

St. Andrew's United Church

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Clergy: Rev. Christine Johnson, BFA, M.Div (Hons)
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Worship: Sundays at 10:30am Facebook Live
Evening Prayer: Wednesdays 6pm Facebook Live

Dear Friends,

In this time of waiting and wondering, uncertainty and uneasiness - there is also a promise of new life and new hope, of re-creation and resurrection. As we move into Holy Week together in new ways, may you find God's promise and be God's blessing to one another. **Stay connected. Stay loving. Stay hopeful. Stay home.**

While I know this is not the Easter any of us expected, I also know that we can yet celebrate all the good that life still brings, even when things are not the way we wanted or planned. This year, as we celebrate even in the shadow of pandemic, know that no matter what is happening, where we find ourselves or how we feel - God is with us. Loving us. Always. Easter ensures that nothing and no one can change that. So, while life at the moment may not be what we wish it to be – let us greet Sunday morning and the mystery of an empty tomb with a 'Hallelujah anyhow'!

Wishing you and yours a healthy and Happy Easter!

~ Rev. Christine Johnson



Holy Week and Easter Livestreams

Daily Devotions: Monday-Friday, April 6-10, 12pm, Facebook Live

Join us for a short noontime liturgy. We will read the day's scripture and light candles to mark our progress through Holy Week. If you would like to follow along, a liturgy is attached to this letter and will also be posted daily in our 'Sunday Bulletins' Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SundayBulletins>

Maundy Thursday Worship - 7pm, Facebook Live

If you'd like to follow along, the liturgy for this service will be posted on Thursday by 6pm in our 'Sunday Bulletins' Facebook group.

Good Friday Worship - 2:30pm, Facebook Live

If you'd like to follow along, the liturgy for this service will be posted on Friday by 1pm in our 'Sunday Bulletins' Facebook group.

Easter Sunrise Worship - 6:44am, Facebook Live

Join us for Sunrise service. We will gather in prayer and celebrate the Good News as we watch the sun rise!

If you'd like to follow along, the liturgy for this service will be posted on Saturday by 7pm in our 'Sunday Bulletins' Facebook group.

Easter Worship with Communion - 10:30am, Facebook Live

Join us as we celebrate the Good News together with the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

If you'd like to follow along, the liturgy for this service will be posted on Sunday by 9am in our 'Sunday Bulletins' Facebook group.

What you will need: bread/a cracker and juice/wine

Children & Families

Faith, art, book recommendations, activities and ideas for St. Andrew's folks of all ages. It's totally FAB!

You can find Holy Week, Easter and links to other resources in our 'Children and Young Families' Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/standrewskids>

Sunday School Online Meet Up

I'm working to find a safe, accessible way we can get together online. Stay tuned!

Theology on Tap Tuesday, April 7, 7pm on Zoom

Link to the meeting will be posted Tuesday at 6pm in <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SundayBulletins>

Topic: So, This Is a Pandemic: What's God Got to Do with It? See the pinned post on our Facebook page for more info.

Book Study: Becoming Better Grownups

Starting Wednesday, April 15, 11am on Zoom

Link to the meeting will be posted April 15 at 10am in <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SundayBulletins>

About the book:

A New York Times-bestselling author looks for the meaning of a good life by seeking advice from the very young and the very old.

When his first book tour ended, Brad Montague missed hearing other people's stories so much that he launched what he dubbed a Listening Tour. First visiting elementary schools and later also nursing homes and retirement communities, he hoped to glean new wisdom as to how he might become a better grownup. Now, in this playful and buoyant book, he shares those insights with the rest of us --timeless, often surprising lessons that bypass the head we're always stuck in and go straight to the heart we sometimes forget.

Each of the book's three sections begins with the illustrated story of "The Incredible Floating Girl." Brad weaves this story together with lessons of success, fear, regret, gratitude, love, happiness, and dreams to reveal the true reason we are here: to fly, and to help others fly.

Beautifully designed and featuring Montague's own whimsical 4-color illustrations that appeal to the kid in all of us, Becoming Better Grownups shares the purpose and meaning we can all discover merely by listening, and reveals that--in a world that seems increasingly childish--the secret to joy is in fact to become more childlike.

Daily Devotions: A Liturgy for Holy Week

This liturgy takes place each day during Holy Week, at the family table, during a meal. The youngest person able to asks the questions.

Items needed: Six candles (if possible, one of them red) in holders; a palm cross; a copy of the Lord's prayer; a bottle of perfume; a purse filled with money; a bowl of water and a hand towel; a wooden cross.

Holy Monday

Light five candles (of the circle of six). Place a copy of the Lord's prayer on the table, in the centre of the circle of candles.

Reading: Mark 11:15–19

Question: 'Why do we have five candles and the Lord's Prayer on the table today?'

Answer: 'Because this week is Holy Week. In five days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember that Jesus threw the money-changers out of the temple. "My house shall be called a place of prayer," he told them. His special prayer is for us all.'

Say or read the Lord's prayer together.

Holy Tuesday

Light four candles. Place a bottle of perfume on the table, in the centre of the circle of candles.

Reading: Mark 14:3–9

Question: 'Why do we have four candles and some perfume on the table today?'

Answer: 'Because this week is Holy Week. In four days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember the woman from Bethany who anointed Jesus's head, who recognised that he was the King of kings and would soon die.'

Holy Wednesday

Light three candles. Place a purse filled with money in the centre of the circle of candles.

Reading: Mark 14:10–11

Question: 'Why do we have three candles and this purse full of money on the table today?'

Answer: 'Because this week is Holy Week. In three days, it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember that Jesus was betrayed for money, and that Jesus wants us to give what we can to help those in the world who are poor.'

The family could discuss right and wrong ways of using money, in the light of today's and yesterday's readings.

Maundy Thursday

Light two candles. Have a bowl of warm water and a towel on the table between them. The family wash each others' hands before the meal. The meal could include elements of a Passover meal (unleavened bread, wine...).

Reading: Mark 14:22–26; John 13:2–5, 12–15

Question: 'Why do we have two candles and this towel and water on the table today?'

Answer: 'Because this is Holy Week. One candle is for Good Friday, and one is for today, Maundy Thursday. Today we remember the last Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. Our communion service derives from this meal.'

Good Friday

The one red candle is lit – and then blown out. A cross is placed on the table. A paper 'palm' cross can be blu-tacked to the front door until the Sunday after Easter or until Pentecost.

Question: 'Why did we blow out the candle today?'

Answer: 'Today is Good Friday. This is day that we remember that Jesus died and went home to God.'

Reading: Mark 15:21–39

Everyone is quiet for a few minutes.

by Chris Polhill

in Spring: Liturgical resources for February, March and April including Lent and Holy Week

Ruth Burgess, ed. Wild Goose Publications, 2019.