

April
2020

The Bell Ringer



Old Donation Episcopal Church

*Old Donation Episcopal Church is a family: Welcoming All † Growing in God's love †
Joyfully worshipping Jesus Christ † Serving in the power of the Spirit*

Holy Week while “Staying at Home”

This year’s Holy Week and Easter might be the closest we’ve ever come to experiencing what it was like to be a Jesus follower in the first week of his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. Though they entered Jerusalem to great fanfare on Palm Sunday, the week quickly turned dark.

Within a day there was conflict in the Temple and nights were spent escaping to Bethany or prayer sessions in the Garden of Gethsemene. After the arrest, which we remember on Maundy Thursday, the disciples were in hiding for the most part. Like Peter, they tried to stay undetected on the fringe of what was happening to their leader. At the cross only a few women (and maybe John) stood with Jesus.

No one was there to witness the actual Resurrection because the disciples took “Stay at Home” in the Upper Room as essential to their safety. Mary Magdalene and others tried to tell the disciples the shocking news, “Jesus is risen, just as he said!” Locked away and isolated, it was hard to believe. So, Jesus made personal appearances, letting them touch and see, eating meals with them to help them understand it was not an illusion, or dream, or a ghost. Those who believed because evangelists (or tellers of the good news) and passed it on to those who did not have the opportunity to see themselves. Peter explains, ‘We didn’t make this up. These things that we tell you about are things we saw with our own eyes.’ But that was only after the events unfolded while Peter and those closest to Jesus had come out from hiding. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,” said Isaiah (9:2 which we usually hear in Christmas). But it applies to the first disciples. And Isaiah speaks to us when we immerse ourselves in the darkness of Holy Week and the great light of the Resurrection.

It will be different walking Holy Week and celebrating the great joy of Easter in our homes this year. The Governor’s Executive Order permits some of us to “travel to places of worship” but not to gather as a community. While honoring physical distancing, we will have a few essential leaders and musicians on site as we have done since we began online worship. But we will also have a number of members “phoning it in” as we incorporate other voices and faces so that our community all contribute.

I invite you to continue to be comfortable as you participate with us from your home, but as much as possible, also use symbols that set the time and space apart for sacred worship. Lighting a candle, quieting the household, and making a physical prayer list for your own family, friends, and concerns are all helpful. Some actually have a “home altar” or prayer corner with an icon or cross help center your focus or remind you of this holy time of year.

Especially on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, try to be ready to participate with the whole community of us at 10:30am or at least during those days. There is power in the prayers of a community separated, though united. The knowledge that all of Old Donation Church are together on the most important days of the Church year is strengthening to our spiritual lives.

Following is what we will be doing in these 8 days from Palm Sunday through Easter Day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob".

A Pilgrim's Guide to Holy Week

Holy Week lies at the heart of the Church year and at the very center of our life in Christ. Who we are - what we are as Christians, is inseparably bound up in the events these special days recount. While all times and seasons are filled with the grace of God, the anniversary of our redemption draws us into singular awareness of that grace. In it we are brought up short by the length and breadth of the Father's love.

From earliest times, the church has kept a yearly remembrance of the Lord's passion and resurrection. The commemoration was more than a nostalgic revisit to a dusty past, however glorious and meaningful that might be. It was, rather, a re-living of salvation-filled occurrences.

Christianity is not simply a doctrine or way of life. It is also an event: something that happened and continues to happen. The salvation-bearing events of these blessed days that once happened to Christ now happen to us.

The rites of Holy Week are a liturgical representation of what it means to be 'in Christ.' In this spirit, then, we enter the meaning of these days of 'countdown' to Easter. We make our way not as tourists viewing an attraction, but as pilgrims passing way-markers en route to the 'abiding city' -the Heavenly Jerusalem.

Passion Sunday 10:30am

We will begin with the Liturgy of the Palms, including singing "All glory, laud and honor." Our service will include prayers and a reflection, ending with a dynamic community reading of the Passion Gospel. After the Gospel the service ends on a somber note leading us into a Holy Week focus on the Cross.

(Attach your palm branches to your home's front door after the service.)



Monday-Wednesday at Noon

We continue our pattern of daily prayers and reflection at Noon. Each of these days will focus on one of the "Seven Last Words" of Jesus from the cross. Our homilists will be Fred Poteet and Kipper DeGavre.

Maundy Thursday 6:30pm and 8:00pm

This day typically has dueling focus. The washing of feet and establishing the foundation for Holy Eucharist occurred in the Upper Room on that night before Jesus' arrest. For our home centered liturgies, we will use an "Agape meal" with teaching as the center, beginning at 6:30. After supper, we will regather for the "stripping of the altar" with prayers and hymns at 8:00PM



Good Friday 12:00 Noon

The Good Friday "Solemn Collects" with the reading of John's Gospel passion and reflection constitute our day. We will provide links to online versions of the Stations of the Cross since we will not be making our way around the church or Town Center together.



Easter Vigil

The "New Fire" signifying the Resurrection will be lit in our graveyard and brought into the dark church. As candles inside are lit from the Paschal Candle, we will chant "The Light of Christ." Our deacon, Genevieve, will sing the ancient Exultet "This IS the night" telling the story of darkness dispelled by Christ's victory over death and the grave. Three readings of Salvation History (escape from slavery in Egypt, the Valley of the Dry Bones, and Paul's proclamation of the Resurrection) will prepare us for the joy that is to come in the morning. Kipper DeGavre will reflect on the meaning of dark and light. As is always the case, this is one of the most dramatic and visually inspiring of our services all year.

Easter Sunday 10:30am

JOY! Flowers again! Joyful hymns! Celebration! For Christ is risen! The cross outside will be flowered so you can stop by for your annual family pictures!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

New Building Construction Project

The 24th March was a day of significant milestones for the New Building project. By midday, Scott Crumley had obtained our building permit, giving us clearance to finalize our construction schedule, whilst earlier that morning the tree service contractor took control of his work area. I'm going to address both milestones in this report and look at the way ahead.

The story of the Building Permit. To me permits seem to be like London busses, you wait and wait and wait for one then three arrive together. Our permits didn't exactly all arrive on the same day but, for the time we have been working through this process quibbling over 10 days would seem a mite pedantic. Three permits, two for the site work obtained on 13 March, and one for the building construction on 24 March. To the layman's eye the permits look disappointingly utilitarian and definitely not "framing in shadow boxes" material. However they, along with the myriad of deeds, agreements, licenses and bank arrangements, represent the culmination of 5 years of effort by parishioners too numerous to mention that has taken us from a sparkle in Father Bob's eye through such milestones as defining our requirements, architectural design, and historical review to name but a few to this major accomplishment.

The story of the trees: There can be no more telling confirmation that construction had begun than the felling of the white oaks, sycamores, pines and cedars that once adorned the property along Witchduck Road and gave us shelter in front of Alfriend House. Anyone passing by can't fail to be moved by what once was and now is gone. On the preceding Sunday I stood by the Bell Tower and contemplated what was to happen in the next few days made worse by the realization that COVID-19 would make sure most parishioners would never see the campus as they remembered it again.

What happens next? Well for one thing, bad as the place looks now, it is about to look a whole lot worse as the earth, quite literally, will begin to move. This is called "site work" and it basically covers everything that must be dug, moved, laid or buried as the precursors to building construction. As I write, the big yellow machines will be arriving on site to do their work later in the week of 29 March and there will be a great deal of upheaval, dust, mud and large piles of earth.

This all sounds very destructive but nevertheless it's on the path towards the new and beautiful Great Hall – our new sanctuary with its palladium windows lighting our worship and its acoustics giving resonance to our songs and praises to the Lord.

Sitting between the Great and Tucker Halls there will be a Narthex (shaped slightly like a slice of pizza), ODEC's welcoming space, and where the Historical Traditions Commission will, at last, be able to display our rich and long history. From the Narthex, visitors will be able to step into the familiar "Angel on Duty" office or move through a new connecting door into Tucker Hall, or pass into the body of the old building.

At the back, between Alfriend House and the present main building, there will be a new, single story wing that will provide space for classes, meetings and offices for the ODEC accounting staff.

Some other highlights: the overall design is intended to complement the Old Church, the building façade facing the Old Church will be replaced, the leaking flat roof will be a thing of the past, it will be possible to stream live audio/videos from the Great Hall and the Old Church to the cloud, and a new external lighting package will light our way after dark without causing light pollution or blinding the neighbors.

It is an exciting future for ODEC but before I end, I want to return to those trees. When the buildings are finished and the dust has settled, we will execute a yet to be defined landscaping plan, but it is already accepted that part of the plan will be to plant new trees to replace those that fell this week.

Please watch out for and act on Gretchen Hood's weekly "Impact" emails, and most importantly stay well clear of the construction areas.

In these troubled times I'd like to end with a prayer. May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm on your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. (With thanks to Anna for teaching me this prayer).

Stay safe, stay healthy.

~ David Beach
Building Project Manager

Birthdays

1	John Fenter	15	JoAnne Rhudy
2	Kaiya Kreassig		Angela Lindsey
	Carol Shrader		Jean Hudson
	Maura Eaton		Dan Hartwell
	Molly Sayles	16	Paul Castellano
3	Lily Check		Joe Hughes
4	Gayle Howell		Joy Chater
	Brian Hunt	17	Diane Adams
5	Christian Keller	19	Gregory Davis
	Sten Hessmer		Tim Rodriguez
6	Diane Miller	23	Matthew Imrota
	Jim Ring		Ben Urquidi
	Melissa Miller		Riley Jackson
	Jeniann Leister	24	Leslie Brunick
7	Bill Dawson		Dona Jones
	Jenna Barrio		Christine Philput
8	Anyah Chavious	25	Rita Lustig
	Doris Crouch		Jenifer Kamperschroer
	Melody Wheaton	26	Warren Flautt, Sr.
10	Holly Swanson		Olivia Hanawalt
11	Kate Weintraub		Tracy Trickett
	Scott Somers		Mark Hoover
12	Connelly Weems		Noah McCarty
	Emma Check	27	Robert Williamson
13	Dan Bowen	28	Denise Wilkinson
	Amy Young		Sophie Parker
	April Rhea	29	Amanda Huntley
	Nick Ferrandino		Isabelle Myers
14	David Waltrip	30	Carol Anthony

Anniversaries

1	Pam & Joe Tucker
7	Summer Johnson & Sonny Back
9	Kathy & Sten Hessmer
11	Sandra & Dick Hanna
14	Jackie & Vernon Murray
18	Joanne & Sid Kilgore
20	Angeline & Edward Groce
	Karen & George Londeree
21	Cara & Ron Hall
22	Cathie & Rob Brown
25	Lynn & Stuart Farlin
26	Allison & Fred Myers
	Janet & Zach Neumann
30	Ken & Jane Kiefer
	Martha Wilson & Bruce Woodhouse

Old Donation Episcopal Church

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church
The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Bishop
The Rev. Robert J. Randall, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Ashley E. Urquidi, Associate Rector
The Rev. Fred Poteet, Priest Associate

Mailing Address:

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Old Donation Episcopal Day School

Tricia Crawford & Jody Baker, Day School Directors
Phone: 757-499-2283 Fax: 757-497-9291
Ages 2, 3, 4 and Kindergarten
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 12:20 pm
Early Drop Off & After School until 2:20 pm
odeds@olddonation.org

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday

10:30am
Morning Prayer on Facebook Live

Weekdays, Monday - Friday

12:00pm
Noonday Prayers

Rise in Glory



Don Case
Max Burroughs

2020 Vestry

Paige Martin, Senior Warden
Rebecca Barrio, Christian Formation
Mitch Bean, Outreach
Brad Croteau, Buildings & Grounds
Brennon Pope, Good News
Chaille Lindo, Historic Traditions
Tony Putzic, Parish Life & People's Warden
Joe Tucker, Day School
David Beach, Building Planning
Sonni Matthews, Congregational Care
Holly Waide, Stewardship
Will Walker, Finance
Ricky Barrio, Youth Representative

We welcome a New Baby!



Arthur Delpha
Nelson

We have a new mailing address! Please
take note, and use this address for any
correspondence, including checks.

Old Donation Episcopal Church
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