



# THE FOURTH EPISTLE SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MOBILE, ALABAMA

The Reverend Thomas Heard, Rector  
The Protestant Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast  
The Right Reverend James Russell Kendrick, Bishop

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## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

It is Tuesday in the third week of Lent. It's two days before the mid-point of Lent. We're just about half-way through our annual time of repentance, reflection, and reformation.

Frederick Buechner is a Presbyterian minister, a deep thinker, and a prolific writer. About repentance, Buechner writes,

“Biblically speaking, to repent doesn't mean to feel sorry about, to regret. It means to turn, to turn around 180 degrees. It means to undergo a complete change of mind, heart, direction.”  
(From *Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*)

We don't get too far into the New Testament scriptures before we run headlong into the topic of repentance. In the earliest gospel, Mark, we find:

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (RSV, Mark 1:4)

We get “repentance” from the original language word “metanoia”, a transliteration of the Greek word “μετάνοια”; it even looks similar. There's another word used in Matthew 27:3, where Judas repents of his act of betrayal. This one is “metamelomai” and carries more of a sense of deep regret, rather than the alteration of direction, change of heart and mind.

In the early church, “metanoia” was used almost exclusively to mean a fundamental change in thinking that led to a fundamental change of behavior and way of living. It was mirrored in their liturgical practices as well. At baptism, there is a series of six questions the candidates (or their parents) are asked. They're called the “renunciations and adhesions.”

In our rite, they look like this: (BCP pp. 302-303)

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

As you can see, there are three renunciations and three adhesions in our rite. The questions in the ancient rites were very similar; in one case there were six of each. In the ancient practice, the candidates faced away from the presider for renunciations and “turned around” to face the presider for the adhesions. That practice used the body to physically manifest the fundamental change of direction, heart, and mind.

John the baptizer's call to repentance inferred the turning away from sin. His call wasn't to turn their backs on the sins they'd committed, but rather, to turn away from the entire concept of sin, a turning toward God, seeking to live a life that was in harmony with God's righteousness and grace.

Soon it will be Holy Week and our focused time of penitence will come to an end. It is my greatest hope that each of us will have chosen to embrace God's grace and forgiveness, and re-commit to orienting our lives in a Godward direction.

—Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### **Richard of Chichester**

Richard loved books. Rather than be the head of his family's estate, Richard turned it over to his brother and went to Oxford. He continued his studies in Paris and Bologna, earning a doctorate. He returned to Oxford the Chancellor of the university. Richard wrote the biography of Edmund Rich, a close friend and Archbishop of Canterbury. After his friend's death, Richard entered the Dominican house at Orleans and was ordained priest in 1243. He returned to England and was elected Bishop of Chichester in 1244. He died in 1253 and was canonized nine years later.

### **William Law**

This quiet schoolmaster in Putney, England wrote a book in 1728 that had immediate impacts and we still feel its repercussions today. Titled, "*A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, Law's work was an influence on John Wesley and George Whitefield, laying the foundations of the Great Awakening in the U.S. and the Evangelical Movement in England. Law was a priest, but because of his refusal to swear allegiance to the House of Hanover, he was deprived of his parish and turned to teaching. He was instrumental in organizing schools and homes for the poor and was a staunch defender of scripture and sacraments against the Deists. We will commemorate William Law on Wednesday, 10 April at our 10:00AM Said Mass.

### **Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday**

Holy Week begins on 14 April with the Liturgy of the Palms in the Garden at 10:00AM and processing into the church for the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist. Palm Sunday is an odd mix: I think this happened to accommodate those who don't darken the door of the church except on Sundays, so we get the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and the Passion of Our Lord – Palm Sunday and Good Friday all rolled into one.

### **Maundy Thursday**

The name comes from the Latin "*Mandatum*", meaning command. With our observance of Maundy Thursday on 18 April at 6:00PM, we will commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and imitate Our Lord's washing of his disciples' feet. All who wish to participate will have their feet washed and then wash someone else's feet, becoming servants to each other.

The Mass will conclude with the transfer of the Holy Sacrament to the Altar of Repose and the stripping of the Sanctuary and washing of the altar. At the end of the mass, the Watch over the Blessed Sacrament begins. This overnight vigil affords quiet time to spend in prayer and meditation.

### **Good Friday**

We will offer the Good Friday liturgy twice on 19 April, once at 12:00PM and again at 6:00PM. This liturgy features the Passion of Our Lord according to John. In the place of the Prayers of the People, the Solemn Collects are prayed. In the Showing of the Cross, the celebrant will bring a cross into the Nave. An opportunity to venerate the cross will be offered to all present. Following the veneration, Holy Communion will be prepared from the Sacrament reserved at the altar of repose.

### **Holy Saturday**

We will offer the Holy Saturday liturgy for the first time at Saint John's at Noon on Saturday, 20 April. The liturgy is entirely said, with silence for contemplation and meditation.

### **The Great Vigil of Easter**

Holy Week reaches its peak with the Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30PM on Saturday, 20 April. The service begins in the garden (weather permitting) where the Pascal Candle is prepared and lighted and we process into the church. The liturgy continues with readings from the Old Testament, taking us from creation through all our salvation history. In the early church, this was the liturgy where catechumens were baptized, becoming full members of the community. Following renewal of our Baptismal Covenant and baptism, the proclamation of Easter is made: bells are rung, candles are lit, the lights come up and we celebrate the first Mass of Easter.

### **Saint Mark the Evangelist**

We will commemorate the life and work of Saint Mark the Evangelist on Monday, 29 April at 12:10 PM. Mark, as the author of the Gospel bearing his name, is not precisely identified. Various traditions have him filling roles ranging from being one of Jesus' disciples

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

to being the cousin of Barnabas in Paul's letters. The Church of Alexandria claims that Mark was its first bishop and a martyr, killed while on a missionary journey. It is Mark's Gospel that gives us the shortest account of Jesus' ministry, but we must be careful not to equate short with simple. Mark's Gospel leaves us with many questions, but gives us many clues to the answers.



*Vestry*

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order on Sunday, 10 March 2019 at 11:38 AM by Fr. Heard.

All members of the Vestry were present.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports. She reported that the operating checking account balance is less than \$10,000. She will initiate a \$25,000 withdrawal from the endowment.

Janet Buckley reported that the Outreach Lenten project is "40 Days, 40 Items." The proceeds from the Lenten Suppers will be donated to Murray House.

Jan Joseph reported that the committee continues to work on getting our name out, as well as publicity for the Book Sale.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck is 24 March, with a theme of "Spring."

Darren Anderson reported that Clean-up Day is scheduled for 30 March.

Fr. Heard distributed the 2018 Parochial Report. The Vestry voted to approve the report.

Fr. Heard reminded the Vestry of the Retreat scheduled for 6 April from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. The retreat will be at the church.

Janet Buckley reminded the Vestry of the Book Sale, scheduled for 16 March.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:28 PM.

## PARISH LIFE

### 4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK: APRIL 28 LET'S DO BRUNCH!

The April potluck lunch will be a Brunch! Get out your yummy brunch recipes and let's do something a little different. We'll all enjoy good food, good company, and good fellowship. Oh, and we'll still do desserts!!



### BOOK SALE: THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who helped with the book sale: those who brought books to be sold; those who helped set up (done in record time!); those who came Saturday to sell; those who bought books and Thee Store items; those who helped clean up (also done in record time!). We made over \$500 which will go in the church's general fund. What happened to the leftover books? We donated them to the Friends of the Library book sale —so now they are helping the larger community!

Thank you again.



# APRIL 2019 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 F.D. Maurice 830A MP	2 James Lloyd Breck 830A MP	3 <b>Richard of Chichester</b> 830A MP 10A Mass+Unction 530P Stations 7P Choir	4 M.L. King, Jr. 830A MP	5 830A MP	6
7 <b>Lent 5</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Outreach 1145A STW	8 W.A. Muhlberg 830A MP	9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer 830A MP	10 <b>William Law</b> 830A MP 10A Mass 530P Stations 7P Choir	11 G.A. Selwyn 830A MP	12 830A MP	13
14 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Vestry	15 <b>Monday in Holy Week</b> 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass	16 <b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b> 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass	17 <b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b> 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	18 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 830A MP 6P Mass	19 <b>Good Friday</b> 830A MP 12P Good Friday 6P Good Friday	20 <b>Holy Saturday</b> 12P Holy Saturday 730P Great Vigil of Easter
21 <b>Easter Day</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130 ECW	22 830A MP	23 830A MP	24 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	25 830A MP	26 830A MP	27
28 <b>Easter 2</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck	29 <b>St. Mark the Evangelist</b> 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass	30 830A MP	Omitted: 04/07 – Tikhon, Patriarch of Russia, Confessor and Ecumenist, 1925 04/19 – Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Martyr, 1012 04/21 – Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109 04/29 – Catherine of Siena, 1380			

# LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR APRIL 2019

Date Lectionary Day Color	Greeter	Lectors	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Guild	Vestry Teller
7 April 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Violet	Irene & butch Yeager	Paula Ross Ron Brown Nikki Shaw	Gerri Moulton Connie McLean	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Jan Joseph Bootsie Cieutat
14 April Palm Sunday Red	Thehma Lomers	Mary Sheffield Ron Waites Connie Anderson	Butch Yeager Paula Ross	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Ron Waites Mary Sheffield
18 April Maundy Thursday White	Irene & Butch Yeager	Janet Buckley David Thompson Kathe Gieseler	Ron Waites Mary Sheffield	All	
19 April Good Friday 12P	Connie & Bob Anderson	Cheryl Winters-Heard Jan Joseph			
19 April Good Friday 6P	Melissa Brown	Gerri Moulton Landon Heavner			
20 April Great Vigil White	Connie & Budd McLean	Chery Winters-Heard Kathe Gieseler Mary Sheffield Ron Waites Budd McLean	Gerri Moulton Connie Anderson	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	
21 April Easter Day White	Connie & Budd McLean	Ron Brown Nikki Shaw Mary Sheffield	Paula Ross Butch Yeager	Irene Yeager Neva Bache	Bootsie Cieutat Kristen Turner
28 April 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter White	Paula & Bob Ross	Ron Waites Connie Anderson Janet Buckley	Ron Waites Mary Sheffield	Irene Yeager Neva Bache	Mary Sheffield Darren Anderson





## SPREAD THE WORD

Thanks to you sharing our book sale on Facebook, we got more than a thousand views! Keep up the good work by sharing more St. John's posts!

Another way to spread the word about St. John's is to invite someone to church. It's the perfect time with Easter coming up. Tell your friends and family the schedule for the Easter Triduum. Explain how our liturgy is similar to and different from other denominations, and invite them to see for themselves! There is nothing more beautiful and

meaningful to me than the Great Easter Vigil, from our entrance of the darkened church with candles, the sung litany of the saints, the great celebration of the organ, and the re-lighting of the church. Which is your favorite liturgy? Tell people why!

Please join us for our meeting Apr. 7, where we'll talk more about how we can spread the word!

-Jan Joseph



### EASTER LILIES

*Easter Lily sign up cards will be in the Narthex and the Great Hall by Sunday, March 31.*

*Cards are due by Palm Sunday, April 14.*



Two days after the tornado impacted communities in Lee County and surrounding areas on March 3, 2019, local churches sprang into action. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Smiths Station, AL cooked and served dinner for the first responders. Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting the Diocese of Alabama so that they can continue to offer meals to vulnerable members of their community as well as distribute gift cards for needed items. Please continue to pray for the diocese as churches in Lee County begin to discern their long-term response.

Episcopal Relief & Development is working with communities in the central parts of the US as they begin to assess damages done by the recent floods and await the possibility of more flooding. We have been in contact with diocesan leaders in the impacted areas and remain ready to support any responses that emerge from this disaster. As we know, after a disaster occurs, it is a long road to recovery. Consider making a donation to the [US Disaster Fund](#). Your support will go towards the relief and response efforts in disasters such as flooding in the central US and the recent

## ALABAMA TORNADO RESPONSE

outbreak of tornadoes in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Alabama.

To send a contribution by mail: *US Disaster Fund  
Episcopal Relief & Development P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield,  
VA 22116-7058*





Joyce Lee	04/18
Frances Barbour	04/22
Laura Barbour	04/24

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Thelma Lomers  
9146 Feather Trail  
Fairhope, AL 36532

## March Birthdays



Celebrating March birthdays at St. John's with Butch Yeager, Julie Garner, and Marian Boykin.  
(Photo by Irene Yeager)



### For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:

Neva Bache, Julia Heard, Carolyn Pearce, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Mac Pearce, Neil McPhail, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

### For our Homebound:

Joan-Marie Elam, LaVerne Foster, Mary Catherine Warren.

### For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:

Alison Logan, Jacob Hester-Heard, Marcus Rich, Ross Hussmann, Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon.

### For our Friends and Family:

Mike Gibson, Donna Pigg, Fred Lloyd, Robert & Dorothy Johnson, Karen Twilley, Jerry Wigfield, Clay Graham, Glenda Evans, Ouida McNider, Bambi Lynn Reynolds Marrow, Kara Reynolds Hall, Christina Morgret, Sue Sheffield, David Shippee, Abigail Harrison, Robert Levy, Bonnie Adler, Chris Christiansen, Connor, David Green, Tiffany Matthews, Augusta Wombaugh, Betty Williams, Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, Evia Daniel, Charles Geck, Mary Jo Vinson, Bonnie Jernigan, Kaye Turner, Britney Butler, Angie Leon, Neal Tourné, Sandy & Ray Michel, Connor Crist, Paul Nelson, Krystal Hiatt.

## Contact Us

### Staff:

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Financial Secretary  
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Jack Ruppe  
Sexton

### Vestry:

Darren Anderson, *junior warden*

Janet Buckley, *clerk*

Bootsie Cieutat

Kathe Gieseler, *senior warden*

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Mary Sheffield

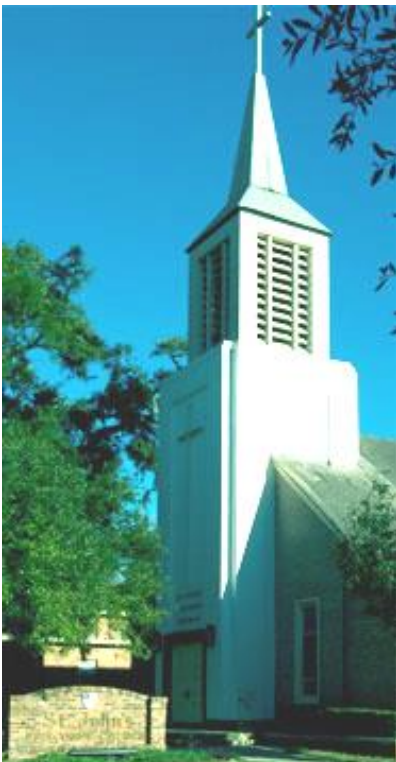
Kristen Turner

Ron Waites

Saint John's Episcopal Church  
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 Mobile, Alabama 36604

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**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 1<sup>st</sup>  
 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](http://www.stjohnsmobile.org)

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.