

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 39, Issue 4

April 2022



## HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS

**Holy Monday: Ephesians 3:16-19:** If you have lost someone you love, you can identify with these words: *Some days I was angry. Some days, sad. Some days I couldn't get out of bed and the other days, I just tried to keep my head above water. But there was one constant, prayer: Dear Lord, keep walking beside me. Don't let me go or leave my side.* My prayer was answered. Ephesians is a reminder that there is no limit, no barrier, no sickness, no distance that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, our friend and prayer partner. May we, this Holy Week, lean on Jesus, even as he walks his last days. We pray: *Lord, we know that there is nothing we can bring that you can't overcome. As we walk with you into this Holy Week, give us the confidence and peace to journey with you. Amen*

**Holy Tuesday: John 6: 53-59:** One of the hardest adjustments for people of faith during the pandemic was separation one from another in worship. I pray this has brought home to us the joy of community and our need for each other. It is through the worshiping community we can encounter Jesus—through God's Word, prayer, music, the sharing of our faith stories and more. Today, I invite you into a "spiritual community" in which you remember all who in the past, present, and into the future will show the way of Christ's love. We pray: *Lord Jesus, you are the Bread of Life, and we, the church, your body. May we hunger for your Word, your presence, and the peace you alone can give. May we be inspired to live as your disciples in this world. Amen*

**Holy Wednesday: Isaiah 43:2 and 2 Timothy 1:7:** Holy Wednesday is the day before everything went awry. The day seemed normal; the disciples were following Jesus around Jerusalem as they had done before. But then, Jesus told the disciples he would die; it was part of God's plan. They didn't understand. On this day, may we give thanksgiving that God works amid suffering and pain and God has the last words...eternal life. We pray: *Holy God, you are not bound by time and space, not stuck in the present. You see all—past, present, and future. May we, who are bound by time and space, turn always to you for truth, vision, and peace. Amen*

**Maundy Thursday: Luke 22:7-30:** Coming to the Communion Table reminds us of the love and compassion of God through Christ. There we are invited into fellowship with our Lord and one another. There we eat, drink and our souls are filled. On this day, Christ gave a new commandment, even as he washed the feet of the disciples: Love as I have loved you. We

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## HOUSE & PROPERTY REPORT

### Work accomplished in February and March:

- ◆ Replace rotten wood with Hardy board. Paint and caulk the entire playground exit (exterior). Replaced door. Paid invoice \$2,245.89, Contractor – Cousins Remodeling . (Similar work was done to the entrance to the sanctuary).
- ◆ Put two shelves in the Choir room closet – Donated
- ◆ Put door stop in classroom 17 (Fred's old classroom)
- ◆ Replaced AC/Heating Unit #5 – C&S Services – invoice paid \$6,800
- ◆ Put root killer in sanctuary drain.
- ◆ Replaced air filters
- ◆ Replaced missing Allen screw in kitchen sink faucet
- ◆ Cleaned leaves and trash from the A/C unit protective cages
- ◆ Replaced screws in Handicap bathroom door
- ◆ DFW Security installed Booster for panic switches
- ◆ Annual Fire Extinguisher inspection completed
- ◆ Replaced water sensor in nursery bathroom

### April plans: Workday scheduled for April 9th 8:00 am to Noon.

- ◆ Clean out plant beds and put down mulch and plant spring flowers
- ◆ Caulk and paint around pulpit exit door
- ◆ Paint sconce lights at pulpit exit door
- ◆ Clean out and organize Maintenance Room closet.
- ◆ Sand and treat benches in courtyard

### Future plans

- ◆ Overhead Ceiling light conversion to LED system Includes 148 bulbs, 70 fixtures - Estimate \$4,568.88 - Heldreth Electric
- ◆ Replace west facing sanctuary window – Estimate \$5,500 Pella Windows

**You can help!** Come and be a part of Work Day, 8am to Noon, Saturday, April 9th.

**Weekly Stewardship:** Pick up trash that you see in and around the building. Turn off lights if you know you are the last to leave a room. Let the House and Property Committee know if you see something that doesn't look right or is not working properly. Let's all share in the stewardship of God's house.

Blessings,

Blair Garrett, Chairman

House and Property Committee:

Bruce Turner and Jo Byrd, Members



Help Us Maintain the  
Church Grounds



## Mother's Day/ Father's Day Offering

The Stewardship Committee has designated the following two programs as recipients of our "extra-giving" on Mother's Day (May 8) and Father's Day (June 19). We will give half of the money collected to each of the following two local programs:



- ♦ **Meals on Wheels:** This program is an essential part of the Visiting Nurse Association of Texas. The VNA Meals on Wheels program came together with the help of their donors and friends to continue serving their homebound seniors on a daily basis with meals and even holiday gifts. The caring volunteers continue keeping our vulnerable seniors fed and even deliver comforting friendship during their meal deliveries. Meals on Wheels continues to add new clients from the waiting list to ensure more seniors are being helped daily.
- ♦ **Faith Presbyterian Hospice:** This hospice care center is located in Dallas and its palliative care is Medicare certified. Services provided at Faith Presbyterian Hospice includes home health aide, counseling, medical social services, medical supply services, nursing services, occupational therapy, physician services, physical therapy, short term inpatient care and speech pathology services. Faith Presbyterian Hospice also provides special care for people who are terminally ill. This involves a team-oriented approach that addresses the medical, physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient. Hospice also provides support to the patient's family or caregiver.

We trust that you will prayerfully give consideration to donating to these programs in the coming weeks.

Stewardship Committee



## Notes of THANKS

Once again, our generous congregation turned out to support the choir's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and helped us raise money – either through attendance or extra donations – for our Guest Musicians Fund. Because of you, we'll be able to continue to enjoy special music several times during the coming year. Tim, Sean, and Bruce served up almost 40 plates of pancakes, and Katie led us in a special trivia game where we learned that LOTS of our congregation has a good memory for old hymns as well as beautiful singing voices. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this a success!



## Guest Musicians





Churches throughout the world, and here at Eastminster, will celebrate Easter this month, following a church calendar that Christians have used for centuries. Many will also celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday along with us. And some churches along with our congregation will continue to celebrate Easter during Eastertide. Jesus gave himself for our salvation. How can we not attend these services and speak the liturgy and sing the hymns? How can the choir not spend hours in rehearsal to offer their best to God in thanksgiving and remembrance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection? I can assure you they are working very hard to do their best for their offerings to God and to aid you in your participation in our celebration and response to the glorious, good news in our worship.

From the 'hosannas' and Palm processional on Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday when we remember Jesus and the last supper that became for all believers the remembrance of Jesus' life and death and resurrection through what we now call Communion (or the Lord's Supper). Then to Good Friday where we remember Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal, the trial, the crucifixion, and the burial. Finally, Easter, where we celebrate the resurrection of Christ with the joyful sounds of the brass, the organ, timpani, the choir, and you, all joining together in singing the Easter hymns. I am always moved at the end of Easter Communion when we return the Alleluias to our services with the singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah* and how many in the congregation join in singing along with the instruments and choir.

How could you not keep from singing and making joyful noises when you reflect on God's love for us as shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ!

Thank you, God!

P.S. we have some interesting music to help continue in Eastertide such as never heard before in our services when Melody Davis and Margaret Gumma playing piano and organ together with the choir and the Voluntary and Offering on April 24 don't miss this exciting sound in worship.

### ***WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PROCESSIONS AND RECESSIONS: WHY AND CURRENTLY WHY NOT ALL THE TIME***

Since Eastminster was formed and even before we had our Sanctuary, we have been processing and recessing in modified versions. After we moved into the Sanctuary, we went to our version of processing and recessing.

Why do we do this? There are community parades, graduation processions, wedding processions all signifying some form of celebration, and new status in one's life. Of course, some churches and traditions don't process but it is an ancient and important Christian practice. The people of God (Israel) marched in procession up to the temple, chanting Psalms as they went.

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*Processional/Recessional, Continued from Page 4*

Processing behind the cross is an ancient Christian practice. In the 3rd or 4th Century, Egeria, a nun, traveled to Jerusalem keeping a journal of her experiences. Her primary interest was what the Christians there were doing in worship and how that compared to her home church practices. She describes a procession of all the people, behind the cross, and the Gospel book gathering outside the church and then processing into the sanctuary singing hymns.

The idea of the procession is simple. From our daily lives and all that goes on with them, we are gathering for worship. We are



approaching God, through Christ. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the light and presence in our sanctuary of Jesus. The empty Cross is our celebration of the resurrection. Not everyone processes these days, so the choir represents all the members of the congregation coming to worship.

Paul in 2nd Corinthians wrote about this idea that the Procession/Recession is a victory march. "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere..." We march into the church in victory, victory over sin and death through Christ, and we march out in victory to share the Gospel by living our lives in Christ so others may see Christ through us.

Basically, the procession idea is simple. We are gathering for worship from outside, from our daily lives and community into



*Processional/Recessional, Continued on Page 6*

## *Life and light*



Easter is the assurance that no matter how hopeless and dark things appear, God is alive and actively working. Our heavenly Father births life out of death, transforms brokenness into wholeness and shines light into darkness.

In the words of the poet Christian Wiman (from *Every Riven Thing*):

When the time's toxins  
have seeped into every cell ...  
somehow a seed of belief sprouts ...  
tugged upward by light ...

## *Gratitude, all year long*

It's not Thanksgiving time. But what if we made a point to practice gratitude all year long?

In her book *Grateful*, theologian Diana Butler Bass writes: "As human beings, we possess an intuitive awareness that we depend on others to survive. We are safer and happier when we care for each other in community, when we do things for each other. .

How we live together in and with gratitude makes all the difference in the world. Indeed, living gratefully makes the world different."

*Processional/Recessional, Continued from Page 5*

God's sanctuary where we approach God through Christ therefore the cross goes before us. When we recess we are going back out into the world with the cross leading the way.



There are other processions we do at Eastminster such as the Palm Processional on Palm Sunday and others such as communion, and memorial services.

The pageantry is not simply pageantry for the sake of pageantry. There is nothing wrong with pageantry where the acolytes, Minister, Liturgist, and choir wear their robes of office in the procession and recession unless it is empty and done for its own sake. Processions and recessions are pageantry for a reason, we are celebrating what God through Christ has done for us.

Ok, so why are we not doing them all the time? We have just been through 2 years of having no in person worship and worship in person off and on. Many of our congregation are still choosing to worship with us on YouTube. So, our numbers for persons to fill the various parts of the procession and recession are few, though they are willing. When most of the choir process and recesses, the support they are able to give to Congregational singing is minimal. The Worship Committee has decided that we will process and recess on Communion Sundays and High Holy Days such as Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, etc. and continue every Sunday the lighting of the candles through June of this Year. It has been our tradition not to process in July and August, returning to processing and recessing on Rally Day. During the summer the worship

committee along with the Pastor will assess what we will do for the fall.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me at church or by email:

[fred.eastminster@yahoo.com](mailto:fred.eastminster@yahoo.com).

FYI anyone can be an Acolyte! Adult, Child, male, female, young and old. If you would like to help in enhancing our worship. Please contact Evelyn Parker or me.

God be with us,  
Fred Watkins





### *Why Friday is good*

To participate in the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ is to live already in his kingdom. This is the essence of the Christian message, the heart of the Good News, and it is why the cross has become the chief Christian symbol.

A cross of all things — a guillotine, a gallows — but the cross at the same time as the crossroads of eternity and time, as the place where such a mighty heart was broken that the healing power of God himself could flow through it into a sick and broken world. It was for this reason that of all the possible words they could have used to describe the day of his death, the word they settled on was “good.” Good Friday.

—Frederick Buechner

### *A love-filled victory*

It’s tough to read about Jesus’ agony on the cross, where he felt “forsaken” by God (see Matthew 27:46). But as Philip Yancey explains in *Where Is God When It Hurts?* the Father didn’t desert Jesus — and doesn’t desert us:

“God was not ‘up there’ watching the tragic events conspire ‘down here.’ God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,” he writes. “If Jesus was a mere man, his death would prove God’s cruelty; the fact that he was God’s Son proves instead that God fully identifies with suffering humanity. On the cross, God himself absorbed the awful pain of this world.

“To some, the image of a pale body glimmering on a dark night whispers of

defeat,” Yancey continues. “But another sound can be heard: the shout of a God crying out to human beings, ‘I LOVE YOU.’ Love was compressed for all history in that lonely figure on the cross, who said that he could call down angels at any moment on a rescue mission, but chose not to — because of us.”

He concludes: “Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God’s scheme ultimately leads back to the cross.”

### *The majesty of God’s creation*

Earth Day offers a reminder to be wise stewards of God’s creation. Former U.S. Senate chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie wrote about how the universe reveals the greatness of its Maker. “If we were to drive a car day and night at top speed without stopping,” he writes, “it would take us nine years to reach the moon, 300 years to reach the sun, 8,300 years to reach the planet Neptune, 75 million years to reach Alpha Centauri, and 700 million years to reach the Pole Star.

“This is the reason the Psalmist, even with his limited cosmology, could say, ‘When I consider the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty!’ (Psalm 8:3-5).” Astonishing indeed!



As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds praised him loudly. When Pharisees told him to silence the people, what did Jesus say would shout if his followers didn't?

- A. Stones
- B. Palm branches
- C. Trees
- D. Hillsides

Answer: A (See Luke 19:40.)

- ♦ "Is it okay to lie if I ask for forgiveness in advance?"
- ♦ (during the offertory) "Pastor, do you have change for a twenty?"
- ♦ (during an ordination council) "What's your view on Christian missions in space?"
- ♦ "My husband's ashes are in two different places. Will Jesus be able to find him?"
- ♦ "Pastor, will you pray for my son? He's wild and out of control."  
Pastor: "Sure, what's his name?"  
"Maverick."

**REVEREND FUN** ©GCI, INC.



ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

## Scripture Readings for April

1	1 Cor. 12:27–13:3	11	2 Cor. 1:1–7	22	1 Cor. 15:51–58
2	1 Cor. 13:1–13	12	2 Cor. 1:8–22	23	2 Cor. 4:16–5:10
3	Rom. 12:1–21	13	2 Cor. 1:23–2:11	24	1 John 1:1–7
4	1 Cor. 14:1–19	14	1 Cor. 10:14–17; 11:27–32	25	1 Pet. 1:1–12
5	1 Cor. 14:20–33a, 39–40	15	1 Pet. 1:10–20	26	1 Pet. 1:13–25
6	2 Cor. 2:14–3:6	16	Heb. 4:1–16	27	1 Pet. 2:1–10
7	2 Cor. 3:7–18	17	John 1:1–18	28	1 Pet. 2:11–3:12
8	2 Cor. 4:1–12	18	Mark 16:1–8	29	1 Pet. 3:13–4:6
9	2 Cor. 4:13–18	19	1 Cor. 15:12–28	30	1 Pet. 4:7–19
10	1 Tim. 6:12–16	20	1 Cor. 15:(29) 30–41		
		21	1 Cor. 15:41–50		



*Continued from Page 1*

pray: *Lord, thank you for the gift of Communion and a sacred space for remembering you. May the meal you prepare for us give us strength and hope for the journey ahead. Amen*

**Good Friday: Psalm 22:** Jesus's last words of pain and sorrow hang heavy on our minds. Psalm 22 hinges on the words, yet and but, words of remembering and hope amid great suffering. Knowing the Passion story doesn't end with Jesus on the cross, we live in this time of grief, waiting for the promised hope of resurrection Sunday. We pray: *Gracious God, created in your image, you love us so much that you sent your Son to die for us. Help us to know and feel your presence in moments of despair and strengthen us to be a source of hopes and light for all in need of your hope. Amen*

**Holy Saturday: Psalm 46:10 and Matthew 27:57-66:** Holy Saturday is a day of great silence. The disciples were hiding, unsure what the next day would bring. It looked like the movement was finished, as was Jesus, they most likely thought. Had they been led astray and given false hope? Holy Saturday is a day to reflect on what is true and what is false; time to be honest about our fears and failures. It is also a day of expectation and hope for what is to come. Knowing that tomorrow is coming means that today is a day of patience and waiting. I invite you to quiet yourselves in peaceful expectations of what is to come. Before the Alleluias of tomorrow, may we be present in the stillness of today. We pray: *Holy and gracious God, we wait with hope. We trust in your power to do all things and entrust our lives to you. May we find rest in your promise of new tomorrows. Amen*

Together, we wait,  
Pastor Sherry

“Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, but that we might cling to him, that we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Lent is spring training. Easter is opening day!”

—seen on a church sign

“We are each a God-carrier and a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit.”

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu

“An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves.”

—Lydia M. Child





## *Pleasant Grove Food Pantry January and February 2022*

	Families	Adults	Seniors	Children	Persons	Pounds
3-Jan	10	21	9	12	52	422
4-Jan	128	410	120	720	1,378	6,586
10-Jan	24	54	10	36	124	1,253
11-Jan	137	340	81	255	813	11,613
17-Jan	24	53	14	33	124	1,495
18-Jan	148	382	90	290	910	5,803
24-Jan	32	78	13	50	173	1,495
25-Jan	144	337	89	298	868	7,176
31-Jan	29	80	14	57	180	1,318
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>4,622</b>	<b>37,161</b>
2-Feb	178	423	116	345	1,062	9,858
7-Feb	26	54	17	31	128	1,116
8-Feb	160	379	101	285	925	10,294
14-Feb	43	103	24	64	234	1,942
15-Feb	192	442	121	348	1,103	9,576
21-Feb	33	74	26	53	186	1,793
22-Feb	180	418	99	337	1,034	10,050
28-Feb	52	110	26	85	273	2,828
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>4,945</b>	<b>47,457</b>



*Sunday, April 10—Palm Sunday, 10:55 a.m. worship*

*Thursday, April 14—Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m. worship*

*Friday, April 15—Good Friday, 6:30 p.m. worship*

*Sunday, April 17—Easter, 10:55 a.m. Worship*

*YouTube link for all services:*

*[youtube.com/channel/UCS-pXDNDmtxcuPFpf400Qrw/live](https://youtube.com/channel/UCS-pXDNDmtxcuPFpf400Qrw/live)*



Kelsey Whitlow 4-1  
 Frank Karlen, Sr. 4-4  
 Cary Blair 4-5  
 Craig Blair 4-5  
 Brittney Bennett 4-6  
 Deidre Maples 4-12  
 Charles Blair, Jr. 4-13  
 Danny Wood 4-15  
 Talat Robert 4-18  
 Trey Karlen 4-23



Beverly and Roy Ridley 4/22



Betty Crabtree  
 Kayla Dixon  
 Blair Garrett  
 Kathy Kreger  
 Jim Lee  
 Tom Pappas  
 Vicki Thiebaud  
 Charlotte Turner  
 Sean Turner  
 Fred Watkins



Pastor	Sherry Holloman
CYMT	Audrey Webb
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Chandra Anderson
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree



## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

March 20, 2021

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Michele Pappas.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer regarding financial losses for February. The Treasurer stressed the need for diligent monitoring of market funds and noted that world market instability at this time is inevitable.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that the “Guest Musicians” fund has grown considerably from the Shrove Tuesday fundraiser.
- ◆ Approved a motion from the Stewardship Committee to transfer a portion of monies from the Naomi Davis Memorial Fund to the “Guest Musicians” fund, per a request from the family.
- ◆ Approved a motion from the Worship Committee that the Procession and Recession involving Acolytes, Cross Bearer, and choir be done on Communion and High Holy Day Sundays until June 30, 2022.
- ◆ Approved a motion from the House and Property Committee to proceed with upgrades to the facility’s wi-fi capabilities. Monies for this upgrade will be available from the Jeri Louise Turner Memorial fund.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Congregational Care Committee regarding new flock lists, callers, and procedures to ensure increased communication with all members.
- ◆ Heard a report from the House and Property Committee that the next church work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2022.

CHRIST  
IS RISEN  
INDEED

*Alleluia*

### Special dates

- ◆ Holy Week, April 10-17
- ◆ Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10
- ◆ Maundy Thursday, April 14
- ◆ Good Friday, April 15
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 17
- ◆ Administrative Professionals Day, April 27

