of Jesus' last hours from Mary, his mother's point of view.

#### 7:00 PM: Liturgy of Good Friday

We move from Stations of the Cross to the Liturgy of Good Friday. Through solemn prayer and reflection, we remember Christ's passion, death, and burial. A reading of the Passion (formerly done on Palm/Passion Sunday) is the focal point of the service.

### **Easter Day, April 17, 9:00 AM**

On this joyful morning we discover again the empty tomb and celebrate Jesus's resurrection as we renew our baptismal vows, shout our first "Alleluias" since Ash Wednesday, and celebrate the "Feast of Feasts," the first Eucharist of Easter.

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*(Continued from page 1)*

*Weary one, weary one in your weakness  
There is a hope that brings strength  
Lonely heart, lonely heart in your longing  
There is a plan for the ache*

*Faithful one, faithful one in your calling  
There is a love that sustains  
Desperate soul, desperate soul in your seeking*

*There is a truth that remains*

*Bring your heartbreak, bring your tears  
Bring your grieving  
Lay it at the cross*

*Bring your questions, bring your fear  
Bring your anger  
Lay it at the cross*

*Bring your battles, bring your loss  
Bring your trials  
Lay them at the cross*

*Bring your future, bring your past*

*Every moment  
Lay it at the cross*

As we assemble the Rector Search Committee, we are definitively stepping away from what has come before, and onto the path God has set before us -- into a new future, a new way of being, a new way of life together. And that means that we are leaving some things behind. That does not mean, though, that they are lost forever. Rather, if we place them at the foot of the cross, God promises to take them, to transform them, to bring new life to them. They may not be or look the same, but they will be part of the foundation upon which we are about to build. They are part of the fabric of St. Anselm's, woven into the new life we are about to find. So, invite you this Holy Week and beyond to bring your heartbreak and tears, your questions and fears, your anger and loss, your future and past to the foot of the cross. For in this we can truly trust:

*At the cross we find healing  
At the cross we find peace  
At the cross we find Jesus  
At the cross we find all that we ever need*

Kathy+





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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: TRINITY CENTER

*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons..?*  
(Baptismal Covenant, BCP 305)

If you are looking for ways to “seek and serve Christ” by helping others in need, you might consider one of the volunteer opportunities at Trinity Center, Walnut Creek. Trinity Center is a non-residential program serving homeless and working poor adult men and women in Walnut Creek and Central Contra Costa County, and the beneficiary of our Harvest Festival event. Currently, they are looking for volunteers in their meal programs. For more information or to sign up, please use the links below:

Evening Program Volunteer Opportunities: <https://signup.com/go/TqxJkBR>

Warm Breakfast Program: <https://signup.com/go/CAYgdUs>

More information on their spring fundraiser event may be found at: <https://trinitycenterwc.org/tc-events/>

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## MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Happy Spring from all of us at Michael Lane Preschool!

This month, we are working on problem solving. We reinstated the class job of “The Problem Solver.” If a problem comes up at school, the problem solver is called over to listen to both sides of the story and to help the children solve the problem together. So far the teachers are taking on this important role, but the students will begin taking turns next month. We have been using our indoor space again, which lends itself to a much more enriching day. The kids and staff are so happy!

This month I have also been busy sending out acceptance letters for our fall program. I made the decision to send all letters home digitally, as I learned from last year people don’t always check their snail mail! Simultaneously, I’m still keeping busy giving tours to interested families.

Our families are very excited that our Spring Auction and Dinner will be happening Saturday, April 30th. This will be our first social event in the past 2 years! We are having it in a backyard with a Cinco de Mayo theme.

Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

Warmly,

Holly Higgins, Director

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***WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS:***

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**April 3rd — Cancer Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at [jripmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jripmaggie@hotmail.com).

**April 5th and each Tuesday in April — Morning Prayer** will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**April 5th — Grief Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**April 7th and April 28th — Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

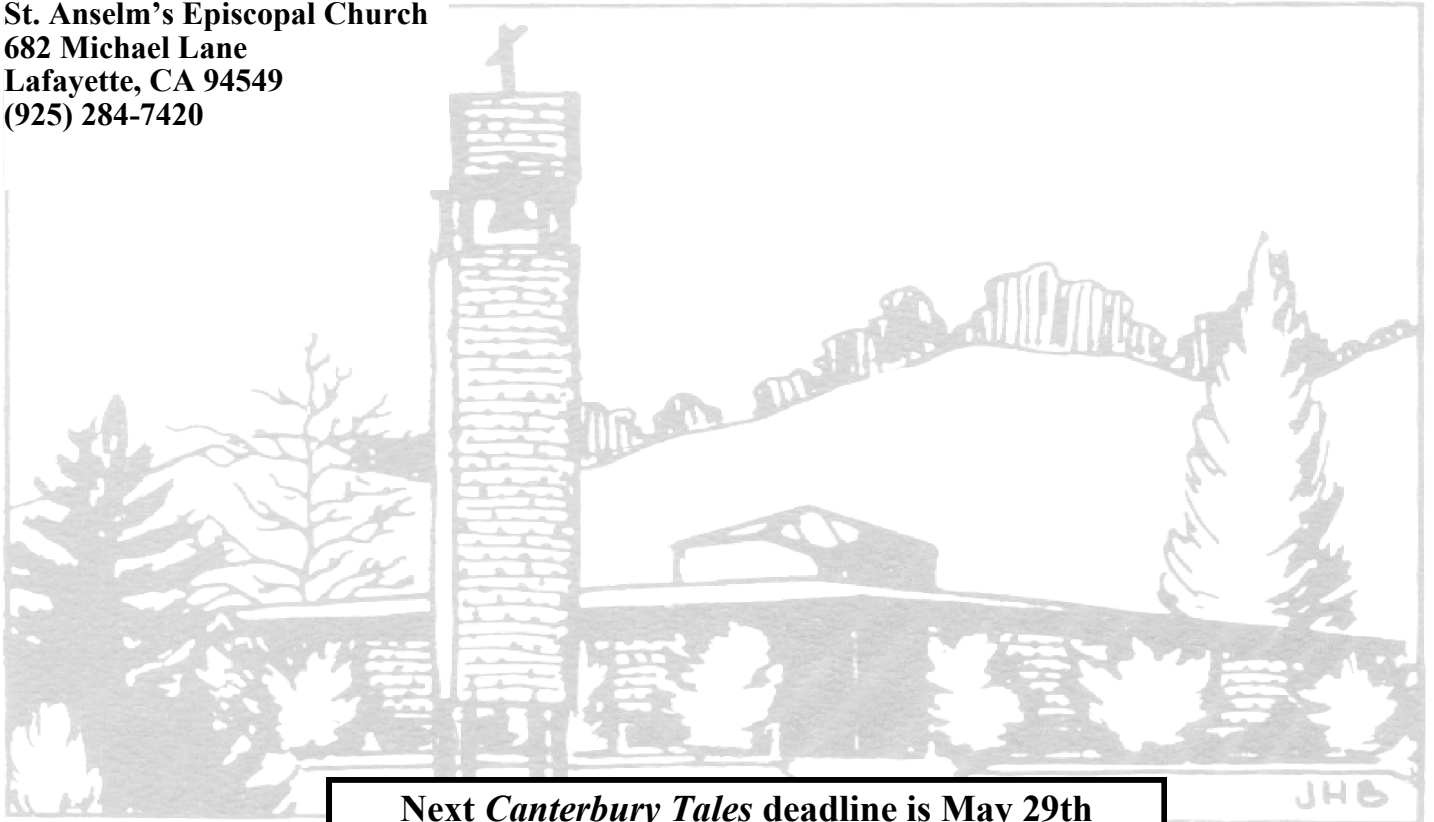
**April 8th — Memorial Service for Laird Craig** will be held at the church at 1:00 PM.

**April 18th — Vestry** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Chris Young with the meeting link.

**April 21st — Funeral Service for the Rev. Charles Ramsden** will be held at Grace Cathedral at 3:00 PM. Grace Cathedral requires COVID vaccination for entrance and requests pre-registration for events at the following website: [Memorial Service for The Rev. Charles Leslie Ramsden - Grace Cathedral](#)



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**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is May 29th**

***Holy Week Services  
 In-person and Online***

**Sunday, April 10**

**PALM SUNDAY**

**9 AM**

**Thursday, April 14**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**7 PM**

**Friday, April 15**

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
 STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

**NOON  
 6 PM  
 7 PM**

**Sunday, April 17**

**EASTER DAY**

**9 AM**