



St. Andrew's Tidings

For the Week of April 17

Message from Margaret:

This Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is always lovingly known as “Good Shepherd” Sunday. The familiar words of Psalm 23 are read as an expression of God’s providential love and care. Similarly, the Gospel reading in all three years of the Lectionary cycle is taken from the 10th chapter of John, with its focus on the imagery of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

The story takes place during the winter Feast of the Dedication-Hanukkah, which commemorated the rededication of the temple in 164 B. C., after it had been defiled when sacrifices were made to Zeus. As Jesus is walking along the area of the temple known as the portico of Solomon, he is asked by the Jews whether or not he is the long-awaited Messiah. “The Jews” here does not refer to the Jewish people as a whole, but to the religious leaders who disputed among themselves about Jesus. Since there were those who already thought of Jesus as the Messiah, they demanded that Jesus resolve this issue by asking him: “If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” If Jesus affirmed this claim, his enemies could then develop tactics to refute him.

Jesus replied that his life and teachings had already provided all the evidence anyone could ask. Everything that Jesus had done had been in the name of the God the Jews claimed as their own-yet they did not believe him. To ask for any further statement would be to refuse to accept the evidence. “The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me.” Jesus goes on to say that they are not able to believe him because they are not his sheep. Before he focused on what distinguishes a good shepherd from a hired hand, and now he focuses on the characteristics of the flock.

The Lord’s care for “his own” goes far beyond that of a shepherd for a flock. Jesus offers them eternal life. Thus his sheep will never perish or be snatched out of his hand, because they have been given to him by Abba, the Father. Therefore, no power can separate them from God. All this is leading the hearers to understand-or reject- that there is an inseparable union between Jesus as Son and

Abba as Father. They are one reality. The essential being of Jesus and of God the Father is one. Thus, whoever has seen and heard Jesus has also seen and heard God.

Psalm 23 epitomizes the relationship between the Good Shepherd and his sheep. When we affirm that “the Lord is my Shepherd” we acknowledge our dependence upon God. Just as sheep, especially in an arid country such as Palestine, must be led to green pastures and still waters—so the trusting believer accepts the Lord’s guidance and direction along right pathways.

So we, therefore, celebrate our Risen Lord as the Good Shepherd of God’s flock. It is a beautiful picture of Christ—his faithfulness and tenderness toward us. But we can be wary of literalizing it, sentimentalizing it, reducing it, or limiting our understanding by it. Rather the spirit of this generous image can serve to propel us forward as Christians in our own time.

*Blessings and love,
Margaret*

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS SUNDAY: Peter AT 9 A.M.

ST. ANDREW’S FOUNDATION

St. Andrew’s Foundation will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, April 17th following the service in the church library. A display explaining the goals of the Foundation is in Byrne Hall. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact one of the directors listed on the display.

EASTER PRAYERS

My friend in seminary Suzannah Metz has written: *Jesus' Resurrection calls us out of the tomb also. It calls us to open our communities to all. It calls our communities to be holy—holy because we believe that in loving others we are sharing the indwelling love of God.* This ties in so well with the fact that our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry called for a season of prayer for regions of the Anglican Communion which are experiencing violence and civil strife. “In this season of resurrection, I call on everyone to pray for our brothers and sisters in areas where there is much burden and little hope,” he said. He addressed the situation in Brussels, noting, “the truth is even as we speak this Holy Week, we do so not only in the shadow of the cross but we do so in the shadow of those who have been kicked in Brussels, of those who have been wounded and maimed, of those who weep and mourn. And of a world mourning, and not too sure how to move forward.

Consequently, quoting Galatians 6:2- “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” -he is calling for prayer throughout the holy season of Easter. Beginning on April 3, the Second Sunday of Easter and proceeding through Pentecost on May 15, the Episcopal Church is to pray for a particular province or region: * Burundi; * Central America; * Democratic Republic of the Congo; * Middle East; * Pakistan; *South Sudan. For more information you can contact Elizabeth Boe, the Officer for Global networking, eboe@eoiscopalchurch.org.

Pick up the latest edition of “Forward Day by Day” in Byrne Hall. Large print is \$1.50 and the small ones are \$1.00. There is a collection box above the rack.



**SEND YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD TO BECKWITH
FOR SUMMER CAMP
SEE MARGARET FOR MORE INFORMATION
LET'S HAVE SOMEONE FROM ST. ANDREW'S TO
ATTEND!**

We will **NOT** be hosting Supper at Grace in April. Due to a scheduling conflict we **WILL** be serving dinner on **May 19th** and then back to our regular date on **June 16th**. We welcome all willing hands to join us in serving dinner to those in need of food and fellowship. For more information contact Teri Floore.



Please join us in Byrne Hall this Sunday after the service to celebrate Bobbie McKay's birthday. Please bring a birthday card to wish her health and happiness.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 15th, St. Andrew's Foundation is sponsoring a "Celebration of Life" potluck lunch immediately following the service. Margaret will have information on how to plan your service and representatives from the Vestry, Living Stones and the Foundation will have information about opportunities for leaving a gift to the church. Please join us for food, fellowship and information.

Gluten Free Communion Wafers

We now have gluten free Communion wafers. If you wish to receive them, please indicate to the clergy person distributing the bread.



Help STOP Malaria, a killer of over 1,000,000 people per year. A mosquito net purchased through Episcopal Relief and Development for \$12 helps to protect up to three people from the deadly disease. Please see the display in Byrne Hall and support this outreach with prayer and donations. Please buy your net by Sunday, April 24. Make checks payable to St. Andrew's with "Nets for Life" on the memo line.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified for a longer time)

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Mike, Warren, Mary, Ed, Irv, Jeanne, Wes, Bev, Rudy, Baby Ava, Debra, David, Margaret, Kirsten, Lindsey, Tina, Phil, Kathleen, Pam, Logan, Skylee, Barbara, Hong, Rachel, Jeremy, John, Vincent, Erika, Vicky, Becky, Hong, Mary Lou, Paul, Rachel, Gail, Ronnie, Lavern, Luke, Barbara, Jenn, Cliff, Patricia, Jeffrey, Jane, Ken, Gale, Nell, Sandra, Faye, Rick, Dawn, Elizabeth, William, Adam

*We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad:
Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan, Jeremiah, Richard,*