



St. John's Scroll



Upcoming Services

| Date | Liturgical Day | Time | Rite | Officiant | Sermon | Altar Guild |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 3/31/24 | Easter Sunday | 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist Rite 2 | Mtr Barb Massenburg | Mtr Barb Massenburg | JoCarol & Mandy |
| 4/07/24 | The 2nd Sunday of Easter | 10:00 AM | Morning Prayer Rite 1 | Hunter Davis | Hunter Davis | Ellen & Lynn |
| 4/14/24 | The 3rd Sunday of Easter | 10:00 AM | Deacon's Mass Rite 2 | Alan Rockwood | Alan Rockwood | Charlotte & Olga |
| 4/21/24 | The 4th Sunday of Easter | 10:00 AM | Morning Prayer Rite 2 | Hunter Davis | Hunter Davis | Charlotte & Olga |
| 4/28/24 | The 5th Sunday of Easter | 10:00 AM | Deacon's Mass Rite 2 | Alan Rockwood | Alan Rockwood | JoCarol & Mandy |
| 5/05/24 | The 6th Sunday of Easter | 10:00 AM | Morning Prayer Rite 1 | Ossie Knowlton | Ossie Knowlton | Ellen & Lynn |

D E V O T I O N A L

Viewing Ourselves Rightly

“By the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

-Romans 12:3

No one is immune to the sin of self-exaltation. To find evidence of this, simply enter any kindergarten classroom. In this little group of children, soon enough somebody will be singing their own praises about building the

tallest block tower or drawing the best family portrait – in other words, thinking of themselves more highly than they ought.

Constantly comparing ourselves with other people is a worldly way to think. An exaggerated view of ourselves is a dreadful problem – one that puts others down and ignores our place before God. The answer, though, is not found in self-denigration, which is the opposite and equal error to self-exaltation. Disparaging yourself is also the product of pride because it still surfaces from comparison...it is still self-focussed.

The Christian's view of self should be grounded in a mind renewed by God (Romans 12:2). With this perspective, we find our value in God's mercy and grace. Our significance, identity, worth, and role all find their foundation in who God is and what He has done for us, not on account of who we are or what we've done for Him.

We are reminded of this proper perspective of self when we sing the lines, "When I survey the wondrous cross / on which the Prince of glory died." To survey the cross is to focus on the gospel—the truth that another has died in our place and borne our punishment. In doing this, we realize that "my richest gain I count but loss / and pour contempt on all my pride." The cross raises us and lowers us at the same time, freeing us from needing to push ourselves forward in life, and enabling us to acknowledge ways in which God has gifted us. This is thinking of ourselves with "sober judgment."

The church, then, is to be noticeably different from the world in the way we view ourselves and each other. When we come together, united by the gospel, all else that relates to our identity – though not irrelevant – loses its primary significance, and we use our gifts not to please ourselves but to serve others.

Look at the cross, where your Savior bled and died for your sins because He loves you. There is no room to feel proud. There is no need to compare yourself to others. Instead, you can use all that He has given you in selfless, joyful service of others.

by Alistair Begg, *Truth for Life*, copyright 2021 by The Good Book Company, used by kind permission.

Palm Crosses in the Making



Ellen, Mandy, Christa, Alan, & Lynn at work



Kanayama chaperon Junichi Sekiguchi, a logger by trade, stops by to make a cross.



Noah and Evelyn playing in the palm box



Charlotte is an old hand at this.



Junichi Sekiguchi got it done.

Questions in 2019

You were so young two thousand years ago.

Had You known a strand of grey when You went away?

Possibly. But surely not as early as the Year 19.

Historians debate the timing of Your birth,

And in the same breath, mock,

with talk of “the Common Era,”

coinciding with One so uncommon.

Regardless of the exact year,

You’d have been near Conall’s age.

Still a decade away from the day of Your public bloom.

Your cousin John was a green branch, too.

How close were You to him? Did You share secrets?

Was Your earthly father still alive when You were 19?

The Word made muscle, blood, and bone

lived secretly in Nazareth,

a timeline tensed and taut,

a matter of interest to demons.

Did local girls notice You? Did You notice their notice?

Did You visit that large nearby town,

the one with the amphitheatre?

If so, and You took in a play, were the hypocrites, the actors,

Your inspiration for naming the Pharisees in later years?

When You slipped away from family to spend time at prayer, did they shake their heads and wonder why You weren’t spending more time at work, cutting and planing and shaping wood?

After all, at 19 that was Your future.

by Rod Landis

Four Questions for Ossie Knowlton

1. Which church did you attend before coming to St. John's? What is one big difference between the two?

Prior to moving to Alaska, I was a congregant at a quaint little church in San Antonio, Texas called River City Living Church. To which, I also served as the Vice Chairman on their Board of Directors, similar to our Junior Warden role here. This vibrant church was not Episcopalian, but it was run by my previous mentor, the late Right Reverend Grant Lynn Ford, who was a retired Episcopal Bishop from a Florida diocese. RCLC was part of the Progressive Christian denomination. They functioned identically to what we know, but with a very heavy emphasis on social justice, progressive equity, equality, and outreach. There, I learned what it meant to exist in the "Bible Belt" while not being part of the Evangelical Mega-Church movement, which dominated the entire region of South Texas. This, obviously, made us a target of much hostility, as anyone who lived in the South would know. Regardless of the opposition and frequent threats we faced, this experience strengthened my resolve to be firm and fearless in my faith. This often marks my actions today in focusing on alliances with marginalized groups and the 'unchurched'. During my tenure at RCLC, we grew from a little church with about 30 members, to a bustling community center with nearly 300 members, hosting all sorts of activities, both religious and secular. We even received recognition by the Texas State Legislature for our proactive stance within the city and our work with the Haven for Hope homeless center. Prior to that, I was a member of Saint Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Whiterocks, Utah on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation where I would alternate my Sundays between church attendance and the 'Native American Church' lodge.

2. What have you been surprised by, and what have you been delighted by, in your work with the St John's vestry?

In the years I have been employed by the St. John's Vestry, I've been repeatedly surprised by the resolve and commitment demonstrated by the group. In the time since the pandemic, I have been most delighted by their strength and experience in our faith tradition to carry on in the face of adversity. With their continued support, I am extremely optimistic for our future growth. With their advocacy, I have been able to expand our ministry to the Coast Guard community and represent St. John's within the Ketchikan Ministerial Association. This is just the beginning and I look forward to the new connections these groups have exposed me to.

3. What do you consider the most significant work you do in your capacity as Clerk of the Vestry?

As the Clerk of the Vestry, or more simply, the Parish Secretary, I function as the business manager for the congregation. This is the most fulfilling work I have ever done in my life. I have the opportunity to use my administration experience and evangelistic tendencies to project our goodwill into the town at large. I get to handle all of the day-to-day activities within the office during the week, which also includes the less glamorous role of desk work. On a daily basis, I am permitted to use my creativity, intuition, and know-how to help guide our group into a bright future.

4. You're beginning to deliver sermons at Morning Prayer services. How do ideas for sermon subjects come to you?

Since I've been onboard at St. John's, I've enrolled in Education for Ministry (EfM) with our diocese's Dean in charge of my instruction. Every Monday, I meet with my training group of about 12, where we openly and frankly discuss scripture and its implications for our human conditions. Within the class, I retain topics that we discuss and repackage them for my homily. I also get to recall my prior experience and discussions with my former mentors and my family's 'pipe-bearer' or lodge leader and the lessons I've learned in the time before my Christian confirmation, as an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe. This duality compliments my

actions and the words I use, as the two groups are not as far apart as one might think.

Ossie Knowlton

Clerk of the Vestry

St. John's Episcopal Church

Sermons from the Vault

Easter Day 2022

Luke 24:1-12

The Thing About Easter

By Mother Barbara Massenburg

We have had the best week with weather, haven't we? Ketchikan is known for its rain, wind, and dark days -- but when it decides to turn nice, no place can compare. Today's Easter is one for the record books. We see the promise of spring all around, and it lifts our spirits and hearts, especially after a hard winter. When we have a really good day, like we have today, all we can say is "Wow."

So, today we are blessed with a real knock-out Easter. After service we will go our separate ways with plans for family get-togethers or to a friend's house. It will be a day of rest when we can put aside worries. We will come together with others and renew our bonds. We look forward to this Easter morning as a whole day without stress. It will be a good day.

...but tomorrow we will wake to a new day, and chances are it will not be a good one for the world. There will be problems: hate, distrust, selfishness, and greed, will still be alive and well. We will still have to

hear on the news about all the horrors experienced throughout the world. Some days it seems things could not get much worse for some. However, the problems are not new just to our generation. The past has held many of the same fears and injustices. The good old days for the most part were probably not actually all that good.

Sunday after the Crucifixion was the unveiling of the miracle of Jesus' return to life. There are different versions in the gospels of who were the first to encounter the living Christ, but it is sure He revealed Himself to more than one. Yet we know that even the Resurrection was not the Happy Ending we so love to hear a story end with. The witnesses to whom Jesus appeared did not immediately recognize him. When they grasped the truth of His presence the world did not become all righteous and pure – although his disciples were happy, they were also shaken. It wouldn't be long before His followers would hide behind locked doors in fear of their lives. The time immediately following Good Friday was filled with danger and terror for many of His followers, and in many places of the world persecution lasts to this day.

We are flawed in our understanding and our ability to stay unified as one people. We still believe our interpretation of the Scriptures is the correct one and if others do not agree, they are just wrong. Many wars have been fought in the name of religion, and families have split over political & cultural differences. Tomorrow we will wake to news reports of the horrors in Ukraine. We will still hear of injustices and brutality in our own country. We will still have to face the problems of our own lives. It will seem the message of Easter is easily forgotten, or perhaps never heard properly, by the world at Large. So, I am guessing that right now you are thinking – “ Well, Mother Barb, you are certainly not giving us a cheery message today. ”

Have faith: there is another side to this. God did send His Son to live with and for us. Jesus spent his days on this earth doing just this,

teaching, and sharing our joys and our sorrows. He knows us. He is still alive in every heart and soul that opens itself to Him. He is with us in those times of stress and heartache, and He rejoices with us in our successes. He taught so much with his parables... although a funny thing I have learned about those parables is I notice something new each time I hear them, and I have heard them for many years now.

Life for Jesus' followers did not become easy in the years after He rose, said His goodbyes, and ascended to Heaven. We read in the New Testament how they dealt with problems of how and what they were to become, the way their lives were led. St Paul, the most unlikely person chosen, worked and guided fledgling congregations in their growth and learning of the will of God. Reading the letters of Paul, we find they had their group problems too, descriptions of stresses or conflicts of the kind we often experience today. Paul always advised them -- and us -- to love and respect one another. All the epistles have their ground in the teachings of Jesus; "love one another" never goes out of date.

Each of us makes a decision of how we will react to a given situation: how will we follow the commandments God gave us -- or will we believe they do not apply "in this case"? Each of us is capable of saying or doing something without considering the effect of our action. Worse yet is when we hurt deliberately. We daily cater to our needs without considering the effect of others. We fudge a bit, or a lot. God gave us Free will, and it is our choice whether we honor Him with our choices, or not. The formula is simple. We are to love our God with all our hearts, minds and souls. We are to love one another as ourselves.

Yet despite all the teaching given us by Jesus to live the life God wants from us, we just don't seem to get it. As I was sitting, working on the sermon (and I admit, not in a very positive mood), I happened to look up and there was a hummingbird hovering by the window. He was looking for the feeder that is always full and waiting for him. First time

I have seen a hummer this spring, and it lifted my spirits. It was as if the hummer was a sign from God that there will still be good and meaningful events in our lives. I don't know where that bird has been the last six months, but he is back. I can't help but feel his appearance was a sign that God is still alive and concerned with even the tiny hummer to get him back safely to my deck. A signal that life is still going on and it is good. The seasons will come and go. We will have hard times and make dumb mistakes, but God is still God.

We are so fortunate to have a beautiful day as today is for Easter. And yes, our world is not a totally peaceful and safe place for all its inhabitants. Envy of another person's property or standing will start wars. There will be new hazards to our health and new viruses to cut us down. *But* as Christians we still share that love Jesus demonstrated and commanded us to share with our brothers and sisters. We have had down through the years leaders who have continued to teach us these basic truths. When we work together toward a common goal, there is always a satisfactory conclusion.

Today is a beautiful day. The sun is shining. But the best part is that God is alive. He is alive and active among us. He approves our successes and forgives our mistakes and thoughtless hurts.

Hallelujah, the Lord is Risen! The Lord is risen indeed.

Our Memorial Garden

The Lenten crocuses preview Easter glory.





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