



St. Thomas EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Tidings

Forgiveness: Like It Never Happened

The Rev. Canon Robert Goolsby, Rector

Over the season of Lent, several parish members and I studied the great Saint and Apostle, Simon Peter, using Zoom, of course. The study focused on Simon Peter's humanity, meaning his flaws, all while remaining a faithful, courageous follower of Jesus. We know that Peter ultimately becomes "the rock on which Jesus will build his Church." The study, written by Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton, is meant to inspire us as faithful, yet flawed disciples of Jesus.



THE REV. CANON
ROBERT GOOLSBY

Which makes me wonder: Do you see or consider yourself a disciple of Jesus? Or do you think "disciple" is limited to those who were Jesus' contemporaries nearly two-thousand years ago? It's a thing to ponder, as this designation comes with blessing and responsibility. The truth is, we *are* disciples, followers of Jesus. And like Peter, we are human, we err, yet are faithful and strive to do the right thing in our discipleship.

Did you ever see the movie, "The Breakfast Club?" This iconic 1985 film was about five high school students from different walks of life who spent an entire Saturday in detention, each for their own reason. The diverse and contrasting group of teenagers includes a rebellious troublemaker, a "perfectly" pretty princess from a well-to-do family, a goth and dark outcast girl, a geeky, brainy nerd of sorts, and finally, the overachieving and too-competitive jock. Each student has a chance to tell his or her story, making the others see them a little differently. Each student is required to write a minimum one thousand word essay during detention about who they think they are. At the beginning of the 9-hour day, they were indeed planning on writing that essay, would probably write something close to how the world sees them, and what they believed about themselves. But based on their adventures during that nine hours, they come to a different opinion of themselves and of each other.

The rebel realized the true source of his anger and begins to soften. The "princess" realized she was not, and needed not be, "perfect." (She and the rebel got together.)

The goth outcast realized that she was not unworthy and became more open and less secluded. The jock realized he didn't have to "win" everything and impress his parents at every turn. (He and the goth girl got together. I think.) The brainy nerd realized his own value and wrote the collective essay to the school principal on behalf of the entire group:



Dear Mr. Vernon:

*We accept the fact that we had to sacrifice a whole Saturday in detention for whatever it was we did wrong, but we think you're crazy to make us write an essay telling you who we think we are. You see us as you want to see us... In the simplest terms and the most convenient definitions. But what we found out is that **each one of us** is a brain... ...and an athlete... ...and a basket case... ...a princess... ...and a criminal. Does that answer your question?*

Sincerely yours, the Breakfast Club.

continued from previous page

The letter is the focal point of the film, as it demonstrates and illustrates the changes the students undergo during the course of the day and how their attitudes and perspectives of themselves and each other changed and are now completely different. Notice that the essay combines their types: they no longer have their own attributes, but rather shared attributes.¹

We all have value and we all have flaws. And at the end of the day, God loves exactly who we are, just the way God made us. Peter is such a wonderful example of being a disciple and being human. The most profound part of Peter's story, for me at least, is his encounter with Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee after the Resurrection (Read John 21).

John's Gospel tells us that Jesus saw Peter and a few other disciples fishing on the lake early one morning (more than a week after Easter Day). Of course, they had caught nothing. The figure on the shore (we know it's Jesus but Peter and the disciples weren't quite sure) told them to cast their net on the other side of the boat. They did. They caught such a full load that the net was about to split.

The men go ashore and Jesus serves them a char-broiled fish breakfast (sound yummy?) But the point is this, and it is beautiful: Jesus fully restores Peter like his shortcomings (sins) never even happened! The charcoal fire resembles the charcoal fire with which Peter warmed himself when he denied knowing Jesus. The three-fold question Jesus asks Peter, 'Do you love me?' undoes the three denials Peter commits. The beauty here is that Jesus reverses Peter's most heart-wrenching mistake. Despite Peter's flaws, Jesus restores Peter and keeps his promise to Peter that indeed "on this Rock, I will build my church."

The truth is, we are disciples, followers of Jesus. And like Peter, we are human, we err, yet are faithful and strive to do the right thing in our discipleship. And when we don't; when we slip up, get it wrong or flat out bungle life in the messiest of ways, the Risen Christ stands before us with his hand extended, restoring us, forgiving us and empowering us to be his beloved followers in the world. Like our mistakes never even happened.

Have a joyous and bright Easter season.

Bob+

¹ www.imdb.com

March 17, 2021

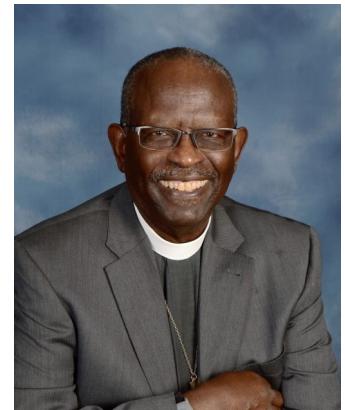
To my St. Thomas congregation,

I never thought it would be so difficult to say goodbye. But indeed it was for me. I made so many friends at St Thomas and the Palm Coast Ormond Beach area I wished we could be together forever. It was almost 15 years with a congregation I found very special and pray you never lose that welcoming spirit you all share.

I am here at my new place in Windsor, Connecticut inching away at settling into a weather I so well know and hopefully will soon adapt to.

Thank you all so much for your cards, your gifts, texts, email, and telephone calls that are still coming. I promise to stay in touch as I pray for the continued success of such a wonderful parish. I look forward to visiting you post COVID and say God's speed to each of you.

God's richest blessings to all,
Fr. Horace



Senior Warden's Message

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:19

So many are eagerly and ardently waiting for the so-called herd immunity in order to return to our own specific path of normalcy. For others, nothing has changed. Life has gone on exactly as it was in March 2020. While others have decided keeping a low profile is still best. There is no right or wrong response. Each of us must follow the path that is best for us, our families, and friends. The anticipation of how the remainder of the year is going to look can be overwhelming to many.

None of us are alone in dealing with all the COVID issues; loneliness, heartache, laziness, sadness, missing our friends and family members, etc. So many people are dealing with the same issues... believe it or not!

Our world is cluttered with a lot of negative noise. Even though we cannot control 100% of the events that happen around us, we can still influence our reaction to everything. It is important to be optimistic.

Try something positive in the month ahead:

Laugh, a wonderful remedy for so many things.

Do something nice for somebody else, maybe a random act of kindness.

Compliment someone and notice how it affects their happiness.

Smile more often (even behind a mask!).

Sometimes it is hard to be happy where we are. Looking ahead gives us something to hope for. How do we live our lives to the fullest where we are right now when we have a longing to be somewhere else? There may not be a quick answer, but if we do our best to be in the moment, it is a good start.

The 50 days of Easter continues until May 23, when we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. God has brought us full circle, from ashes into the fullness of life and joy. The Paschal Candle will burn on the altar throughout the entire Easter season.

Face coverings and social distancing are still required at St. Thomas. Continue to worship on Sunday on Face-book or in person at our regular Sunday service at 10 a.m. The worship services rotate between contemporary and traditional.

The Vestry had our first in-person meeting since February of last year. It was so hard to remember how we engaged in person. It was special to have our devotional time together (not virtually) and to really *see* each other.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support to St. Thomas and for all you give to our community and each other.

Continued Peace.

Cindy Mitchell
Senior Warden

*"Now, when I feel anxious or discouraged about the future,
I 'put on' my glasses with lenses that see with hope.*

I look to the future with anticipation, believing something new is about to burst out."
Jeannie Blackmer

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Endowment Fund

St. Thomas Church is our spiritual family, and we are asking you to plan for the future of our church.

Legacy giving is all about giving for the long term. Our Endowment Fund was established to provide a steady stream of income to grow the ministries of our church beyond our lifetimes. Gifts to the Fund become a permanent investment in the church and create a living memorial. Giving is making a commitment to support the current and future ministry and vitality of St. Thomas.

Legacy gifts can be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, annuities, life insurance policies or real estate to name a few. St. Thomas can receive life insurance proceeds through a beneficiary designation or through a gift of the policy itself. Bequests can also be made through Wills and Trusts.

If you would like to continue your legacy at St. Thomas, please consider making a gift to the Endowment Fund.

“Remember this:

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously”

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)



For more information on the St. Thomas Endowment Fund, please contact Ralph Yearwood at (386) 437-7325.

*During times of illness, hospitalization,
or life crisis,
please call : Church Office - 386-446-2300*

*To be added to the prayer list:
Dolly Bordinger - 445-6875 or
Barbara Lawson - 517-1695*

Sunday, April 11th is the **Contemporary service at 10 AM.**

Throughout the remainder of the Easter season, Sunday services will continue to alternate with the **Traditional service**. Any questions, please contact the office.

WORSHIP & COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

Sun.... 10 a.m. Worship at Church and live on Facebook
Service is also emailed later on Sunday

Tues.... 10 a.m. Morning Prayer
1 - 3 p.m. Jewish/Christian Zoom Bible Study
(contact office to join)

Wed.... 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer with Healing

Thurs.... Email from Fr. Bob

Fri..... . 9 p.m. An Order for Compline

All worship services can be viewed on St. Thomas' Facebook page.

Communication is done via email.

Please make sure we have your correct email address.



We are living the Easter Season at St. Thomas! Like Christmas Day, Easter Sunday is just the beginning of our celebration time. I hope we all find ways to enjoy the freedoms of forgiveness and resurrection that Christ so willingly lavishes on us. We are dressed in white before our God and are free to come before His throne as His infinitely delightful children any time. And we can rest in the confident knowledge that He wants us all the time.

Next up is the season of Pentecost where we will learn more about reflecting the love of God that has filled us in Easter. I love embracing the easy yoke of Christ during these weeks. Let's not let them fly by without that peace and freedom. Soon we will be working on ourselves again. This is a time to Be Still and enjoy! Here are some ways we can enjoy these gifts together with our families at home:

Butterflies! - this symbol of the resurrection helps us explain the concept of eternal life as opposed to death. Do a butterfly craft or plant a butterfly bush. If you really want to drive the point home, go to www.insectlore.com and get a butterfly kit with live caterpillars for \$27!

Eggs- Eggs are a great representation of the resurrection as well. The shell is like a tomb that a transformed being emerges from in good time. Check out this fascinating story about Mary Magdalene and her red egg. The recipe is included to use white onion skins to dye an egg red! Cool science connection here. <https://www.gathermagazine.org/symbols-of-the-resurrection/>

Pray a lot! -God loves us so much and just wants to hear from us. He gets us completely and calls us His friends! Turn everything into a prayer. Not just a blessing before eating or bedtime but tell Him in plain language, just like you talk to each other, all about your day and how you feel. Ask Him for your heart's desires because He wants to hear those. Show your kids that a conversation with Jesus doesn't need to be much different from a convo with the people we love. He is perfect and all powerful but He just wants us to be with Him. Amazing.

Julie Carter
Director of Student and Family Ministries



**THANK you for your
support of the m&m
Lent project!**



**Many thanks for all the
goodies that were given
for the Easter Egg Hunt!**



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Susan Anuszczyk | 12 - Jean Grant-Vazquez | 23 - Norma Daniels |
| 2 - Leslie Elder | 12 - Kenneth May | 23 - Jeff Mathis |
| 2 - Joan Fisher | 13 - Steve Wing | 23 - Kathleen Francis |
| 6 - Leon Kendrick | 14 - Jessie Brucculeri | 24 - Daniel Bowman |
| 6 - Anne Williams | 16 - Sandra Malone | 24 - Joyce Zeman |
| 6 - Leila Hardison | 17 - Judy Fields | 28 - Charles Kolaitis |
| 7 - Althea Robinson | 19 - Theodora Redway-Samuels | 29 - Eugenia Brown |
| 8 - Marc Deladisma | 20 - Dorothy Reid Thompson | 29 - Marian Clarke |
| 9 - Floyd Short | 21 - Geni Witherspoon | 30 - Marques Williams |
| 9 - Madeleine Mower | 21 - David Blackburn | |
| 11 - Beverly Morey | 22 - Robert Caparanis | |
| | 22 - Helen Kolaitis | |

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 - George & Carol Gan
- 4 - Owen & Joan Thompson
- 5 - Raymond & Joy Hudson
- 7 - Kenneth & Sandra May
- 8 - Felix & Rosalind Malidong
- 12 - Paul & Althea Robinson
- 18 - James & Catherine Ingham
- 18 - Robert & Patricia Thomasey
- 24 - Jeff & Coleen Mathis
- 27 - Tony & Coleen Andrade
- 29 - John & Diane Hardos



St. Thomas Stained Glass Windows



Against a rich background of blues and purple, each window is broken into a series of fields displaying design elements pertinent to that window. Outlining each window is a border which symbolically suggests, elicits, and evokes a response for that season. The design elements draw from a rich tradition in the church and both ancient and contemporary heraldry and symbolism, ‘sacred monograms’ and a rich symbolism which has come to be associated through the millennia, with flora; elements of ‘the creation’.

Woven through all the windows and outlining each field is a border of oak leaves which symbolically stands for ‘spiritual strength’, for faith and endurance. This speaks to our “Faith” and our “Hope”.

In the sanctuary, on your right, in the sanctuary, are the Lent, Easter and Pentecost windows.

As such, they are not only beautiful aids to worship, but as we progress through the Christian year, they are mnemonic; that is serving to remind and encourage us in our Christian walk. Again, it is an approach to the cross.

Lent

With a foreknowledge of the events of Holy Week [not generally considered in Lent] and Christ Jesus’ sacrifice for us, Lent is a penitential and preparatory season. The Chalice (cup) and Cross (upper field) depict Gethsemane where Jesus retired with the disciples after the Last Supper. The Cross and Crown of thorns, in the central field, is the traditional symbol for Good Friday. The nails in the foreground of the cross symbolize “the Passion, the Crucifixion”, INRI meaning, “Jesus Christ, King of the Jews”, the palm branches, in the lower field, symbolize spiritual victory and remind us of Palm Sunday. A border of Iris symbolizes ‘earthly sorrow’ and “sorrow for the Passion of our Lord”.

Easter

In the center field, against the rising sun of a bright Easter morning flies the Banner of Victory, symbolizing Christ’s triumph over sin and death. Lilies in the foreground symbolize purity.

The pomegranate in the bottom field is the traditional symbol for Easter, symbolizing the ‘hope of immortality’ and of ‘resurrection’. Because of the unity of many seeds in one fruit, it is said to resemble the church.

The butterfly (top field) signifies transformation, metamorphosis, and rebirth. A border of laurel symbolizes ‘triumph’ (1Cor 9:24-27) and is suggestive of eternity.



Our Church Mission

Living and Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Community,
Holy Communion, and Servanthood Ministry

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!



We are here for you!

Please be sure to contact the office (386-446-2300) to report hospital stays, surgery, health issues or any concerns. Clergy or the appropriate ministry will be informed as soon as possible.

The parish clergy, licensed Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and other pastoral visitors are still facing limitations on in-person visiting, especially in hospitals, retirement communities, and hospice care facilities.

We remain greatly concerned for your health and safety. While it feels not nearly as warm and personal as we would all prefer, emails and phone calls are our visitation tools we can continue to use for visits and prayer in the days ahead.

VACCINE INFORMATION

Where can I get a COVID vaccine and how do I sign up?

If you haven't received your COVID vaccine yet and are interested in getting one, and need assistance with scheduling or finding a location, please call the church office.

We have church members that are willing to help you get an appointment and if need be, provide transportation to ensure you get to your appointment.

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5400 Belle Terre Parkway
Palm Coast, Fl. 32137



Phone: 386-446-2300
Email: info@stechurch.org
www.stechurch.org

Office Hours Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.