



TRANSFORMATION  
Anglican Church

Redemption  
Inspiration  
Transformation

*TAC Times – April 2020*



Hello, dear friends!

Below, you will find articles about the very special days on our calendar from this Sunday until Easter. These give you some background information. As the actual days approach, you can check out the bulletin for each day which will be posted on the bottom left corner of the website ([www.transformationac.org](http://www.transformationac.org)) for scripture readings and prayers, and a few possible ways to worship from home. We will also continue to post audio sermons, classes, and music as we are able, so watch your emails for those alerts.

In this unprecedented time, I am learning to give thanks for the body of Christ in a deep, new way. I look forward to the time when we can gather physically again, but I also have felt more connected spiritually to our TAC family than ever before – the people sending cards, the person going through the directory making prayer calls, the TLC groups meeting by phone, the extra efforts of our multi-media team and staff to learn new methods of reaching out, the person who suggested making up and delivering Easter goodies to our children, the sharing of uplifting messages and videos, etc. Each of you is a treasure – to our Lord and to me. Love, Anne

### **Palm Sunday**

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**, is Palm Sunday when we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus

Christ into Jerusalem the week before his death and resurrection. We typically begin this service with the **Liturgy of the Palms outside under the porte cochere**. Waving blessed palm branches and singing praises, we process into the sanctuary. Our children are receiving the palms that had already been ordered, and can have their own processions at home this year. You might find a branch outside at your home and use the Palm Sunday



bulletin to have your own procession as well.

The **Gospel reading** for this day is **The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew**, and is usually presented in dramatic style. It also **serves as our Sermon for the day**. Thanks to some dedicated people, this reading will be available on the website this weekend as recorded in our sanctuary. There will not be a Bible class posted for this Sunday as we were scheduled to have one service with no class this week.

### Maundy Thursday

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> is Maundy Thursday.** 'Maundy' comes from the **Latin for 'commandment'**. Our service typically recalls **two important biblical events. First, before the Passover meal, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.** This act provides three major points of understanding: 1) Walking in sandals on the filthy roads of Israel in the first century made it imperative that feet be washed before a communal meal, especially since people reclined at a low table and feet were very much in evidence. When

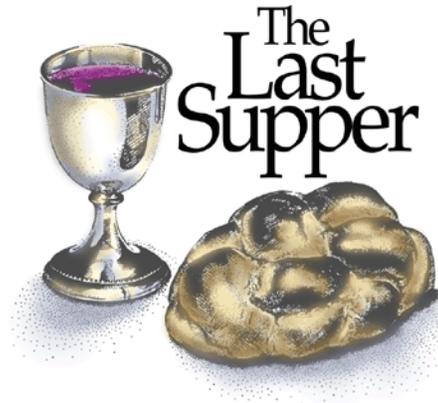


## **FOOT WASHING**

Jesus rose from the table and began to wash the feet of the disciples, He was doing the work of the lowliest of servants. The disciples must have been stunned at this act of humility and condescension, that Jesus, their Lord and master, should wash the feet of His disciples, when it was their proper work to have washed His. But when Jesus came to earth the first time, He came not as King and Conqueror, but as the suffering Servant. He came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." The humility expressed by His act with towel and basin foreshadowed His ultimate act of humility and love on the cross. 2) Jesus' attitude of servanthood was in direct contrast to that of the disciples, who had recently been arguing among themselves as to which of them was the greatest. Since there was no servant present to wash their feet, it would never have occurred to them to wash one another's feet. When the Lord Himself stooped to this lowly task, they were stunned into silence. To his credit, though, Peter was profoundly uncomfortable with the Lord washing his feet, and, never being at a loss for words, Peter protested, "You shall never wash my feet!" Then Jesus said something that must have further shocked Peter: "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me", prompting Peter, whose love for the Savior was genuine, to request a complete washing. 3) This truth is one that Christians can apply to their own lives. First, when we come to Christ for the washing of our sins, we can be sure that it is permanent and complete. No act can cleanse us further from our sin, as our sin has been exchanged for the perfect righteousness of Christ on the cross. But we do need continual cleansing from the effects of living in the flesh in a sin-cursed world. The continual washing of sanctification is done by the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives within us, through the "washing of water by the Word", given to us to equip us for every good work. Further, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He told them (and us), "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you". As His

followers, we are to emulate Him, serving one another in lowliness of heart and mind, seeking to build one another up in humility and love. The Lord promised that true greatness and blessing in His kingdom is attained by those with a servant's heart.

**Secondly, during the Passover meal, Jesus took bread and wine and asked his Father to bless it.** He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my



body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup of wine, shared it with his disciples and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." This Last Supper forms the biblical basis for the Communion we share. Our service typically ends with the stripping and washing of the Altar, followed by a silent procession into the world. A blessing is not given as this service continues on Good Friday.

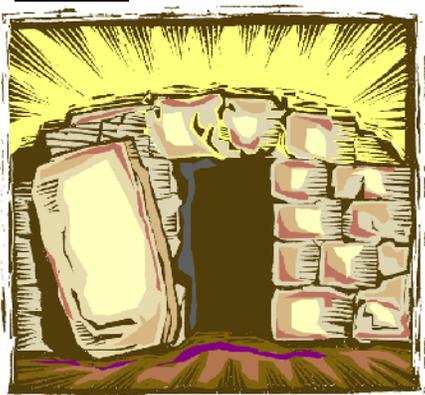
### Good Friday



**Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** is the day we observe Good Friday, **commemorating the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ.** We consider this day "good" because Jesus was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross that the world might be saved through him. When we meditate on his suffering and death, we are truly prepared to celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday. We typically gather from noon to 3:00 p.m. for meditation, confessions, and the Stations of the Cross. Options will be made available to you through the website.



### Easter



E A S T E R

"Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**"

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>,** we will joyfully **celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!** There will be a Christian Education class and sermon posted for this day.

### Lilies Orders

We were able to cancel our Easter lilies for this year, so no orders are being taken. Thank you!



## Notes from Father Bob



### NEW WAYS OF KEEPING IN TOUCH

I have started a **new online Blog** entitled "Read, Mark and Inwardly Digest". This will be a way I can communicate with you (and the world) by posting teachings, sermons, and articles of interest. The blog may be found at

<https://fatherbobblog.wordpress.com>

In addition, I will be posting video messages on my **new YouTube channel** which may be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfqjtQ37PfM8takwIVnKQbQ>

### ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

During this time of "social distancing" we are still able to draw together spiritually. We are providing several ways to make this possible for our TAC family. First, the audio recording of songs of worship by Randy and Dawn Wills is being made available. Second, Fr. Don and I are providing a weekly homily and Bible Lesson for you to hear at your convenience through the parish website. Finally, we **hope to offer two new ways to worship with your church family online:**

#### 1. Spiritual Communion

We will be providing both audio and video of the Eucharist, along with a liturgy for Spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion is an ancient devotional practice that allows the faithful to worship the Lord and be united to Christ through the Eucharist without actually receiving the sacrament. St. Thomas Aquinas defined Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him. It is not the same thing as receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Communion, but it is a way of uniting together in Spirit and in Truth through the once-for-all work of Christ on the Cross.

You can pray the Spiritual Communion liturgy any time you like. Some may wish to do so along with either the audio or video Eucharistic celebration that will be available on my YouTube Channel

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfqjtQ37PfM8takwIVnKQbQ>)

The Liturgy for Spiritual Communion may be found at

<https://fatherbobblog.wordpress.com/2020/03/31/a-liturgy-for-spiritual-communion/>

St. Teresa of Avila wrote: "When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial

practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you" [The Way of Perfection, Ch. 35.]

This Liturgy may be found on my blog:

<https://fatherbobblog.wordpress.com/2020/03/31/a-liturgy-for-spiritual-communion/>

## **2. The Great Litany**

We will also make available both audio and video of the Great Litany from the Book of Common Prayer. This is an ancient form of intercessory prayer, and we commend it to you for daily use. We will use the form of the Great Litany found in the Book of Common Prayer (2019). If you like, you can find the text of this liturgy on my blog: <https://fatherbobblog.wordpress.com/2020/03/31/the-great-litany/>

## **Giving**

We recognize that some of our TAC family members are struggling financially. Either hours have been cut back, or workplaces aren't functioning at all. We are praying for you and hope you will let us know of your needs. However, many of us are still receiving our pay while many expenses, such as gas and car upkeep, entertainment outside the home, etc., are lessened. We ask that each person pray earnestly for the Lord's direction in the matter of giving. The church still has payroll to meet, we still have a mortgage to pay, and we still have utilities and other services that require monthly payments. As you are able, please help us meet these expenses. You may mail contributions to the church: 701 Kensington Drive, Rockwall, TX, 75032. Our mail is being forwarded to Anne's house for deposit. You may open an account with Online Giving at [www.acionlinegiving.com/4657](http://www.acionlinegiving.com/4657), calling Anne at 214-458-5953 for help if needed. Finally, our advisors have graciously offered to pick up any donations that you are unable to mail. Contact Sharon Figueroa at 972-207-7988 or [sfig01@verizon.net](mailto:sfig01@verizon.net) .

**Thank you!**



## **Austin Street Center Ministry**

We are scheduled to minister at Austin Street Center on **Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**. Due to the uncertainty of our possibilities at that time, we will be monitoring the situation and make appropriate decisions closer to time. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for the leadership as we try to care for our friends at ASC, and pray for the staff and clients during this challenge.



## **VBS 2020**

Our **Vacation Bible School Director, Brenda Beggs**, and her **Assistant Director, Sara Maneval**, tell us that their plans continue! We need the prayers of the body concerning this tremendous endeavor.

### **From Brenda:**

Jesus said to His disciples: 'Do not hinder the children for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.' Let us do this! For now, we are keeping the publicized dates and times:

**June 15-18; 5:30-8:30 p.m.** We pray to have 6 weeks from our release of social distancing. It will be a busy time, but many of us are coming out of this quarantine grateful, rested, and humbled. We will be ready to do God's work. Also, many folks have moved vacations, family gatherings, and travel plans to mid-summer in hopes that the sites and venues will be in full operation, so we will have a great audience. We pray for many children, parents, and guardians to be blessed in a mighty way, especially those who, until now, haven't paid much attention to the convergence of fires, floods, rumor of wars and pestilence, but have come to see this as a reality and want their family to be prepared for End Times!

Please pray that we continue to see His leading as we plan this special VBS week; give us flexibility if the scale of the week changes. This is not your 'VBS in a Box' that many churches offer. May volunteers trust in the vision and be excited for what the Lord will do this year, and may recruitment being done by phone and email be fruitful. We need many people to make this a success: prayer team members, drivers, greeters, PreK teacher assistants, 8 Bible teachers: 4 for K – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4 for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades, and contributors.

We ask that the Lord remind us how we can be generous in this time to, first and foremost, keep the church going, and then to give above and beyond for VBS. Many of us are retired and not affected by lay-offs, however our spending is surely curtailed. May we consider re-directing our "non-essential" spending toward building the kingdom.

**Say YES to VBS! Pray, volunteer, invite, and give generously!**

## **Bishop's Well Water Project Extended**

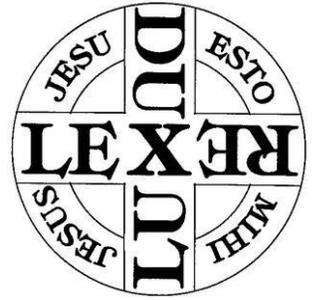


We are still supporting our bishop's Well Water Project. Once we are able to gather again, we will take your change or any other donations you would like to make and forward our gift to the bishop to help continue this vital work in Africa.

## **Special Donation Opportunity**

As far as we know, this opportunity to help provide therapy dogs for special needs children is still possible through mid-April. If you have used shoes to bring to the church, contact Anne at 214-458-5953. Thank you!





*The Order of St. Luke the Physician is an inter-denominational, international ministry for healing of body, mind and spirit.*

*Editor's Note: Tom sent this to the church office staff in early March, before our current health crisis became so evident. It reminds us that God is never surprised or unprepared. He is on the throne - yesterday, today, and forever.*

We always seem to be praying for healing for ourselves or others, which is what we're supposed to be doing. But we also need to be praying thanksgivings, and of course prayers of praise. I found this **Prayer of Praise** in the **OSL Sharing magazine** and thought it was worthy of reprint.

Beloved Father,  
I praise You, because You are holy and mighty,  
You are my fortress and my strong tower,  
You are my protector and You hide me in the shadow of your wings.  
When storms of life come, I run to You and find comfort in Your Presence.  
You are my portion, precious Lord,  
    In You I am complete.  
    In You I find refuge.  
    In you my life is secure.  
You are the One who loves me beyond measure,  
Who fills my heart with gladness until my joy bubbles over,  
You are the lifter of my head.  
You are the One I lean on,  
    I turn to You for wisdom and understanding,  
    For truth and insight.  
    You are my teacher and my guide.  
For You are all wise, all knowing——nothing is hidden from you.  
In You I find myself, for I am made in Your image.  
You are the One who created me.  
    You filled me with Your Spirit,  
    And You made me Your child.  
    You chose me to be Your own,  
    And You drew me into Your heart.  
You have wonderful plans for my life.  
I long for nothing more that to be totally Yours,  
Surrendered, yielded, emptied of myself,  
Filled with You and Your will for my life,

I praise You for being my loving Father,  
Who adores me,  
Who cherishes me,  
Who treasures me,  
Who watches over me,  
Who loves me beyond measure,  
Who calls me His child.

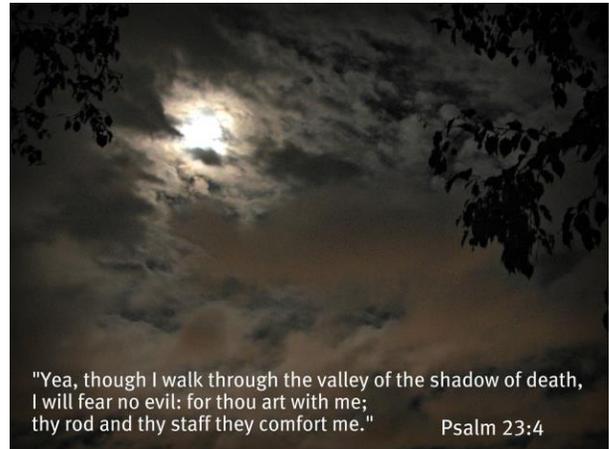
You are all I need. **Amen.**

### **Inspirational Message from Glenna McLane**

In 1980, Don and I lost, through premature birth, twin boys - Gregory and James. It was a deeply sorrowful time in our lives. We were living in another state far away from family, but we received many messages of comfort, sympathy and hope from family and friends.

In one inspirational booklet someone sent us, I read a very simple message about the "Valley of the Shadow of Death" that has stayed with me these past 40 years. I cannot remember it to quote it, but the message was one that said the "Valley of the Shadow of Death" is not absence of Light. On the contrary, how can there be a Shadow without the presence of Light?

This remembrance came to me after reading Senior Advisor, Sharon Figueroa's letter to the congregation and thinking about death surrounding this pandemic. Forty years ago, the realization that there was Light in the Valley was quite a revelation to me and very encouraging.



### **Message from the Anglican Connection**

*Word on Wednesday – by John Mason*

**‘Eternity...’ – April 1, 2020**

On New Year's Eve on the stroke of the 21st century the word Eternity lit up on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The back story is the personal story of Arthur Stace. Born in poverty to alcoholic parents, he had little education and became a petty criminal, an alcoholic and homeless. In the aftermath of World War II, he joined the lines outside St Barnabas' Broadway, an Anglican Church in Sydney that provided food and shelter for the homeless. However to get a meal involved first hearing a sermon! Stace turned to Jesus Christ.

One night he heard a sermon on the text of **Isaiah 57:15** which reads: *For thus*

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*says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits Eternity, whose name is Holy; "I dwell in the high and holy place, with also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

The preacher stressed the point: "Eternity, Eternity, I wish that I could sound or shout that word to everyone in the streets of Sydney. We've got to meet it. Where will you spend Eternity?"

Challenged by these words, Stace, though almost illiterate, started chalking, in the early hours of the morning, the one word Eternity in a distinctive copperplate script on the streets of Downtown Sydney. It appeared over 500,000 times. I remember often seeing it myself. Eternity became the mystery and the fascination of Sydney.

Yet how important is this word for our world today – a world challenged by a novel coronavirus pandemic. Deep down most people hope there is life beyond the grave. But what will *eternity* look like?

A key to the answer is found in what the New Testament speaks about as the day when Jesus Christ will be revealed or, to use JRR Tolkein's phrase, the day of 'The Return of the King'. In Colossians 3:4 we read: *When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

**In today's world** of scientific progressivism God's people are often mocked because they believe that Jesus of Nazareth not only died and rose again but that he will return one day as God's king. Two millennia have ticked by and nothing has happened.

Certainly, the idea of Christ bursting through the skies in a blazing display of power and glory, is not an idea that anyone can easily accept. Jesus' return isn't just unlikely, people reckon, it is pure science fiction.

**The Return of the King.** But the Bible leaves us in no doubt about its reality. From cover to cover it tells us that the world is going somewhere and that the final outcome will be the return of God's king in great power and glory. He will reveal God's kingdom in all its fullness.

Furthermore, Jesus spoke very decidedly about a day of his return. For example, in Luke 17:26-30 we read his words: *"Just as it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking, and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed all of them ... It will be like that on the day that the Son of Man is revealed"* (17:26-30).

In using the examples of *eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage*, Jesus is telling us of a final day coming unexpectedly in the midst of everyday life. People of Noah's time were so taken up with their own lives that they ignored God. And because they reckoned that Noah was naive, they took no notice – until the day when they were overtaken by an enormous flood. Furthermore, it is only some twenty-eight life spans ago (a life span being 70 years) that the events of the death and resurrection of God's Son occurred.

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Jesus had clearly predicted them in the course of his public life. As these predictions were fulfilled, is it not conceivable that his third prediction – about his return – will also take place?

And when he returns what a day that will be! As Paul tells us in Colossians 3:4 with the return of the King in a blaze of awesome glory and power, God's people will be vindicated. And, because Christ is not only the source of our spiritual life but also the dynamic presence in our life through his Spirit, the true nature of God's people will be seen by everyone.

This present age will be seen for what it is – passing. But the pure joy and glory of God's people will be manifest for what it is – an experience of life in all its fullness for all eternity.

Eternity awakens our minds to a larger picture of life and meaning – to 'a time without end'; to 'another world'; to 'perfection'; to 'God's Country'.

It is nothing short of a miracle that Arthur Stace's one word sermon on New Year's Eve at the beginning of the new millennium was seen by an estimated four billion people around the world. How important it is that we heed what Colossians 3:4 tells us about the return of God's King. Don't miss out!

**Reflect.** *So if you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are in earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory (Colossians 3:1-4).*

**Prayer:** O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: do not leave us desolate, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to where our Savior Christ has gone before, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for evermore. **Amen.** (BCP, Sunday after Ascension - adapted)



## April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 A – Chuck & Sue Orite	2	3	4 A – Bill & Judy Croll
5 Palm Sunday	6 B – Jim Messler	7	8 B – Myra Lenoir	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday  B – Dennis Pendergrass	11
12 Easter Sunday  B – Waylon Lawler	13	14	15 B – Kathy Harrington, Larry Maupin, and John Tomlinson	16	17 B – Peggy Ralston	18
19	20	21 B – Hellen Otieno and Daymon Schulgen	22	23 A – Lenny & Elaine Smith B – Martha Fajardo and Sue Orite	24 B – John Maneval	25 A – Kenneth & JoAnn Craddock
26	27 B – Richard Ritz, David Sanders, Betty Spillman, Trish Sunday, and Virgil Sunday	28	29 Scheduled for Austin Street Ministry – will update closer to time B – Mark Carr	30		

**Transformation Anglican Church**

*Redemption  
Inspiration  
Transformation*

**We are redeemed through faith, inspired with hope, and transformed in love.**

**Church Information**

**Address:** 701 Kensington Drive, Rockwall, TX 75032  
**Phone:** 214-458-5953 (Anne Horan)  
**Website:** [www.transformationac.org](http://www.transformationac.org)  
**Office Hours:** Closed until further notice

**Staff**

**Don McLane, Pastor**  
**Bob Hackendorf, Assisting Priest**  
**Bill Schulgen, Deacon**  
**John Shaver, Executive Director of Ministries**  
**Randy Wills, Music Ministry**  
**Jennifer Horan, Nursery Coordinator**  
**Anne Horan, Parish Administrator**

**Advisory Council**

**Jim Blevins**  
**Rick Maneval**  
**Tom Ryan**  
**Sharon Figueroa– Senior Advisor**  
**Dan Liane – Treasurer**

**The deadline for each issue is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to be published in the following newsletter. Please send your articles to [john@transformationac.org](mailto:john@transformationac.org) . ALL ARTICLES ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED.**