

APRIL 2022

THE MESSENGER

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. MATTHEW'S STAFF

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst
Rector

Sherry Minzey
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill
Music Director

OFFICERS

Judy Taylor
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin
Junior Warden

David Macey
Treasurer

Linda Gerding
Secretary

SERVICE TIMES

10:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SERVICE
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

SUNDAY SERVICES ALSO
STREAMED ON YOUTUBE
AND
ZOOM

Holy Week and Easter Message

Dear St. Matthew's church family,

It's been a pleasure to walk with you this Lenten season as we anticipate Holy Week and Easter Day. Many thanks to everyone who have made us feel so welcome.

I have been reflecting on my earliest memories of this season and most of them center around the sights, sounds and smells of Easter Day. I often thought what was it like for those first pilgrims who followed Jesus to the very end.

When I was in the Holy Land in 1996, my ordination class arrived in Israel and then traveled my bus to the many holy sites in a 10-day whirlwind trip. It was in Bethany that I remember the fragrant aroma of local flowers near the tomb that was attributed to Lazarus. I also remember picking up a small orange that had fallen to the ground thinking it was spoiled but I discovered it's pungent and sweet aroma when I gently peeled it open. The taste of that small orange was beyond comparison to any orange I had ever tasted in my entire life. That memory seems like yesterday. I also remember being a groggy youngster being roused from sleep to attend our local church's "Sunrise service." Weather permitting, we gathered outside for a short service as the sun broke through as I imagined the gloom of the tomb that was soon to be open. I wondered as a boy what the sights, sounds and smells the disciples experienced that Resurrection morning.

Continued page 2

The disciples probably had olives and unleavened bread and fruit. Or were they too sad to eat? What a surprise for them when the women came back to them from the tomb declaring that Jesus was not in the tomb? Back at the local church, the aroma of bacon and scrambled eggs filled my nose as we entered the church for that delicious first Resurrection morning breakfast.

As a Methodist pastor who often served yoked church appointments, I had those childhood memories reawakened when all the churches gathered once again to watch the sun burst through the gloom and we sang triumphantly, “He Arose.” I smelled Breakfast casseroles hot out of the oven as we gathered inside for a Sunrise breakfast. The aromatic and lovely smell of Easter lilies filled those small country churches. I have forever linked that aroma with the triumph of that empty tomb that first Easter morning.

I am expecting those wonderful memories to be reignited as we gather for our Holy Week and Easter services. It’s my pleasure and privilege to begin a new faith journey with all of you and make new memories that I ‘ll cherish forever.

With much affection,

Father Jeff

The Episcopal Church’s Good Friday Offering Celebrating a century of financial gifts

For one hundred years, Episcopal churches have been providing financial support for the ministry of the Anglican Communion Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East from their Good Friday offerings.

The Good Friday Offering was enacted by the 47th (1922) General Convention of The Episcopal Church as an effective way for Episcopalians to express their support for the ministries of the three dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

To further the reach and breadth of the Good Friday Offering, our diocese began offering matching grants under the umbrella of the Millennium Goals in 2004. Today, we call it the International Outreach Grant (IOG). All congregations are encouraged to apply for an IOG matching grant in any amount up to \$1,000; a \$250 donation becomes \$500!

St. Matthew’s Vestry has voted to designate our 2022 Good Friday Offering for Jerusalem and the Middle East. Linda Gerding, Community Service & Outreach Chair, will apply for a matching grant; please give generously.

“Blessed be the one who gives with a joyful heart.”

Linda Gerding, Community Service & Outreach

COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS



The Community of Chaplains held their March Circle of Care meeting on March 13, 2022 in the Church Library. During COVID it has been more convenient for the Chaplains to just remain at church to have their meetings.

Patti McGill was the Host and brought St. Patrick's Day decorations along with green and white iced cookies. (So thoughtful for those of us who might have given up chocolate for Lent!) During COVID the typical pot-luck has been scaled down to everyone bringing their own lunches or one person bringing something simple to share with all.

We discussed checking with those ill or homebound to see if an in-person pastoral visit might be wanted, or if folks are still hesitant. We agreed to continue with telephone contacts as an alternative. We alternated reading passages from a Prayer Litany for Ukraine which Linda Batson had shared from Daughters of the King, and Patti brought for the Chaplains to read. We also discussed providing training for anyone in the parish who might be interested in becoming a COC Chaplain. Time & Talent sheets will be reviewed.

Linda Gerding-COC 2022

AND NOW ANOTHER ONE IS GONE!



In 2014 the two large evergreens on the West side of the building had to be removed as they had overgrown so much, they were almost completely hiding the Cross on the building. In 2019 the large Locust tree on the front lawn was dead and had to be removed. This time it was the other large Locust tree on the church property over by the shed next to the Stone Chapel. It was dead, and becoming a threat of falling in high winds and possibly damaging the Chapel or falling into the neighbor's yard to the South. Unfortunately, it was twice as big as the last tree that was removed in 2019, so cost almost twice as much to remove.

Carl Turlin, Jr. Warden, checked with several tree removal services and settled on Safety Tree Co. to do the job at a cost of \$2,800.00. The Vestry voted to have the tree cut down with payment to come out of the Major Improvement Fund. On Wednesday 3-16-22 that crew did a great job of cutting it down and cleaning up everything that remained.

Did you realize it was gone?? I'm pretty sure most of us never even noticed that tree. Even still, it was a potential hazard that has now been dealt with, and thanks to our Jr. Warden, Carl Turlin, it will no longer be a threat to personal or property safety.

Linda Gerding



Auschwitz – Flying Solo

St. Matthews Flying Solo group attended one of the last scheduled gatherings of Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away. The exhibit was held at Union Station in KCMO. Those attending included Linda and Mike Gerding, Patti McGill, Judy Taylor, Janet Carney, and Mary and Charles Cease. Following the exhibit, most of the attendees scooted back to Raytown for Stations of the Cross. No light supper was scheduled afterward since it was our first Stations, so several of us met at Applebee's for dinner. Mike and Janet skipped dinner, but Zella and a friend visiting from Oklahoma (Judy) joined us.



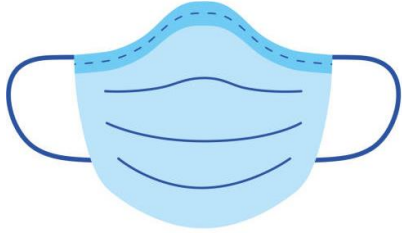
Auschwitz continued



You who are passing by
I beg you
Do something
Learn a dance step
Something to justify your existence
Something that gives you the right
To be dressed in your skin in your body hair
Learn to walk and to laugh
Because it would be too senseless
After all
For so many to have died
While you live
Doing nothing with your life.

Auschwitz survivor Charlotte Delbo (1971)

Photos were taken by Linda Gerding



MASKS

Corona virus numbers are going down across the nation, including in Jackson County and Raytown. We want to know what you think about St. Matthew's mask policy. Since returning to worship in the sanctuary, our policy is to require masks when worshipping in the sanctuary, but to allow masks to be removed while eating and drinking during coffee hour. We want to know if you like this arrangement or if you are ready to make masks optional in the sanctuary. Our rationale has been to keep the sanctuary a "safe place" where everyone is comfortable attending. Please let us know what your preference is, either by telling Linda Gerding, Pat Witmore or Brenda Laney during their Telecare call to you, or by telling me or another vestry member. We want everyone to be comfortable attending St. Matts.

Judy Taylor
Sr. Warden

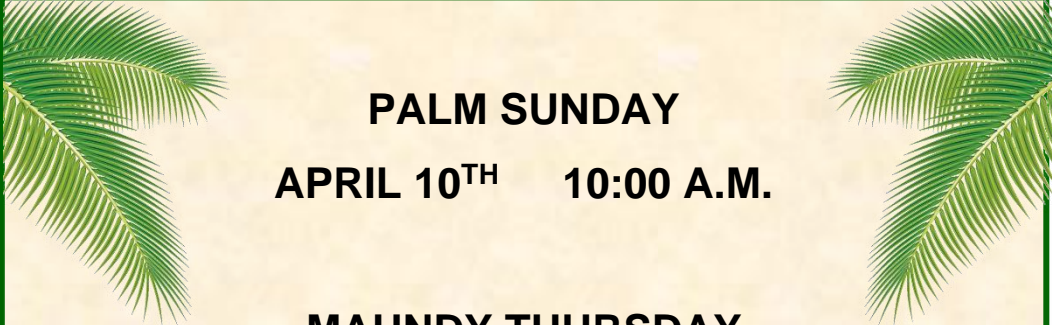
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**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**FRIDAYS, APRIL 8 & 15**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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# **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP**



## **PALM SUNDAY**

**APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> 10:00 A.M.**

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 P.M.**

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

**APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> 12:00 P.M.**

## **EASTER DAY**

**APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> 10:00 A.M.**



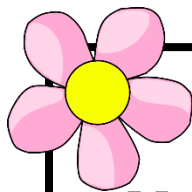
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## GIVING REMINDER

Just a reminder that you have options on how you can send in your pledge.

By mail: Dave Macey's address: 2200 NW Summerfield Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081

Online: Online Giving Link: <http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>



**MAY**

**Messenger/Calendar Deadline**

**April 20<sup>th</sup>**

