

## ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### The Spiritual Practice of Dying in order to Live

In preparation for Sunday's sermon, I've been pondering death a lot. The message of Jesus in this week's Gospel of John can say to us that we are to develop the spiritual practice of dying throughout our life, so that we can truly live and enter into eternal life in the here and now. It seems to be one of Jesus' most defiant and rebellious statements, that which goes against the core of our desire for self-preservation, or against our culture's myth that we can stay young forever and that there would be value in that stagnation of our life process.

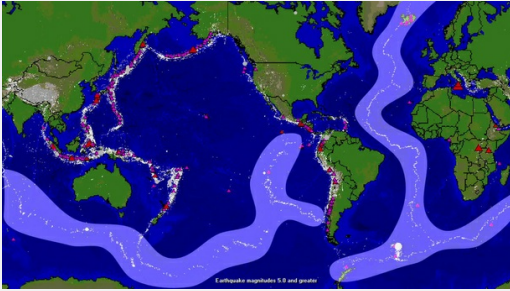
It seems to me the spiritual practice of dying to oneself, to one's preoccupations or one's obsessions or one's own perspectives or prejudices toward those who hold opposing opinions, or to one's fears or deepest pain is what the season of Lent is all about. For each time we die to what was and we allow ourselves to be recreated in the newness of the possibilities Jesus' death on the cross offers us, we are living more faithfully, exposing the truth of our real selves to ourselves, to each other and to God.

This spiritual practice of dying to ourselves is really hard work. It takes courage and companionship and guidance. It is my experience that God shows us exactly what we are to be dying to and also provides the strength and lightness to do this hard spiritual work. If you need a partner along the way, or someone to help you sort out

what it is that God is asking of you, please, let's set up a time for holy conversation.

Faithfully, Mother Barbara

## Our bishop's blog



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*"In these past months, through conversations with lay and clergy people in our diocese and through prayer, it has become increasingly evident to me that the landscape is not just shifting- the tectonic plates, the "Rock" on which the Church has been founded has shifted. Sure there's more to come, but we can no longer talk about this "shifting landscape" without lifting our eyes to see that the horizon really is different than it was a few years ago. It's not just happening... it's happened."*

To ready +Audrey's blog, please [click here.](#)

## Preparing for this Sunday 5th Sunday in Lent

### Preparing your heart

To read the scriptures in advance, please [click here.](#)

To engage in lectio divina on the scriptures, please [click here.](#)

To read the sermon from last week, please [click here.](#)

Youth choir rehearsal is this Sunday, 3/18 at 9:30 a.m. in the PLC.

Collection for support of SPO (Shippensburg Produce Outreach) is this week. We collect money to donate to this organization to purchase fresh eggs for their clients who come to this food pantry.



### Worship Ministers

**8 a.m.**

**Greeters:** Katie Dodds, Gary Lewis

**Verger:** Bill Gawors

**Crucifer:** Katie Dodds

**Lector:** Ivy Kraker

**Eucharistic Minister:** Katie Dodds

**10 a.m.**

**Altar Guild:** Kathy Smith, Jennifer Romine, Edna Guido

**Greeters:** Jennifer Romine, Tom Romine

**Verger:** Mike Rhodes

**Acolytes:** Shannon O'Donnell, Neiley O'Donnell

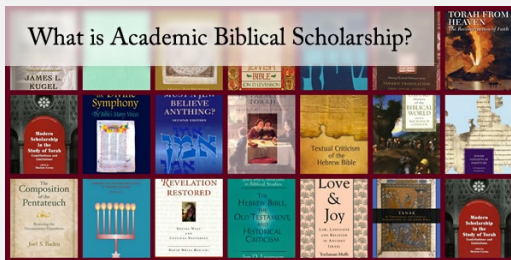
**Lectors:** Tom Briggs, Lisa Turchi

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Susan Briggs, Andrew Smeltz

**Counters:** Betsy Palmer

**Coffee Hour:** The Briggs Family

## What's coming up this week?



### **Biblical Scholarship and our understanding of God.**

**March 21st**

**5:30 pm. Dinner**

**7:00 p.m. Presentation & Conversation**

We will meet on **March 21st** at 5:30 p.m. at Mother Barbara's home.

All are welcome for dinner (6-7PM) and for the program and discussion (7-8 PM)

Young people are invited too!

Always there is new biblical scholarship, the study and exploration of the Bible, either from new sources found or from additional study of existing sources. Some of the information gathered can actually shift our thinking about what was meant by the authors of the sacred texts and therefore can open up our thinking about the meaning of God in our lives. Join us as we meet with Dr. Deirdre Good who was Mother Barbara's New Testament seminary professor and who is now the resident Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Church in New York City. This is a very exciting opportunity to learn from someone who is incredibly knowledgeable and accessible.

## What's coming up the following week

# (Holy Week)?

## Holy Week Services

3/25 - Palm Sunday 8 and 10 a.m. Procession at 10 a.m.

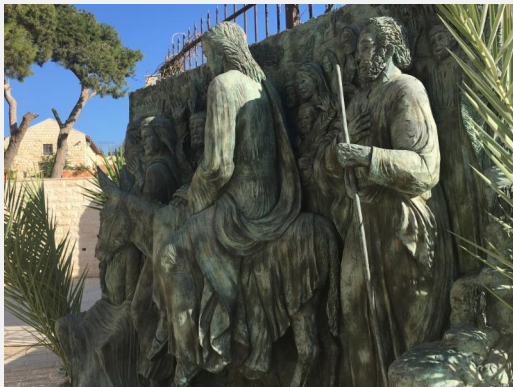
3/29 - Maundy Thursday: Bible Foods dinner at 5:30 p.m., Service 7 p.m. Altar of the Repose Vigil 8 p.m.

3/30 - Good Friday Service with Stations of the Cross 6:30 p.m.

3/31 - The Great Vigil of Easter (Easter Eve) with baptisms - 6:30 p.m.

## Easter Day Services

4/1 -Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord - 8 and 10 a.m.



Please watch these videos and feel invited to join us for this sacred walk through Holy Week -- and feel free to share the videos with others!

## Holy Week Videos

Our Holy Week services are rich in tradition and meaning and invite us into a depth of union with God that we can experience as such a holy gift. However, many people, even cradle Episcopalians, may be unfamiliar with the purpose and structure of our Holy Week Services or what might be opened within us as we engage with them.

So do we have something for you!

We have produced Holy Week videos for you this year! Several of us have written the scripts for and have been videotaped sharing the essence of each of the Holy Week services. We'll post them on our Facebook page, on our website and in this weekly e-newsletter.

**Making Palm Crosses -  
Intergenerational Event**

## **Palm Sunday 3/25** **Before or after 10 a.m. service**

Join us on Palm Sunday between our service and/or after our 10 a.m. service to make crosses made from the palms of our Palm Sunday celebration.



We will offer these crosses as part of our welcome bags which we will, with great joy, distribute to visitors on Easter Day. Aren't these totally cool mugs?!



How wonderful and important it is that we have created safe and trusted space for our young people to grow in their faith and ask all their deep and meaningful questions!

## **Pre-Confirmation Class** **3/25 at 11:15 a.m. in upstairs** **PLC**

We continue our Pre-confirmation classes for our amazing young people on 3/25 (which is Palm Sunday) to begin at 11:15 in the upstairs PLC. We continue our journey through the Eucharistic Service, with our young people creating the parts of the service which will be used during the Celebration of our Children and Youth Service on 5/20.

## **From Seder to Holy** **Communion -** **Wednesday 3/28** **5:30 p.m.**

We know that when Jesus gathered with his disciples for what we call the Last Supper, Jesus was celebrating the Jewish festival of Passover. Have you ever wondered how the Christians



developed the ritual of Holy Eucharist and what symbolism or traditions came to us directly from the richness of this Jewish festival meal. We'll explore all this together with the purpose of understanding Jesus' background better so that we may enter into our ritual even more fully.

Young people are invited too!



### Bible Foods Dinner Maundy Thursday 3/29 5:30 p.m.

Join your parish family for a fantastic meal to more fully enter into the spirit of our Maundy Thursday service when we engage with the night of Jesus' arrest, after he shared dinner with his friends, washed their feet, and broke bread and said, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you."

Please bring a dish to share to the meal. For suggestions, please [click here](#).

If you would like to wash feet during the Maundy Thursday service, please let Mo. Barbara know this weekend. Thanks!

*In this, the church's holy spring, we ask you, O God to renew us. With a gentle breath, blow from our lives the dust of sin, and make us your people again. Lift us from guilt, and shame, and regret, to repair all we've broken, and give us the gift of repentance. With the lengthening days, stretch our hearts, too, to be ready for your risen life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



For the life force in seeds  
buried in the ground that shoot  
green and bear fruit and fall to  
the earth, thanks be to you. Let  
me learn from earth's cycles of  
birthing, the times and seasons  
of dying. Let me learn of you in  
the soil of my soul, O Christ,  
and your journey through  
death to birth. Let me learn of  
you in my soul this night and  
the journey of letting go.

~ J. Philip Newell, Celtic Benediction



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
206 E. Burd Street  
Shippensburg, PA 17257  
717-532-8089

Mother Barbara  
717-333-5590  
rector@standrewsship.org

[Visit our website](#)

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