

Holy Week and Easter at Holy Apostles

The whole of the church year builds toward Easter Day, while the observances of Holy Week take us liturgically through the events that comprise the bulk of the written Gospels. The liturgies of the great “Triduum” (the “three days” beginning with Maundy Thursday, moving through Good Friday, and culminating in Easter) may rightly be seen as a single liturgy extended over several days, in which we are invited to enter the story Christ’s passion and to celebrate his resurrection— “the paschal mystery” at the heart of Christian faith.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28th

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist

5:15 pm: Bluegrass Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

6:30 pm: Holy Eucharist

8:30 pm: Prayer Vigil (through the night)

Good Friday, April 2nd

12:00 pm: Proper Liturgy
(with Communion)

6:30 pm: Proper Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 3rd

9:00 am: Proper Liturgy

Easter

Saturday, April 3rd

7:30 pm: The Great Vigil of Easter
(incense used at this liturgy)

Sunday, April 4th

7:00 am: Sunrise Service of Holy Eucharist
(outdoors)

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist (in the Nave)

*Pre-register at www.holyapostlestn.net to attend this service



The Great Vigil of Easter

The Great Vigil, when observed, is the first service of Easter Day. It is celebrated at a convenient time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Morning.

In the darkness, fire is kindled ... ~from the opening rubrics for the Great Vigil in the Book of Common Prayer

The Easter Vigil, as contained in the BCP, is based upon one of the earliest known liturgies of the church, dating to at least the second century. In the early church (and still today in the Eastern Orthodox churches), it was a true vigil that lasted throughout the night, with multiple readings culminating in baptisms and the first eucharist of Easter. Our celebration at Holy Apostles will be more modest: two Old Testament readings, the Epistle, and Gospel, followed by a renewal of our Baptismal Covenant and Holy Communion. However, the structure of the service will remain that which has formed the principal liturgy of the church for two millennia.

The liturgy begins after sunset with the kindling of a new flame, from which the Paschal Candle is lighted. This candle burns throughout the Great Fifty Days of Easter (it is also lighted at every baptism and every burial, regardless of when in the year they occur). The congregation bears candles lighted from the same, and the Deacon chants the *Exsultet*—an ancient hymn-prayer, which praises God for the victory of Christ’s resurrection. The faithful are then invited to “hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history” in the scriptures that follow, leading up to the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection Gospel.

It is one of the curiosities of language that English speaking countries are alone in using the word *Easter* for this central Christian celebration. In almost every other language, the term for this day is the same as that used for the Jewish Passover—*Pascha*. More than any other liturgy, the Great Vigil makes this connection explicit to draw us into “the paschal mystery.” In the words of the late Marion Hatchett, “In the Great Vigil of Easter we celebrate and make present the pivotal events of the Old and New Testament heritage, the passover of the Hebrews from the bondage of slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land, the passover of our Lord Jesus Christ from death, and our own passover from the bondage of sin and death to the glorious liberty of new life in Christ Jesus.”

Holy Apostles Youth



EYC
6th - 12th
Graders

Sack Lunch Sunday is back!

Join us in person on Sundays from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm for lunch, fellowship and fun!

We'll meet in the courtyard. Bring a sack lunch.

April 11th
Spring Games

April 18th
Labyrinth and Chalk Art

April 25th
Kickball

Check us out on Twitter or Instagram @holypostlesth or like our Holy Apostles Youth Page on Facebook!

Providing a welcoming community in which all can, with open hearts and open minds, receive God's grace through worship, fellowship, learning and outreach to others.

Holy Week for Families at Holy Apostles

Palm Sunday, March 28th - Easter Sunday, April 4th

Holy Week Family Bags

A bag will be available for every family with devotions & crafts that will bring activities for Holy Week into their homes. **Holy Week Family Bags will be available beginning Palm Sunday, March 28th.**

Email cynthia@holypostlesth.net if you would like them delivered to your home!

Family Devotions Zoom for
Holy Week

Sunday, March 28th, 6:00pm

Family prayers and activities that can be done at home for each day of Holy Week.

Meeting ID: 931 6977 2009 Passcode: 558336

Children's Way of the Cross

Good Friday, April 2nd 10:00 am

This stations of the cross engages kids in an all senses experience! Stations will be outside and individual activities will be given to each family participating. Family groups will work together, maintaining social distance.

Prime Timers Lunch

April 14th

It is time to get together again! Father Clay has invited us to meet in the PLC on Wednesday, April 14th at 11:45 am. We are going to celebrate being together after this challenging year apart. It is going to be so great to see everyone again!

Bring your own lunch, homemade or purchased as take-out. We will not have a buffet, share utensils, or gather closely. We will provide water, iced tea, napkins and plastic-ware. Also, we ask that everyone wear a mask and practice social distancing.

We are working on lining up an exciting program. Stay tuned for details!

Please sign up using the link in your weekly email, so we will know how many are coming and how many tables and chairs to set up.

Even if you have had your shots, if when the day comes you find you have been recently exposed or if you feel feverish or ill that day, we ask that you skip this gathering. We will miss you, but we want to continue to protect everyone as best we can. We will have other opportunities to get together in the coming months!

Let's make this a celebration of survival over this past year and enjoy the fellowship we have all missed so badly! See you there!

Rector Search Update

By Mike Siegel

Your Rector Search Committee is working hard and making great progress! In weekly meetings, we have compiled and edited content for our Parish Profile, which is now moving to the design and layout phase. In addition, recognizing that all candidates will begin their research online, we engaged a social media consultant to conduct an audit of our website and social media presence. The findings – which are very complimentary of our current activities – will be presented to the Search Committee, along with Parish Staff and Vestry, in our next meeting. Finally, the Building & Grounds Committee is planning a spring work day, during which time we will continue our work to enhance the landscaping and “curb appeal” of our property. This will prepare us to take some new, current photos to include in our promotion of Holy Apostles. As always, we invite you to reach out to any member of the Rector Search Committee with questions or comments.

Adult Forum and Christian Education

It really is a little hard to believe that we are in the home stretch of our Adult Formation and Christian Education program year based upon the book, *Walk In Love - Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*. With only five topics remaining to be discussed in April and early May, I cannot help but remember my initial sense of uncertainty as we embarked on this program year as a parish staff and realized that our shared journey would look very different due to the need for on-line worship and learning due to the coronavirus. Despite the challenges, I hope that it has been a meaningful time of learning and growth for you, as it certainly has been for me. I thank you for your continued faithful attendance and participation throughout these past several months.

Here are the Adult Forum topics for the month of April:

Sunday, April 4

EASTER SUNDAY (no Adult Forum presentation)

Sunday, April 11

Jesus Christ, Who is the Resurrection - The Burial Office

Sunday, April 18

Our Witness to Him - Knowing Our Story

Sunday, April 25

Proclaim to All People - Telling Our Story

Finally, there is still time left for you to sign up for the Holy Week Prayer Vigil, which takes place on the night of Maundy Thursday through the morning of Good Friday. Please prayerfully consider participating either in-person or at home. You can register on SignUpGenius via the link found on the weekly emails, the parish website, or on one of our two Facebook pages. For more information about all of these Adult Formation & Christian Education opportunities, you can contact me at tom@holypostle.net.

Holy Hikers

April 10th

The Holy Hikers will stroll the level, paved Collierville Greenway Trail along Nonconnah Creek on Saturday, April 10th. We will begin at the western end across the field from the fire station on Houston Levee Road and 385.

Meet us in the church parking lot at 9:00 am. You can also meet us at our starting point. Just call Frank Potter (901-230-1818) to let him know to expect you there.

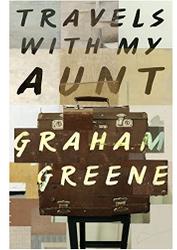
Dress for the weather, bring water and perhaps a snack. This is a one way trail, so we will return to vehicles at the starting point.

Bikes and pets and people of all ages are welcome. We should see a lot of trees and flowers blooming and hopefully enjoy a sunny, slightly breezy day!

Feel free to join us. Meet some new folks in the church, enjoy an easy romp in the out-of-doors, and relax for just a little while! Call Frank with questions or arrangements. We hope to see you there!

Reading with Holy Apostles: April

Reading with Holy Apostles book club will meet to discuss our April selection, *Travels with My Aunt* by Graham Greene on Tuesday, April 20th via Zoom at 6:30 pm. Check your weekly HA email for the link.



A retired London bank manager is yanked out of the suburbs by his eccentric aunt for a “cheerfully irreverent” romp across Europe (*The Guardian*).

Now that the dullish Henry Pulling has left his job with an agreeable pension and a firm handshake, he plans to spend more time weeding his dahlias. Then, for the first time in fifty years, he sees his aunt Augusta at his mother’s funeral. Charging into her seventies with florid abandon, not a day of her life wasted, and her future as bright as her brilliant red hair, Augusta insists that Henry abandon his garden, follow her, and hold on tight.

With that, she whisks her nephew out of Brighton and boards the Orient Express bound for Paris and Istanbul, then on to Paraguay, and down the rabbit hole of her past that swarms with swindlers, smugglers, war criminals, and rather unconventional lovers. With each new stop, Henry discovers not only more about his aunt and her secrets but also about himself as well.

Pulsing with “the tragic and comic ironies of love, loyalty and belief?” Graham Greene’s deceptive lark of novel was made into the 1972 film starring Maggie Smith (*The Times*, London).



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THE ACTS APRIL 2021

Weekly Offerings

Sunday

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am in the Nave and via livestream on our YouTube channel.

Children's Chapel/Sunday School lesson on Facebook.

Bluegrass Evening Prayer at 5:15 pm in the Nave. (Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month)

Monday

Men's Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 am.

Tuesday

Adult Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday

Morning Prayer with Father Clay at 10:00 am on Facebook.

Prime Timers Zoom Gathering via Zoom at 11:00 am (*every other week*).

Compline for Parish Choir via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

EYC **Midweek** via Zoom at 7:15 pm.

EYC **Compline** at 8:00 pm on Instagram.

Thursday

Women's Bible Study via Zoom at 11:00 am.

Adult Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

Friday

Compline with Father Clay at 8:00 pm on Facebook.

For more information on these and other events at Holy Apostles, visit our website (www.holyapostlestn.net), where you can sign up for our weekly email announcements.

Like us on Facebook (@hapostles) and follow us on Twitter (@hapostles) and Instagram (holyapostlestn).