



Volume XXII, Number 8

April 2020

THE CATHEDRAL CHIMES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist

Hello
Spokane,

*We are
with you in*

Faith
Hope
&
Love.

Peace,
St. John's Cathedral
A Cathedral for the City

Pray with us on Facebook
[@StJohnsCathedralSpokane](#)

From the Dean

By the Very Rev. Heather VanDeventer

Dear Cathedral Family,

What is Easter? The day when we celebrate and remember (*anamesis* in the Greek) Jesus Christ's Resurrection, victory over eternal death, and establishment of the new covenant of reconciliation.

What is Easter? A date that is "always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21" (BCP p. 880, Tables and Rules for Finding the Date of Easter Day).

What is Easter? A season of celebrating Christ's Resurrection and the body of the faithful being raised with him.

I have been thinking about this seemingly simple question for a couple of weeks now, ever since the possibility of not being able to gather in person as the body of the faithful started to become more of a reality. I am not the only one who has been thinking about this. Arlen and I have been talking with the rest of the liturgy staff about this, as have clergy in the Diocese of Spokane. Clergy across the nation and the world, and across liturgical and non-liturgical traditions, have been asking the same thing. About two weeks ago, Virginia Theological Seminary offered a Zoom conference call on this, which turned into a webinar after more than 900 people joined in. We are all wondering "What is Easter?"

But really we are wondering how we can celebrate Easter in our current reality. And the answer is **differently than we have ever before**. I am sure there are liturgical scholars and archivists who are looking at what people did in the resurgence of the 1918 flu epidemic (by then in the spring of 1919). I'm sure there are

those who are looking back to the practices of the church in times of plague. What we do will still be different from what was done before. Why? Because we have communication tools at our disposal to reach so many in our congregation, as well as so many beyond our usual congregation.

So on Easter Sunday we will offer online Morning Prayer from the Cathedral as the diocesan worship service offering that day. We will sing those beloved Easter hymns, say the "A" word that we gave up for Lent, and hear once again about that early morning when (in Matthew's account) Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see Jesus' tomb. There was an earthquake when the stone was rolled away by an angel. These two women, by themselves in the middle of the tombs, first received the message that would change even our lives:

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." (Mt 28:5-7)

That first Easter there were no crowds, no Easter bonnets, no hot cross buns or deviled eggs, no chocolate, no flowers, no brass quintet, no pomp and circumstance. There was "fear and great joy" as the women headed off with this most best ever of Good News. In a similar way, we will quietly share this Good News which is bedrock to our faith – social distancing, "stay at home" orders, quarantine, and even this modern day plague of COVID-19 cannot keep us from that Good News! We will celebrate Easter Day – just differently.

There is another piece of wisdom that is being shared by clergy. Maybe this is lore but even if it is, I appreciate its wisdom. In Alaska in generations past, many congregations often met in a house church style and without clergy in their communities. They would gather for Morning Prayer and lay-led gatherings. And when the Bishop would come visit – whether journeying on foot, by sled, by water, or by small airplane – the congregation would celebrate Easter. Was it the date for Easter that year? Likely not, but the calendar and its sense of *chronos* time did not dissuade the body of the faithful from gathering in *kairos* time to celebrate Easter. The time was right and there is wisdom in this way of thinking. For us at St. John's, along with many if not all of us across the Episcopal Church, it is likely that we will celebrate Easter as the body of the faithful **re-gathered together** when we can, once we are lifted from the restrictions that are keeping our communities safer today.

Know this. **Easter is more than a date – Easter is a day, a season, a gathering, and a way of life.**

Holding you, the Spokane community, the nation, and the world in my prayers.

In Christ's Peace,
Dean Heather

Pastoral Care

Do you have a pastoral care concern? Contact the clergy staff, 838-4277.

Passages

Rest in peace: *Joe Dunn*, 1/22/1937-3/7/2020; notes to Mary may be sent to: 1228 113 Avenue SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Worship & Music & Learning & Fellowship Continue

Although our beautiful building is currently closed, our church isn't! We continue to gather for worship and prayer and music and pastoral care and learning and fellowship ... through phones and computers and tablets.

Our Facebook page is the place to check for most of these offerings: www.facebook.com/StJohnsCathedralSpokane Sometimes, we get inspired and add an offering at short notice. Usually, we announce gatherings and how to check in through our Monday and Wednesday and Friday "Cathedral Connections" email—delivered to your email address. You can be added to the Cathedral Connections mailing list by contacting Joan: secretary@stjohns-cathedral.org

A couple of volunteers have been working hard to create neighborhood groupings of Cathedral members. We hope to connect with members and help members connect with each other in a variety of ways, during this time of physical distancing and in the months to come.

Help us stay in touch with you! Many of you have phone numbers that don't match what we have in our database. If you have abandoned your land line, moved, switched cell phone numbers, or otherwise starting using a newer phone number, *please* let us know. We want to stay in touch, but it's hard to do so with outdated information. If you're not sure we have your correct information, leave a message on our voice mail with your name and current number, or email us: secretary@stjohns-cathedral.org

Worship

At this time, we're offering Morning Prayer on Sundays at 9am, with a carillon prelude beginning at 8:45am. This is live-streamed on our Facebook page. If

you're not able to tune in as we broadcast, you can go to the Facebook page any time afterward and play the video. On *Easter, April 12*, we will offer the service for the Diocese, beginning at 10:30am.

Other services are offered as the spirit moves; check our Facebook page to find them.

The Diocese is offering a service at 10:30am each Sunday, with churches throughout the diocese scheduled for each week, found on their website: www.spokanediocese.org/Worship/worship-online

Coffee Hour & Sunday Forum

Starting *Sunday, April 19*, we will offer coffee hour at 11:30am, followed by the Sunday Forum at noon. These will be offered through Zoom video conferencing, so look for that link in Cathedral Connections the Friday prior.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Group continues to gather and connect virtually. Contact youth minister Elaine Patrick for more info: youth@stjohns-cathedral.org

Yoga at the Cathedral

Yoga in the Cathedral will happen online on *Sunday, April 26* at 3pm. Join instructor Lisa Silvestri Wehr on Facebook at [@cathedralyoga](https://www.facebook.com/cathedralyoga).

Music

Our music staff are offering a variety of options. Wednesday mid-day sometimes includes a concert. Sometimes the Wednesday Cathedral Connections includes links to music selected by Andrea Olsen, Interim Choir Director. Thursday evenings at 7pm often feature a hymn sing, with

our choir's Choral Scholars and pianist John Bodinger offering a wide variety of favorites, on Facebook [@StJohnsCathedralSpokane](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsCathedralSpokane). If you have a request, email Andrea: andrea@stjohns-cathedral.org

Financial Support for our Ministry

Even when we cannot gather together in person, the work and ministry of the Cathedral continues. We ask you to continue your financial support for the Cathedral in these ways:

- You can mail your check to the Cathedral.
- You can use bill pay through your bank. This is free for both you and the Cathedral and you get to decide when and how much your bank will send. Set this up the same way you do other bills and you can direct what your donation is for by stating that in the memo line i.e. "pledge", "altar flowers", etc.
- Sign up via Tithe.ly to have your donation automatically deducted from your charge / debit card. Here, you can choose to pay the service fee associated with your donation if you wish. If you have a smart phone, you can text the word **give** to (425) 441-3395 to get started. This number is specific to St John's Cathedral.
- If you would like to use your Visa / MasterCard, you can also call Rosie and she can take your information and run your donation for you.

Many thanks for your support in these days!



Calling All Gardeners

By Kristi Philip

One of the Cathedral's best-kept secrets is a community garden that serves our neighborhood. There are currently 18 beds in two areas off the alley between the Cathedral and the Diocesan Office, just east of the Cathedral parking lots. Many of the beds are high enough that those who find it difficult to bend over can still enjoy gardening. Some of our gardeners are residents of Canterbury Court, the apartments near our kitchen parking lot. Others are people referred by the County Extension Service, parishioners or other neighbors. We ask a donation of \$5 for Canterbury Court residents and \$20 for other gardeners that offsets some of our

maintenance costs. Water and hoses are provided by the Cathedral. This year our gardening season will begin on May 1 and we also have a selection of free flower and vegetable seeds provided by County Extension.

If you or your family are interested in joining our gardening community and want more information, please contact me at kristip@stjohns-cathedral.org or leave a message at the Cathedral (509 838-4277). Applications are available from Joan Sulser at the Cathedral office: secretary@stjohns-cathedral.org



Staff Contact Info

In observance of the Stay Home -Stay Healthy order of Gov. Inslee, the Cathedral is closed, except for essential personnel. All in-person gatherings and worship are suspended for the time being.

We want to stay in touch, so please contact us! We're receiving daily mail deliveries, we're responding to emails, we're checking the answering machine regularly.

The Very Rev. Heather VanDeventer, Dean, can be reached by phone at the Cathedral: 509-838-4277, ext 14; or by email: dean@stjohns-cathedral.org

The Rev. Arlen Farley, Priest Associate, can be reached by phone at the Cathedral: 509-838-4277, ext 15; or by email: arlenf@stjohns-cathedral.org

Rosie Banta, Financial Secretary, can be reached by phone at the Cathedral: 509-838-4277, ext 17; or by email: rbanta@stjohns-cathedral.org

Joan Sulser, Secretary, can be reached by phone at the Cathedral: 509-838-4277; or by email: secretary@stjohns-cathedral.org

John Bodinger, Organist and Interim Music Coordinator, can be reached by email: jbodinger@stjohns-cathedral.org

Andrea Olsen, Interim Choir Director, can be reached by email: andreao@stjohns-cathedral.org

Elaine Patrick, Youth Minister, can be reached by email: youth@stjohns-cathedral.org

Stay Informed

St. John's Cathedral—<https://stjohns-cathedral.org/>

St. John's Cathedral Facebook page—<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsCathedralSpokane/>

Diocese of Spokane—<https://www.spokanediocese.org/>

Diocese of Spokane Facebook page—<https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneDiocese/>

City of Spokane—<https://my.spokanecity.org/covid19/>

Spokane Regional Health District—<https://srhd.org/covid19>

Spokane County—<https://www.spokanecounty.org/4572/COVID-19>

State of Washington—<https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov/>

Center for Disease Control & Prevention—<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

From the Priest Associate

By the Rev. Arlen Farley

God is wherever you are and wherever you are not. At home, on a walk, anxiously watching the news, in a family quarrel that seems oddly more intense than usual, on the phone with loved ones who are even more isolated than you, in the vulnerable 2/3 world where this strange time is even more dangerous than it is here, and bearing with 30 million people, privileged enough to have a computer, trying to figure out how to video conference for the first time. Even without our in-person liturgies, Christ is everywhere there is Good Friday darkness and Easter Sunday light and everywhere in between.

The practice of faith we need at this time is trust and practice with that truth. For families, this time presents unique challenges and, perhaps, unique opportunities. For some of us there is even more work than usual, trying to balance a new way to do our job and a new way to parent at the same time! In the loss of routine our kids of all ages are holding big feelings, but we also have big feelings. Sometimes there doesn't seem to be enough room in the house for everyone's feelings. They are crashing into each other in everyday life and, of course, the collisions are more dramatic and maybe have a lot less air in them right now than usual. How do we practice Holy Week faith at this time?

The first family practice of faith I would offer in this time is this, *be exceedingly gentle with yourself and with your family and do your best to find God and grace in the mess of it all.* Perfection is a death trap. Comparison is even more dangerous. There will be no perfect routine or schedule that will deliver the no-drama day of work and accomplishment we

are all told is possible. When the perfect plan finally shows up, the perfect people still will not. All there will ever be is this particular moment with whatever particular people you happen to share a space with. Kids are amazingly resilient and they are also feeling the losses of this time and their routine. For older kids those losses include school events they were looking forward to, sometimes for their whole academic career - concerts, proms, gatherings, and even the fear of missing their own graduation. Parents are grieving all this, too.

Letting go of the idol of perfection for ourselves and our family enables us to think about what the ACTUAL opportunities might be in this time. Not the high-pressure goals, but the opportunities of presence with God and with each other that will undoubtedly surprise us along the way, but more likely be the result of appreciating the moment we are each standing in. I offer the following resources to you in the spirit of being attentive to the actual opportunities of this time and NOT to put any additional pressure on you at a time when you may be carrying a thousand new worries related to everything from finances to you and your loved one's health.

Spiritual Practice number two is what our diocese is calling, "*Worship at home.*" As strange as it sounds, and contrary to what many people say, Christian faith de-centers the family. In baptism, we are brought into a new and larger family which worships the living God instead of keeping up with the Jones' or whatever other story is directing our families values. The family exists to serve God's dream of shalom in creation. Our kids, though, first borrow, and then learn, and then explore the life

of faith through experience in family. All to say that "worship at home" is nothing new in Christian faith, but the diocese has put together some particular resources for us in this time. Check out the diocese of Spokane website (<https://www.spokanediocese.org/Worship/worshipathome.html>) to see some wonderful resources designed for your family's faith formation. Whether it is a prayer service together on Sunday morning with some questions written for reflection on the gospel or special Holy Week services for families at home, the diocese is trying to support our worship at home.

Spiritual Practice number three are *programs specifically designed for the youth and children.* Each week our Senior High Youth are continuing to gather via zoom. This is a great touch-point for youth with their peers of faith and our youth leaders. Each week I've heard high school students talking about how good it is to "see" one another in this time when they are missing their routine. Also each week Brendan Biele and I are creating a "Children's Chapel" video, posted on the Cathedral Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsCathedralSpokane/>). It's 16 minutes or less of sacred time. Brendan begins and ends with our Sunday School music and I share a short meditation on the gospel in the same way Heather or I would during the worship service. I'm really interested in how this particular resource serves your kids at this time. Let me know at arlenf@stjohns-cathedral.org.

Please know that I am still available pastorally via ZOOM, email, phone, etc. I'm praying for you and your family (and my family) for lots of extra grace, patience, and especially for the grace to know that God is with you wherever you are and wherever you aren't in this time.

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*Our Mission: To be a Christian community that invites people into a life where
through liturgy, outreach, hospitality and education
we all discover what it means to be beloved children of God*

In the Morning

From the *Book of Common Prayer*, adapted by the Rev. Barbara Novak

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to physically minister to others, help me do it generously while helping me to stay safe and well. If I am to run errands for others, help me do it safely and joyfully. If I am to work from home, help me do it diligently and gratefully. If I am only strong enough to stand, help me to stand bravely. If I can only sit still, help me to sit quietly and prayerfully. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.