

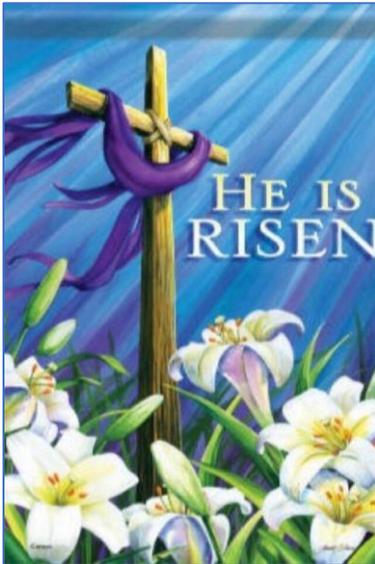


CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 27

April 2023

Open Eyes Rich Simpson



"...open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us." (From Eucharistic Prayer C, The Book of Common Prayer, page 372)

Easter is not confined to a day, to that Sunday morning that falls each year after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. Easter begins at the empty tomb but does not end there. It unfolds over fifty days, culminating at Pentecost. The claim that Jesus was raised from the dead - that his body is not there but is to be found in the world, is the beginning of a journey, not a litmus test of belief. Trusting that claim sends us out into the world. Every time a loved one dies, we have a choice to renew the claim that Jesus'

death is the first fruits of resurrection, and that in death our lives are changed, not ended. Resurrection is a way of life....

Here is the faith claim I want to make: the empty tomb is a metaphor that keeps reminding us that Jesus is not there, but he's everywhere else. By metaphor I don't mean it isn't true or it didn't happen that way. I just mean that we can't turn the empty tomb into a golden calf. That's the last place we go to find Christ! The invitation is to find the risen Christ at every table where the bread is broken - not just sacramentally, but at every meal where we give thanks for our daily bread. The invitation is to find Christ out in the garden (or talking with a stranger we presume to be the gardener) or walking along the way with your bishop on a pilgrimage through the holy ground of a diocese. Or even sitting next to a stranger on an airplane and instead of putting earphones in or staring at a book, turning to engage in conversation when she introduces herself. (This last one is especially challenging for me.)

Brian Wren puts it so well, and I'm trying to live like I believe it - with open eyes, an open heart, and open hands:

Worship Services

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service in-person and
via Zoom

Holy Week and Easter Services
Palm Sunday, April 2, 9:00
a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6,
6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 9:00
a.m.

Events

Clothing Sale

Thursdays April 20 & 27,
Saturdays April 22 & 29

Junk in the Trunk, Sunday,
May 7, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Carol's Kitchen, Saturday, May
13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

*(Zoom connection information
at the end of newsletter.)*

*"Christ is alive! No longer
bound to distant years in
Palestine, he comes to claim
the here and now and conquer
every place and time. // Not
throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human
pains, but daily, in the midst
of life, our Savior with the
Father reigns."*

-- ECF Vital Practices blog,
www.ecf.org, April 25, 2015

Clergy Schedule

Note: We are now including the clergy schedule in the comprehensive worship schedule at the end of the newsletter.

March Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, April 16th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Worship - A discussion was held around a Communion practice being used at some other Episcopal churches where the priest dips the wafer in wine and then places it in hands of Communicants. This would mitigate some parishioners' issues handling the little wine cups. A parishioner survey on this topic will happen after Easter.

Building & Grounds - Because we are in a co-op with Constellation, we are unaffected by the recent electricity rate increases. When the weather warms, we will plan a church building "spring cleaning" project. We are in discussions with Anthony Page about possibly doing the floor "shoring up" work that is needed at 47 Park Place.

Finance - We received an unexpected \$1,000 special gift from an angel donor in February! The Vestry passed a motion to pay for Supply Organists and Supplemental Musicians (e.g. Brady Reynolds our Easter trumpeter) from the Restricted Use Organ fund which will allow us to provide a small gift to those musicians without impacting our operating budget.

Mission - Barbara P is looking into the best way to distribute our 2022 Mission money. We also had some issues with the 2021 disbursements that she will research.

Technology - Susan will be away on Palm Sunday but Diane and Audrey have offered to set up the equipment in church and Susan will then run the PowerPoint presentation remotely. Susan continues to work on improving the sound quality and has purchased two new microphones.

General - The final content for the Parish Profile compiled by the Communications Committee was approved for submission to ECCT. An archival packet of all the materials used in the Family meeting will be filed in the parish office. See the Parish Profile item below.

Parish Profile

On Sunday March 12th we held a parish family meeting to discuss our parish self-study. As part of our search for a new priest-in-charge, the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) requires parishes to complete a parish profile which includes some narrative questions about how we see our parish and what our goals are for the next few years. We met in small discussion groups and gathered together to collect our responses to the questions.

Definition: A parish in ECCT in the new missional age is a community...

- of theological imagination
- fed by Word & sacrament

- forming disciples and apostles in God's mission
- and connected to the wider body of Christ

Here is our completed Parish Profile, approved by the vestry and submitted to ECCT

How are we living into each area of this definition?

Christ and The Epiphany is a small but mighty parish family of faithful, caring, and dedicated Christians. Fully embracing that we are all children of God, we strive to be a welcoming and inclusive environment where people can be inspired and refreshed wherever they are on their spiritual journey. Our membership is highly engaged and we also have a strong outreach mentality. We are active in community life and open our building to many service organizations in pursuit of being a visible expression of God's love. We strive to learn and grow in our faith and understanding of issues of justice and equity. We continue to look for new ways to faithfully support each other and feel God's presence in the midst of a hectic, modern world.

In which area(s) are we strongest and why?

We are an open and inclusive parish family that cares deeply about each other, our community and the world. As such, we are strong in our outreach activities. Using technology such as an email intercessory prayer list, monthly newsletter, hybrid worship, and timely "email blasts" we maintain an

informed and active prayer life as well as a strong pastoral care network, including Lay Eucharistic Ministers. For our community some of our activities include our active Thrift Store, supporting the East Haven school backpack program, and winter mitten tree. We also make our building available for the East Haven Food Pantry, a bi-monthly Community Kitchen, and numerous self-help groups. We involve community groups in our worship services on Boy Scout Sunday, Veteran's Day, and the town Ecumenical Thanksgiving service. We hold special events and collect donations for other organizations such as during our annual Blessing of the Animals. For our global mission work with the Women's Empowerment center in Madagascar and in Nigeria, the Kateri Medical Center - we support them spiritually, financially and even physically by sending onsite a medically trained parishioner.

Which area(s) are the biggest challenge for us and why?

Our biggest challenge is our small and aging congregation. Despite our passion, having limited resources impacts the projects we can take on. We have run a positive budget for the last few years but our large building continues to need increasing maintenance even as we have begun a successful exterior painting capital campaign. Although a strong "DIY" parish, the lack of consistent clergy leadership has resulted in uneven spiritual guidance. We are frustrated by our slow growth and absence of youth even as we acknowledge the hurdles of

Around the Church

Gail Flynn and Benji chat with Astrid Swanson and Easter decor for sale in the Good Shepherd Thrift Store



Spring has sprung according to the hyacinths planted alongside our garage



being in a community where over 51% self-report as "non-religious".

How do we see our next PIC helping us to live more fully in this definition?

Our strongest desire is to have a Priest-in-Charge who will become an involved member of our parish family and help guide us to new levels of spirituality and growth. We want to have a collaborative companion and motivator on our journey to realize God's mission in the world. Open to new voices, we yearn for a scripturally astute and culturally contemporary approach that helps nurture our already inspired faith.

Parishable (intentional pun) Palms

Diane Villano



We wave them, fashion them into crosses, and lay them on the final resting places of our loved ones. Many mainstream Christian denominations, including the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, and Reformed traditions use them. Being the sort of person who likes to look "behind the curtain," I chatted recently with Carol Link-Ude, our esteemed Altar Guild Directress, to explore the

symbolism and use of palm leaves.

The palm leaves we use, from the date palm tree, are grown in the USA, primarily Florida, California, and Texas; and in Latin American countries, such as Mexico. Carol orders palms in late December or early January from a Christian materials supply company. They are delivered two weeks before Palm Sunday (also referred to as Passion Sunday), the first day of Holy Week and the Sunday before Easter, and stored in a cool place. At the beginning of the Palm Sunday service, the palm leaves are blessed by a priest and distributed to the congregation prior to the processional which commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This event is described in all four Gospels: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, and Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-15. Laying palm leaves on one's path was the ancient equivalent of the "red carpet treatment," used to welcome royalty or returning war heroes and became a symbol of victory.

As blessed palms are sacramental, proper disposal requires they be returned to nature; buried in the ground or burned and the ashes spread outside.

Palm leaves not distributed at the worship service are brought to people who were unable to attend church. In some parishes, palms are burned on Shrove Tuesday the following year and their ashes

used the next day, Ash Wednesday, thus completing their spiritual life.

Good Shepherd Thrift Store - Seasonal Change

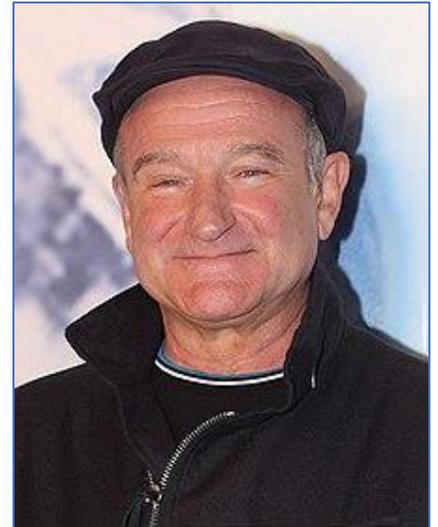
Following our half-price clothing sale, Thursdays April 20 and 27 and Saturdays April 22 and 29, will be our "all hands on deck" seasonal changeover effort. If you can spare even a short time, your help will be greatly appreciated in storing fall and winter clothing and putting out warm weather clothing. Contact Susan Shultz or Barbara Parsons to volunteer.



April 16 - Brady Reynolds
April 28 - Kathy Dougherty

April Fool's Day

In recognition of April Fool's Day, we pay tribute to one of our favorite comedians, Episcopalian Robin Williams. He presented the following list on his 2002 HBO special.



Top Ten Reasons to be an Episcopalian

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male & female, God created them, male & female, we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry, none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

...and the number one reason for being an Episcopalian:

No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

History Nook - Our Baptismal Fonts Audrey Sundwall

Since Easter is traditionally a time for baptism, I thought that this would be a nice occasion to learn more about our fonts.

At Christ and The Epiphany, we are fortunate to have two baptismal fonts - the stone and wooden one placed in the nave and the oak font in the chapel.



The large font placed in the left front corner of the nave, is from The Church of the Epiphany. It sat in storage for 50 years until it was refurbished in 2016. It is made of Caen stone from Normandy in a Gothic design. The altar at St. Paul and St. James in New Haven is carved from the same stone. Epiphany was originally established as a mission of St. Paul's before becoming its own parish. The base contains the

actual font and was first used at Epiphany in 1908. A later addition was the beautifully carved oak cover, made to match the woodwork of the Epiphany organ case.



The Chapel's wooden font was purchased in 1960 to serve as a memorial for my father, Robert P. Smith, Jr. at Christ Church. I remember that my mom went with Father Budding to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York to pick it out. (Perhaps there was a religious goods store next to the cathedral?) The first baby baptized using the new font was Karl Watts, who many of you will remember was Cathy Watt's youngest son. When the new church was built, the font was placed in the chapel near the outside door. At that time baptisms took place on Sunday afternoons in the chapel. Isn't it wonderful that a change was made, and now all parishioners witness the baptismal vows and welcome the newly baptized as a child of God?

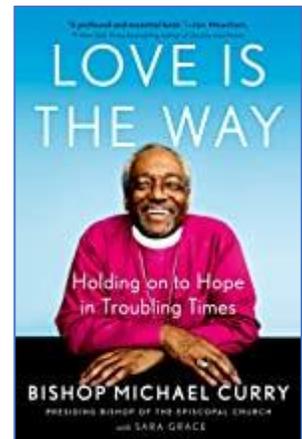
As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at Easter, we don't have a baptism scheduled; but we remember that our baptism symbolizes the death of our

old selves and our resurrection as new creatures, children of God. Praise be to God!



April 27 - Leland & Madeline Hubbard

C&E Spring Book Study: Love is the Way



Our Spring Book Study continues through April 18, taking a break during Holy Week (no discussion April 4). Thanks to Wendy Bellmore for conducting these sessions.

Please send your suggestions for future books for study to Diane Villano.





**Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)**

Spring Training & Gathering 2023



Registration for ECCT's annual free Spring Training is now open. Spring Training will be held online Monday, April 17th through Thursday 27th and in-person Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Course descriptions are posted on www.episcopalct.org. Please inform Diane Villano when you register, as she is compiling a list of registrants and their class selections to ensure a broad range of topics are covered.



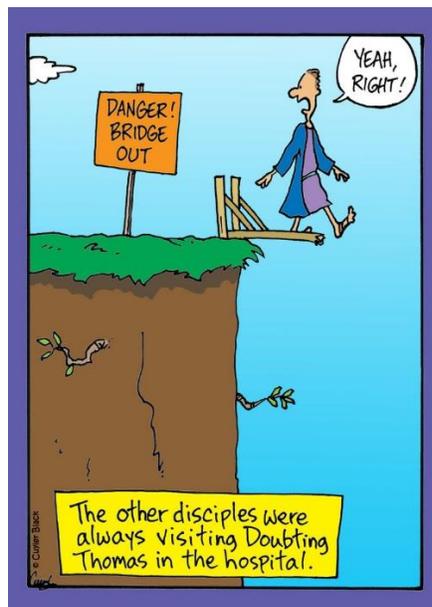
**Education
for Ministry**
Diane Villano

“Our baptismal vows call us to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world. How we live into those vows depends on our personal theology as well as our understanding of scripture and spiritually. Education for Ministry is a program for adults who desire to grow deeper into their faith in a small group. EfM enriches us all for Christ’s mission in the world.”
-- Karen Otte

Karen’s group is the closest and is based at Church of the

Epiphany in Durham, which meets on Zoom Monday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Call Karen Otte or Victor Friedrich at 860-349-3631 or email karen.otee@me.com. They are planning a Zoom open house shortly after Easter.

The group I’ll be graduating from is based in Cape May, New Jersey, and meets on Zoom Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.



Encouraging Words for the Easter Season

Audrey Sundwall

Because if you confess with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’ and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
--Romans 10:9

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
--Acts 4:12

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.
--John: 11:25-26

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.
-- Matthew 28:5-6

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
--1 Peter 1:3

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
--Colossians 1:13-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
--1 Peter 1:3

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
--Romans 6:4

A Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Dick, Doreen St. Germaine, Doris C., Ed, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan McDonald, Jay Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, John Smith, Joyce Aurelius, Kris, Leah S., Linda Lonardo, Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Mike, Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Sallie Alexander, Stanley Rogalski, Susan, Susan Diaz, Tim, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

Next Issue

The deadline for the May issue is **April 18**. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.



Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	FEB	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$6,546.32	(\$2,883.48)	\$18,578.97	\$1,853.67
EXPENSES	\$6,569.87	(\$4,442.54)	\$16,340.43	(\$5,587.64)
NET	(\$23.55)	(\$1,559.06)	\$2,238.54	\$7,441.31

Notes: Income is under budget because of some building use payment timing issues. The February surprise was that we received a \$1,000 special gift donation from another angel donor! Yet another sign of God's blessing on us and our ministry. Grounds maintenance was under budget due to the lack of snow we also saw in January. Fingers crossed that this trend continues through March as well. While it looks like February had a very slight deficit, given the delayed pledges/ building use, special gift and savings in snow plowing, we really ended up with about a \$3,000 surplus.

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (except where noted)

	Palm Sunday April 2, 2023	Maundy Thur. April 6, 2023 6:30 PM	Good Friday April 7, 2023 6:30 PM	Easter April 9, 2023
Service	Eucharist	Eucharist	Good Friday Svc.	Eucharist
Presider / Officiant	Andrew Osmun	Andrew Osmun	Andrew Osmun	Andrew Osmun
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	Diane Villano
Lay Reader	George Coulombe	Terry Osmun	Audrey Sundwall	Gail Beck
Ushers	Barbara Parsons Wendy Bellmore	Wendy Bellmore	Astrid Swanson	Audrey Sundwall Barbara Parsons
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz*	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	George Coulombe			Astrid Swanson
Assistant Counter	Audrey Sundwall			Fred Bowden

	April 16, 2023	April 23, 2023	April 30, 2023
Service	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Eucharist
Presider / Officiant	Wendy Bellmore	Angela Rowley	Andrew Osmun
Crucifer		George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte		Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe
Lay Reader	Barbara Parsons	Judy Herzman	Terry Osmun
Ushers	Diane Villano	Barbara Parsons	Wendy Bellmore
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Pat Walters	Susan Shultz	George Coulombe
Assistant Counter	Melanie Miller	Audrey Sundwall	Melanie Miller

Christ and The Epiphany Leadership 2023

Vestry Members

Senior Warden (Administration) - George Coulombe (also Worship)	Carol Link-Ude (also Altar Guild, Hospitality, and Fund Raising)
Junior Warden (Building & Grounds) - Barbara Parsons (also Outreach)	Audrey Sundwall (also Communications Commission)
Treasurer - Susan Shultz (also Technology)	Astrid Swanson
Clerk - Gail Beck	Diane Villano (also Newsletter)
Ray Clearwater	
Staff	
Barbara Coulombe - Minister of Music	Diane Rowley - Parish Administrator

Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>

To join by phone call: 929-436-2866, Meeting ID = 763 909 4733, Password = **39**

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking

*(See the newsletter, our website, or Facebook page for
Zoom connection information details.)*