



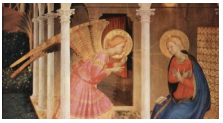





CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sundays: 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite II Masks optional</p>		<p>Eucharistic Lectionary Year A Office Lectionary Year 1</p>	<p>1 Ember Day Curtis Fitzhugh, Jr. Birthday</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Program and soup/salad supper</p>	<p>2 Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>3 Ember Day Margaret Hill, Stephanie Hall Birthdays</p>	<p>4 Ember Day</p>
<p>5 2 Lent</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7 Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Program and soup/salad supper</p>	<p>9 Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>10 Jordan Silberman Birthday</p>	<p>11 A.G. Shiflett, Morgan Boisvert Birthdays</p> 
<p>12 3 Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>15 Gale Martin Birthday</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Program and soup/salad supper</p>	<p>16 Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>17 Patrick of Ireland, Bishop and Missionary</p> 	<p>18 Penn Bowers, Bryant Chiles Birthdays</p>
<p>19 4 Lent</p> <p>Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>20 Saint Joseph</p>  <p>Spring begins</p>	<p>21 Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Program and soup/salad supper</p>	<p>23 Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 The Annunciation</p>  <p>Anne Stuart Parrish Birthday</p>
<p>26 5 Lent Tom May Birthday</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28 Mary Jane Shackelford Birthday Bill & Ruth Small Anniversary Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>29 Annie Carpenter, Dorsey Comer, Nannette Crowdus Birthdays</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Program and soup/salad supper</p>	<p>30 Lindsey Ann Hall Birthday Church Office is open 9 am to 1 pm</p>	<p>31 Betsy Fitzhugh Birthday</p>	

March 2023 Service Schedule

Altar Guild: Dorsey Comer, Margaret Hill
Counters: Susette Goodwin, Carolyn Smith

March 5 The Second Sunday in Lent

LEM/Lector 1: Penn Bowers
Lector 2: Pauline Vismer
Usher: Millie Travis
Coffee Host: Carolyn Smith & Michael Silberman

March 12 The Third Sunday in Lent

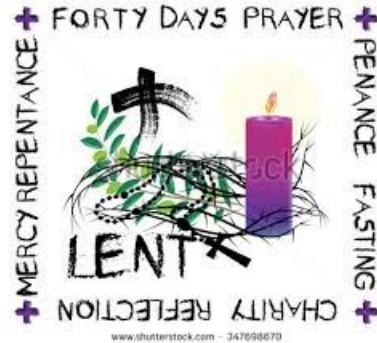
LEM/Lector 1: Pauline Vismer
Lector 2: Penn Bowers
Usher: Kevin Cordray
Coffee Host: Betty Loving

March 19 The Fourth Sunday in Lent

LEM/Lector 1: Bill Carr
Lector 2: Lorrie Pollard
Usher: Carolyn Smith
Coffee Host: Mary Jane Shackelford

March 26 The Fifth Sunday in Lent

LEM/Lector 1: Penn Bowers
Lector 2: Millie Travis
Usher: Michael Silberman
Coffee Host: Margaret Hill



We're in Lent, and we started this season as we always do with Ash Wednesday, when we are reminded to contemplate the reality that we are dust and to dust we'll return. Part of the Christian message in Lent and experience is that God comes to us in ways that defy our expectations. The all-powerful empties himself of power to become a child. Jesus as king does not conquer his enemies through violence, he converts them to his cause by meeting violence with sacrificial love of Easter.

In a times of uncertainty, when it might feel like everything is coming apart, we lean on our community and religious rituals to give us purpose and hope...but it is also time to be like the woman at Jacobs well and be ready to comfort others so that we can better see and experience Jesus.

This lent let the women at the Jacob's well help you. A lesson of the women at the well intends to ask us if we are willing to reveal our own brokenness to others and to him. By doing so we lift each other up in our own needs. In uncertain or troubling times there are always present opportunity for us to find those unexpected moments of giving and receiving comfort. Doing God's will nourishes us, It refreshes us. It brings us together in community for prayer and fellowship, and it pushes us out into the world and among those in need of comfort and care. That is why the Lord tells the disciples - The fields are ripe for harvesting.

We only need to open ourselves to the many encounters with the Holy Spirit of God doing a new thing and guiding us to new opportunities not just in the season of Lent but permanently beyond.

*Blessings,
The Rev. John E. Hogg*



The Messenger

March 2023

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The Woman at the Well

One of my favorite gospel lessons is that of the Samaritan woman at Jacobs well (John 4:4-42) The Samaritan woman is an isolated outcast – She is, perhaps, the most broken woman in the whole Gospel story. The very fact that she comes at noon to draw water, rather than in the early morning when the other women of the village would be there, suggests that at the very least she is ashamed of her condition in life. She is likely the subject of scorn and derision and has decided to do a little social distancing of her own to avoid the disease of harsh judgments from others.



People in her village look down upon her because of her brokenness in marriage and in relationships. In her day, it was commonly believed that moral corruption and weakness was contagious. Meaning that even a chance interaction with an unclean person could infect you making you equally unclean.

So here she is trying to avoid being seen, and instead there is someone at the well. Not just someone, but a man - a Jewish man. In that time and place men and women were not to be seen in public together. And Jews and Samaritans had nothing to do with one another. Needless to say she is startled to see him there and she is even more startled that he speaks to her.

Because of her condition and standing in society, it is safe to assume that this woman has never before received respect. Yet Jesus, tired and thirsty, reaches out to her from his need, not hers. Through this act Jesus has given the women dignity and respect that there is something she can do for him. He has given her identity and purpose. Suddenly something new, something real, wells up inside of her. It is a new confidence, a new spirit. And from this new spirit her real thirst is revealed. It is a thirst that will not be quenched by the waters at the bottom of Jacob's well. She thirsts for real life, authentic life, and Jesus gives it to her without cost and without condition.

After some astonishingly frank and assertive conversation, her response is that of total commitment. And why not? She, who had no life and no purpose, but only heartache, pain, and shame, is suddenly given the gift of eternal life with Jesus who is revealed to her as God's own anointed one. She was not in a temple or place of public worship and yet she meets God in an equally and profound way that we can find at the altar. A lesson here is that we should never assume we set the place, the tone, or the time we can and do encounter the Holy Spirit. Instead of trying to control our encounters with the divine, we should all lift ourselves up and start looking for those encounters - and that is so fitting in this time of Lent.