

cross ⁺roads



CHRIST CHURCH
EASTON

The Newsletter of Christ Church, St. Peter's Parish

111 South Harrison Street, Easton, MD 21601 ♦ 410-822-2677 ♦ www.christchurcheaston.org





HOLY WEEK & EASTER REFLECTION

Patrick Collins, Rector

According to the Gospel of John (20:11-18), on Easter morning Mary Magdalene did not recognize Jesus when she encountered him outside of the tomb:

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her,

"Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

And in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-49), we learn that other followers of Jesus didn't recognize him that evening as they walked with him for about seven miles:

Now on that same day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

I wonder what it felt like to be one of those people who loved Jesus enough to give up their lives and to follow him. I wonder what it would have felt like to dream big dreams with Jesus of a better world and a brighter future. I wonder what it would have felt like to see all of those dreams be ripped away from everyone with acts of betrayal and violence. And then, how would it have felt to hear the news that Jesus had come back from the dead – and then to have the chance to see Jesus, to speak with him and to not recognize him?

I also wonder how many times in our own lives we have missed deeply transformational moments because we have looked for the expected or the familiar. How might our lives be different if we stopped looking for God on our schedule, and accepted the fact that God acts when God wants to act.

I pray for us to have an Easter Season that is full of joy and wonder; amazement and curiosity. May our loving God grant to each one of us the blessings of the awareness of the new possibilities that are before us every day. And, may God give us the courage to engage the world around with the love and forgiveness that we experience during this holy season.

God's Peace,
Patrick





From The Desk of Parish Manager, Chris Rigaux

With the birth of spring and the growth of new plants, we were delighted to work with the Easton Garden Club to beautify our church yard a bit. Meribeth Lane organized a planting party joined by parishioners John Nelson, Laurie Mackaness, and Father Patrick; together, we dug holes for 45 young carex plants to improve the appearance around the front of the church. These perennial green plants will eventually grow a foot tall and about two feet wide, holding the soil in place and keeping our grounds fertile. The idea of having the Easton Garden Club doing some gardening for us grew out of their request to use the Parish Hall on April 18th for a flower arranging workshop. The cost of the workshop is \$25 and spots are still available; contact our front office and we will get in touch with Maribeth. We purchased the plants, and the Easton Garden Club donated their labor and expertise. We hope to reprise this collaboration next year.

Laurie and I got to talking about reviving the Lay Weeders, a group of parishioners who used to weed and otherwise take care of the church grounds on a month basis. If you are interested in joining the new version of this parish group, please let either Laurie at lmackaness@gmail.com or I and we will put you on the list.

John and I also got to talking about the perpetual runoff of rainwater through the mulch flooding our screen-in porch. John said he knows how to build a trench to catch most of the rainwater and stop it from getting into the porch. Even better would be digging up the mulch from the side yard and regrading the garden by hand to make it slope away from the porch altogether. Although he has a string line that could be used for regrading, even better would be a laser. Do we have any site experts or utility workers that own such a laser? Once we have developed a plan, we will be issuing a call for a few good men to come over and spend half a day implementing said plan.

Chris Rigaux
Parish Manager



Thanks to All for an Amazing Easter Weekend!

We had great attendance from Maundy Thursday all the way through our 11:00am Traditional Music Easter Service on Sunday



It was an incredible and moving Holy Week and Easter at Christ Church.

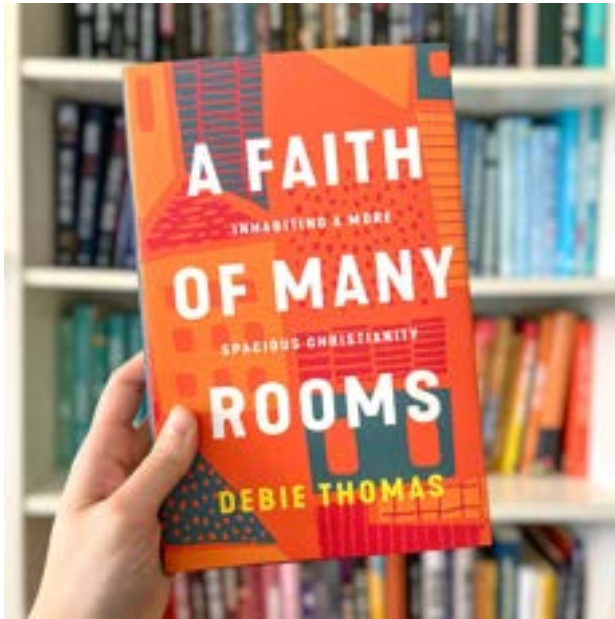
Beginning with a Maundy Thursday service that included hand-washing and Communion around at table set for Passover; through Good Friday services that included an afternoon Passion and Solemn Collects reading and an evening "Seven Last Words/Sayings of Jesus" service that was described as one of the most moving services that people had ever attended, to just shy of 500 people on Easter Saturday and Sunday, where Easter service parishioners experienced incredible music from the contemporary band and traditional choir.

Our Sunday 11:00am traditional music Easter service was broadcast live over [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) and can be viewed by clicking on either of the links.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Small Group Book Study Beginning on April 16 & 17

"A Faith of Many Rooms" follows author Debie Thomas on a personal faith journey rich with Scripture commentary and reflection.



Last year, Debie Thomas's book, "Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories" was one of our most popular and thought-provoking book studies. Thomas has just released a new book, based on her personal experience and thoughtful reflection on Scripture, which may open our eyes and minds to passage and terms in a new light.

This will be a 4-week study, beginning on April 16 and 17.

From the book's promotional blurb:

When your faith begins to feel too small, too confining, you could choose to leave it. But what if the faith we inhabit is roomier than we'd thought? What if our collapsing faith is just a closet in a much larger dwelling?

Disillusioned by narrow theologies, church dysfunction, and constricted readings of Scripture, people are leaving Christianity in droves. But Jesus describes the reign of God as a house with many rooms, writes author Debie Thomas, one of the most auspicious voices in religious writing today. In this work of sprawling spiritual and literary imagination, Thomas claims that wherever God dwells, there is expansiveness and belonging.

Thomas knows what a cramped faith feels like, what it's like to wrestle your way out of fundamentalism and toward a more capacious faith. From the diasporic church in which she grew up, which traces its lineage to the doubting disciple in India in the first century, to the disorientations of a deconstructing faith, to an ample yet orthodox Christianity that makes room for all her identities, Thomas takes readers on a deeply personal and profoundly theological odyssey.

In A Faith of Many Rooms, she talks back to jaundiced versions of faith and finds evidence that the gospel insists on its own roominess. The kind of God who decided to experience the world as a guest likely feels constrained by our pinched theologies too. What sorts of ruptures and revisions would it take to find a more spacious faith--and then to inhabit it with authenticity and joy? Readers of Christian Wiman, Cole Arthur Riley, and Barbara Brown Taylor will find in these pages an ardent, lyrical take on a faith transfigured.

There are three different times across two days that the study is being offered:

[Tuesdays at 1:00pm, beginning on April 16](#)

[Tuesdays at 6:00pm, beginning on April 16](#)

[Wednesdays at 10:45am, beginning on April 17](#)

[For more information, please contact Michael Valliant](#)

Vestry Retreat 2024

On Palm/Passion Sunday weekend our parish Vestry went on retreat together. Our time started with a wonderful dinner on Friday evening where new friendships were formed, and existing friendships were deepened. On Saturday, we gathered at All Faith Chapel in Tunis Mills and began our time together with Morning Prayer in that intimate worship space. Following our opening worship, we all moved to the Parish Hall. One of the highlights of the retreat for many was an activity where we used Lego blocks as a tool for uncovering our individual and collective communication styles. Some Vestry members were heard saying "I'll never look at Legos the same way again". After the Lego activity, we moved into some serious discussions around our common life at Christ Church. A significant part of the discussion revolved around matters that we might want to address prior to starting an official search process. We brainstormed a lot of topics and ideas together. Our time together ended with a very intimate Eucharist where we all gathered around the altar and fed communion to each other. We gave ourselves 'homework' and have a listing of all those brainstormed ideas. We are now reflecting on those ideas, and we are each prioritizing them in preparation for our next meeting in April. At that meeting we will continue our discussions and plan our next steps together. Our retreat was a positive first step and we will continue our work at our upcoming Vestry meetings. Please keep your eyes open for future updates. In the meanwhile, please keep us in your thoughts and prayers... we cherish your



A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend

Part of being human is needing help from each other. If you are going through a difficult time, reach out to our Stephen Ministers



Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who has suffered a loss or is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them—tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers are members of Christ Church who have received special training to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to hurting people. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.

To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, please contact the church office at (410) 822-2677. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



Christ Church Youth Group

From Kelsey Spiker Minister For Community Life and Families

Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser



May 1st we will hold our annual fundraiser for Mission! The youth ministry is very excited to announce that we are raising funds for two missions this summer. We will be holding a local mission immersion in August that will include serving in and around our community with groups like Talbot Interfaith Shelter and Talbot Humane, and in July a team of five will be returning to the river jungles of Peru to serve communities and continue the Global Vision 2020 eyeglass initiative. With the funds that we raise, we will be able to fund projects both locally and internationally! Mission is always a community effort that takes every one of us through financial support, prayerful support, or boots on the ground, and we are excited to take on these two missions as a church community.



Tickets for dinner are a suggested donation: \$12/ person and \$5/children five and under

Dinner will include spaghetti, meatballs, a side salad, a drink, and dessert. Take-out, meatless, & GF meals will be available upon request.

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

If you are interested in donating an item for the silent auction, please contact Kelsey Spiker.

A Pentecost Church Picnic on Sunday, May 19 at 11:00 am

Our Annual Church Picnic will be held May 19th and we will be returning to Widgeon Point Farm, 27848 Otwell Road, Oxford, at 11:00 am to celebrate Pentecost together.

There will be no 9:15 am or 11:00 am service at the church, we'll worship together outside under the tent at Widgeon Point Farm. After the service, we will enjoy a church-wide picnic, all are invited. The church will provide meat for the grill and will once again employ the help of the Men's Group as our dedicated and talented grillers. The rest of the meal will be potluck style! We invite you to bring your favorite outdoor picnic food to share. You can register on our website to let us know you are coming and what you will bring! Mark your calendars for what promises to be a great time together, worshipping, celebrating Pentecost, and breaking bread.

*Please note: there will not be a Saturday evening service on May 18th, no Zoom service on Sunday, May 19, and no 9:15 am or 11:00 am service at the church. There will be an 8:00 am Rite I service at the church.





Musical Notes

From Choir Director Carolyn Cutler



After a very moving Lent and joyful Easter, the choir is taking a week off. They have worked hard and it is well deserved! It was a delight to have several people join us for the season to help provide beautiful music. The addition of guest instrumentalists also added to the inspiration of the service music. It was a joy to have the children join the choir for a Palm Sunday anthem as well. Many thanks to all who participated and helped to make this season so special.

Sadly, this month we are going to say goodbye to service organist, Dr. Dale Krider. April 14 will be his last Sunday with us before his retirement. Dale has served excellently this past year and will be greatly missed. Fortunately, he will be here occasionally as a substitute. Dale, thank you for your service! Your talents have added so much to our traditional services.

The choir will continue to rehearse and sing through the end of May when we go to our summer schedule. New voices are always welcome.



How Do We Do That?

Altar Flowers

By Barbara Zuehlke

Each week the altar is dressed with beautiful flowers which are often done in remembrance of a person(s) life. You may notice that those persons for whom the flowers are given are also listed in the prayers for the day. If you have an interest in sponsoring flowers for a loved one who has passed on, we have several dates available. The cost for altar flowers is \$70 and you will have the opportunity to renew and hold that spot each year. Please be aware, that the physical date will change with the liturgical calendar but will always be close.

Currently, four weekends are open for 2024:

April 28,

June 23

August 4

December 22 (4th Advent)



If you are interested in an available date please contact Barbara Zuehlke at 410.820.8926.

Christ Church Lost & Found

This will be your last chance to claim any belongings left behind in the Church. We've found multiple items after Worship services. There are lots of water bottles, jackets, shirts, hats, sunglasses, eyeglasses, and a few umbrellas. If any of these items belong to you, please pick them up at the Parish Office. Any donatable items will be donated, and the rest will be disposed of. Thank you!




Upcoming Concerts At Christ Church Easton



EASTON Choral Arts SOCIETY
PRESENTS
**OF WATER
TO SKY**
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 AT 7:30PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024 AT 4:00PM
Christ Church Easton
Tickets \$25, Students free
Purchase tickets at www.EastonChoralArts.org

 **MSAC**
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE | Maryland state arts council

 **TALBOT
ARTS**

 Mid-Shore
Community Foundation



JASON ANDERSON
WITH **YOUNG WOLF**
AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC
THURSDAY, MAY 2
CHRIST CHURCH
111 S HARRISON ST, EASTON, MD
7PM • \$10 SUGGESTED DONATION

The Easton Choral Arts Society will be performing two shows this month entitled “Of Water to Sky” Friday, April 26 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, April 28 at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 each and may be obtained at <https://ecas.ticketspice.com/ecas-spring-2024>. For more information contact Emily Moody at verymoodyone@gmail.com.

Finally if you enjoy indie music, we have a special treat coming on May 2: Alix Lovell’s son Caleb (aka Young Wolf) will be performing an acoustical set along with his Canadian friend Jason Anderson. This one-time only concert will take place in the church with a suggested donation of \$10 per person. We hope you can make it.



4/1	Karen Fisher	4/19	Kelsey Spiker
4/4	Susan Carrow		Marco Verteramo
	Erin McDonald	4/20	Michael Adams
	Bob Sheets		John Itell
	Bobby VanFossan	4/21	Hannah Bradley
4/5	Elizabeth Todd	4/23	Luke Stehle
4/6	Cappy Carroll	4/24	Jessica Lister
	Anna Norton		Benjie Manley
4/8	Geoff Oxnam	4/25	Ken Bush
	Fran Pobletts		Jon Fisher
	Michael Valliant		J.P. Lewis
4/9	Bill Mattimore		Bob Shannahan
4/12	Paul Cox		Bruce Strazza
	Emily Moody		Ralph Veteramo
4/14	Adele Showalter	4/29	Liliana Walstram
4/17	Beth Bush	4/30	Gay Nily
	Thomas Lane		Alison Reinhardt
4/18	Brian Mathias		

**If you would like your birthday listed in the Newsletter, please add your birthday into Realm.*

Offerings and Gifts

Thank you for your continuing financial support to the work of the church. You provide the resources the church uses to carry out our ministries and mission to be the light of Christ in our community. A collection basket for your contributions is located in the aisle at the entry of the church. Other ways to give include scanning the QR codes below with your smartphone, Venmo: @Christ-Church-5, and by mail or through our website.





CHRIST CHURCH
EASTON

111 South Harrison Street

Easton, MD 21601

410-2822-2677

www.christchurcheaston.org



**“For I know the plans I have for you , ‘says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good
an not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”**

Jeremiah 29:11