Dear Ones,

This month, I’m sharing our Presiding Bishop’s Easter Message with you, especially for those who are not Internet-connected:

It’s taken me some years to realize it, but Jesus didn’t just happen to be in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. He wasn’t on vacation. He wasn’t just hanging out in town. Jesus was in Jerusalem on purpose. He arrived in Jerusalem about the time of the Passover when pilgrims were in the city. When people’s hopes and expectations for the dawn of freedom that Moses had promised in the first Passover might suddenly be realized for them in their time.

Jesus arranged his entrance into Jerusalem to send a message. He entered the city, having come in on one side of the city, the scholars tell us, at just about the same time that Pontius Pilate made his entrance on the exact opposite side of the city. Pilate, coming forth on a warhorse. Pilate, with soldiers around him. Pilate, with the insignias of Rome’s Empire. Pilate, representing the Caesars who claimed to be son of god. Pilate, who had conquered through Rome the people of Jerusalem. Pilate, representing the Empire that had taken away their freedom. Pilate, who represented the Empire that would maintain the colonial status of the Jewish people by brute force and violence.

Jesus entered the city on the other side, not on a warhorse, but on a donkey, recalling the words of Zechariah:

Be hold your King comes to you
Triumphant and victorious is He
Humble and riding on a donkey

Jesus entered the city at the same time as Pilate to show them, and to show us, that God has another way. That violence is not the way. That hatred is not the way. That brute force and brutality are not the way. Jesus came to show us there is another way. The way of unselfish, sacrificial love. That’s why he entered Jerusalem. That’s why he went to the cross. It was the power of that love poured out from the throne of God, that even after the horror of the crucifixion would raise him from death to life.

God came among us in the person of Jesus to start a movement. A movement to change the face of the earth. A movement to change us who dwell upon the earth. A movement to change the creation from the nightmare that is often made of it into the dream that God intends for it.

He didn’t just happen to be in Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday. He went to Jerusalem for a reason. To send a message. That not even the titanic powers of death can stop the love of God. On that Easter morning, he rose from the dead, and proclaimed love wins.

So you have a blessed Easter. Go forth to be people of the Resurrection. Follow in the way of Jesus. Don’t be ashamed to love. Don’t be ashamed to follow Jesus.

Have a blessed Easter. And bless the world. Amen.

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church
Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles
The feast commemorating the lives and ministries of Philip and James is appointed to be 1 May. Our knowledge of these two apostles comes primarily from the gospels of John and Mark. James and his brother, John, were sons of Zebedee. We know Philip was from Bethsaida. Jesus encountered Philip in Galilee and called him to be a disciple. It was Philip who told Nathaniel “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

Jackson Kemper
In 1835, the General Convention essentially merged the Episcopal Church and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and provided for ‘missionary bishops’ to serve in the American wilderness as well as foreign countries. Jackson Kemper was the first Missionary Bishop and was assigned to Missouri and Indiana, but did much work in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas. He was also influential in the south and the southwest, touching our own Saint Luke’s – Marianna, FL. Kemper established Nashotah House seminary and Racine College in Wisconsin, and Kemper College in Saint Louis, MO. Kemper was a great champion for First Nation people.

Ascension Day
Falling forty days after Jesus’ resurrection, Ascension Day is always on a Thursday. We will commemorate Our Lord’s ascension to his father at a sung mass on 25 May at 12:10PM. Jesus’ ascension is a key component of the story of his life. The original Greek of many texts and the Nicene Creed set as opposites Jesus’ descent from his Father in heaven and his subsequent ascension back to his father. This is done by prefixing the verb that means “to ascend” with ‘kata’. Jesus’ ascension is the final step in confirming his identity as the Son of God.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
We will celebrate the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 10:00AM on Wednesday, 31 May. This commemorates the visit of the mother of Our Lord to her cousin Elizabeth as recounted in Luke’s Gospel. It is from the Annunciation and the Visitation that the words for Magnificat are drawn.

The Wardens and Vestry of Saint John’s Church met in retreat on Saturday, 1 April 2017. The gathering was held in the Great Hall at the church. We started at 8:30 with breakfast goodies from G’s Bakery on Dauphin St. As has been the Vestry’s practice, the first topic was to go over the “norms” the previous Vestry had adopted. The “norms” are a set of standards that the Vestry agrees to mutually hold. These include when and how long meetings will be, how to deal with confidential topics and information, how decisions are to be made, as well as the expectations for each vestry member in their individual participation in the life of the parish.

In the past, we’ve only met in plenary, planning to take no actions. This year, however, we had three topics to take up, and decided to convene a meeting. Our first topic was Thee Store. It has been open less, has less traffic, less volume, etc. Since we have no solution to the staffing problem, the Vestry voted to shutter Thee Store and minimize its losses.

The second topic was the Endowment Fund. Since our annual expense exceed our income, we have made up the difference from investments. This source will run out at least by 2018. The Vestry voted that when all other income sources are depleted, the principal portion of the endowment may be used for operating expenses.

The last topic was the 2017 budget. The Vestry voted to approve the draft budget minus the payroll increases that had been proposed.
The women of Saint Johns would like to thank all the women and men who made our Rummage Sale such a huge success. With all your work we raised approximately $2,000, which is about our annual budget. Because of all your efforts we can continue caring and sharing for another year. The week prior to the event reminded me of the days of our annual bazaar of the old days, working and laughing and having fun just being together.

Thanks again for all your efforts!

Irene Yeager, President of ECW

In April, the St. John’s outreach committee voted to match the $250 collected at the Lenten suppers, to make a $500 donation to Murray House. The church has received the following heartfelt acknowledgement of the gift from Murray House director Connie Anderson:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of $500.00. New tablecloths have been ordered! It’s absolutely wonderful to have undesignated funds—funds to use for things that we need without stretching the budget. Thank you again for supporting the ministry at Murray House. I am so proud to be a part of such a generous and loving Church family.

Connie Anderson
Executive Director
Murray House
HOLY WEEK 2017 AT SAINT JOHN’S
Holy Week photos by Nikki Shaw
AN EASTER MEDITATION

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

—Romans 12:4-5

As president of Episcopal Relief & Development, I know the meaning of together. We are a diverse family that includes staff, board, donors, partners and those in need of a helping hand. We are one body, but each of us has unique gifts and roles to play in healing a hurting world. And yet, we can only do our work together in community.

Moses does not go alone; he brings together a group of seventy elders to rule over Israel. Jesus doesn’t either; he calls together the twelve and sends them out, two by two, to share the Good News in word and deed. Jesus rises from the dead to live among the whole human family.

As a part of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we are not alone in our work. We work with Anglican and Episcopal dioceses and provinces, along with other Christian and faith-based organizations and groups of our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters.

Every day, I thank God and pray for members of our Episcopal Relief & Development team and extended family. I hope you will join me in prayer and thanksgiving for all who are a part of our family of faith as we begin this holy season of Easter.

THE AUTHOR: Robert W. Radtke is the President of Episcopal Relief & Development.

We are entering a busy gift-giving season…weddings, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, high school and college graduations and Memorial Day. Rather than spending all that time in stores or at the mall … think SCRIP!

◊ You can buy Starbucks, or Dunkin Donuts or Krispy Kreme to give someone a jolt.
◊ There are Walmart (SAM’S) and Target to decorate a new dorm or home.
◊ There are Exxon, Chevron, Shell and BP for gas.
◊ There are Petco and PetSmart for your or their pets.
◊ And when you have no idea what they may want you have Amazon and Tanger Outlets.

There are these and many more options. Orders will be taken on the second Sunday May 14th.

Saint John’s wishes to extend a sincere thank you to those who made donations in memory of Loraine Murray:

Cindy & Curtis Gass
For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Bob Ross, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Mary Jones, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean, Donna Waites.

For our Homebound:
Bea Brown, Mae Dunn, Joan-Marie Elam, LaVerne Foster, Catherine Warren, Chick Wohlert, Becky & Art Youngblood.

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:
Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon.

For our Friends and Family:

It’s time for a church directory update. So that we may get the best information to you, please make sure that we have all the latest in address, e-mail and telephone changes turned in to the church office by Sunday, May 14. New parish directories will be available by the end of May.

Tony Seymour 5/03
Cookie Rich 5/09
Tanner Dunham 5/10
Mike Barbour 5/11
Paula Ross 5/15
Zachary Anderson 5/16
Trey Johnson 5/20
Pat Fulford 5/29

Contact Us

Staff:
The Reverend Thomas Heard, rector rector@stjohnsmobile.org
Louis Daniel
Organist & Choir Director
music@stjohnsmobile.org
Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org
Jack Ruppe
Sexton

Vestry:
Darren Anderson
Ron Brown
James Christiansen, junior warden
Cindy Gass, senior warden
Kathe Gieseler
Connie McLean, treasurer
Geri Moulton
Nikki Shaw, clerk
Butch Yeager
Come Worship With Us!
Monday—Friday:
8:30AM  Morning Prayer
Sunday:
9:00AM  Adult and Youth Christian Formation
10:00AM  Holy Eucharist
Wednesday:
10:00AM  Holy Eucharist;  Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Other Feasts and Holy Days are observed throughout the year; please see our website for the latest schedule.

Parish Office
Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Telephone: 251-479-5474
Fax: 251-473-1230
www.stjohnsmobile.org

Thee Store Episcopal Books
Monday
Wednesday
Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
and by appointment
Telephone: 251-479-5086

SAINT JOHN’S: THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MIDTOWN MOBILE
Grounded in shared sacramental life and moving into the world to be the hands of Our Lord.