



# THE VOICE

## View from the Pulpit

On Ash Wednesday (March 2nd), we will change over the liturgical color on our vestments and the altar hangings from green to purple as we once again enter the season of Lent.

Lent is, of course, that great 40 day penitential period of prayer, fasting, and alms-giving when we prepare for Easter by looking inward at our sins, at those places in our lives where we have turned away from God and from one another, where we have been selfish or unloving or harmful in our behavior and seek to turn around, to repent, to live differently.

Lent can seem to many of us to be a rather dreary season - so focused on sin and penitence. And I'm not going to attempt to argue that it's intended to be a happy, fun time or anything like that. But the word "Lent" comes to us from the Old English *lencten* (related to "lengthen," referring to the lengthening of days) and wasn't it originally an overtly religious word but simply referred to the season of spring - when the days lengthen and there is more daytime and less night.

As poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote,

*Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.*

*What is all this juice and all this joy?*

What if we viewed Lent as a time of refreshment and renewal in our lives - a sort of spiritual springtime? Just as we might practice "spring cleaning" in our homes, maybe we can take a look at those places in our spiritual lives, in our relationships with God and one another, where we might need to refresh things, to do a little bit (or maybe a lot) of tidying up - to clear out what is dead weight or in our way, to make room for God's life and a deep down joy and peace.

Maybe we might see Lent, not as a spiritual slog, but as a season when we can turn not only *away* from sin and destructive ways of being but - *towards* the light of love, the life of God growing within us. That, as the light and life of green and growing things increases all around us in the springtime, so might our souls grow in love and faith and hope.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Adam Spencer, Rector



Move Clocks Forward at 2:00 am  
March 13, 2022

## The Warden's Corner

**Easter Sunday Is Coming!** On April 17, we will celebrate the most important day in the Church Year – The Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus. Now is the time to get ready!

Lent is the season the church sets aside for preparing ourselves for Easter. It is a season of repentance and renewal, a time for intentionally re-connecting with God. In the Ash Wednesday service, we are invited to observe “a Holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” This season of forty days, not including Sundays (*every Sunday is a feast of the resurrection*), is a time to shape up our spiritual practices and nurture our relationship with God and all creation. It is a time for taking stock of what pulls us away from our core being as beloved children of God and for being intentional about turning away from those distractions. It is a time for confessing our sins to God and acknowledging our brokenness, a time for both seeking and willingly accepting God’s forgiveness.



When I was growing up, our family referred to Lent as “Spring Training.” This had special significance for us kids because every year we spent 10 days of Lent in St. Petersburg, Florida, where we often visited the training grounds of the New York Yankees and the St. Louis Cardinals. We would watch baseball players throw balls over and over again to fellow players arranged at different distances who would practice catching the balls arriving from multiple angles and at varied speeds. Or in another area, pitchers and hitters would be going through the same practice over and over and over again. And in other areas, players were engaged in personal training exercises. It was hard work. But when the games took place, you could see that all that practice was worth it (or sometimes you could see that more practice was needed!). The throws, plays, pitches, hits, and runs all came together and there was magic in the air as the team played as one body.

Having a Lenten Discipline requires taking time to focus and practice whatever “training” we have set for ourselves. What we choose will depend on our own need for this year. There is not one practice that fits all. For some it may even make sense to choose a new discipline to practice for one week at a time. People living in the same house may find it helpful to share a daily ritual of a prayer, maybe a song, a short Bible reading or story and some discussion. Lent may also be a time for getting away for a while from a familiar space and retreating to a setting where all focus can be on God. While we often think of fasting as giving up some food or drink, it can also mean letting go of an emotion like fear or a behavior that needs to be changed to make more time and space for God’s presence. Or it may mean taking on a new practice that focuses our attention on the needs of others. The prophet Isaiah equates fasting with seeking justice: *Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?* (Isaiah 58:6, NRSV)

Through our Sunday worship, Wednesday formation opportunities, a daily devotional and weekly resources in the E-connect, St. Elisabeth’s will be providing support for our Lenten journey. Please share any other resources that you find useful or ask for suggestions if you want to try something new.

In whatever way we choose to participate, the Church gives us forty days to prepare our hearts and lives for the great miracle and mystery of Easter. What will you choose?

*God of mercy and forgiveness, you made us to love you and your creation, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we fall into sin when we choose to do hurtful things. Guide us through the forty days of Lent to come closer to you with prayer, fasting, and giving. Amen* from COMMON PRAYER for Children and Families by Jenifer Gamber and Timothy J.S. Seamans

Anne Lea Tuohy, Senior Warden

## Notes from the Bench



Dear friends,

It has felt like a whirlwind of a two months since the choir last sang together. After beautiful Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve services, we were looking forward to a little time off at the beginning of the New Year. We had no idea to know it would last this long! With cases on a steady rise, Adam and I made the decision to place the choir on sabbatical until we reached a safer place with the COVID-19 numbers. It was only a few days after that decision was made that I came down with the coronavirus myself. What a journey it was to get healthy enough to come back to St. E's. I can't thank you all enough for surrounding me with so much love while during my illness and recovery. The cards, texts, calls, emails, and meals have lifted my spirits and kept a smile on my face during a very difficult time for me and my health. I am continuing my recovery, feeling better and gaining back my strength, day by day, and am so happy to be back in town and at church with all of you.

We have looked at the COVID-19 numbers and projections, and along with the Diocese lifting certain guidelines that have been in place, we feel comfortable resuming choir at St. E's beginning on March 2, Ash Wednesday. We'll continue to use our special singing masks to help aid in both our safety and comfort while singing, as well as keeping the choir socially distanced. I am thrilled that our "small, but mighty" group will be back to help lead worship for our 10:00 am Inclusive Language Holy Communion service on Sundays. If you were at the Annual Meeting, you would've heard that the Music portion of our budget received a slight increase so that we'll be able to hire some section leaders and guest musicians to assist the choir and help to bolster the harmonies that come from the choir pews. Keep an eye out for new members of the choir that may be joining us and be sure to say hello! If you are a singer in the parish interested in joining choir and haven't spoken to me yet, please let me know. We'd love for you to join us in any capacity that you can, even if it can't be every week. Rehearsals begin at 8:45am in the church as we prepare to sing for the 10:00 am Inclusive Language Holy Communion service. Musicians at St. E's always have a great time getting to help lead worship at our church, and I can promise you that our rehearsals are a blast. Come and see what we're all about in this new year!

Blessings,  
Dillon Shipman, *Director of Music and Pastoral Care Minister*

## Staff Mini-Sabbatical

The staff of Saint Elisabeth's, with the encouragement of Bishop Chilton Knudsen, will take a mini sabbatical from Monday, March 21st to Saturday, March 26th. The parish offices will be closed. For pastoral emergencies during that time, please call or email The Rev. Kristin Saylor, Rector at St. Lawrence in Libertyville. Her contact information is as follows:  
rector@stlawrencechurch.org 847-238-2104



## Shrove Tuesday – March 1

Shrove  
Tuesday



Join us on Zoom on **Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 PM**, for a fun and family friendly observance of Shrove Tuesday. Our plan is to gather around our tables, perhaps with a pancake supper you've made, or maybe with a donut, paczki, or king cake you've picked up, to talk about what Shrove Tuesday is and how we begin to usher in a holy Lent together. The Zoom link will be available on the St. E's Virtually section of the website.

## Ash Wednesday – March 2

Join us in person and on Facebook Live **Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 PM**, when we will gather to begin Lent with a service of prayer, song, Holy Communion, and the imposition of ashes. For those worshipping at home, ashes can be picked up at the church by appointment. Contact Adam or Dillon to make arrangements.



## Lenten Meditations Booklet

Take some time each day to deepen your relationship with God this Lent with daily devotions written by our fellow Episcopalians. Saint Elisabeth's has teamed up with three partner churches to create two books of daily meditations - one for Lent and one for Holy Week. Each day's meditation is written by a member of one of the Partner churches - including a number of our own St. E's folks. The booklets will be available in print at the back of the church and a digital version will be available for download on the Saint E's Virtually page of our website and will be linked in the weekly E-Reflect.

LENTEN  
MEDITATIONS

## Holy Week & Easter Dates



Palm Sunday – April 10 at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM  
 Tenebrae Service – Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM  
 Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 PM  
 Concert on Good Friday – April 15 at 6:30 PM  
 Good Friday – Friday, April 15 at 7:00 PM  
 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil- Saturday, April 16 at 7:00 PM  
 Easter Day – Sunday, April 17 at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

## Formation

### Wednesday Adult Formation in Lent: 7:00 PM via Zoom

*A Series on Hope*

We will not meet on March 2 {Ash Wednesday} or March 30 {Spring Break}

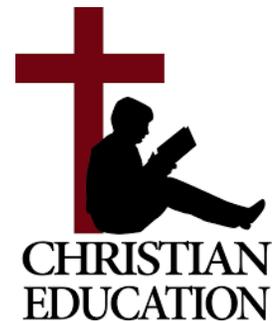
During challenging times, the church and our faith tradition can be a wonderful source of hope. Join Adam, Dillon, and Elizabeth Clemmitt, our Associate for Spiritual Wellness, for a Lenten Series on Hope. We will discuss the meaning of hope and explore finding hope through music, scripture, and the liturgies and imagery of Holy Week. This formation opportunity will be offered on Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the St. E's Virtually page of our website. [www.steglencoe.org](http://www.steglencoe.org)

March 9: What is Hope?

March 16: Hope through Music

March 23: Hope through Scripture

April 6: Hope through Holy Week

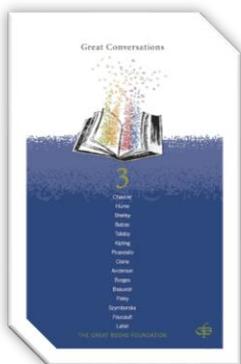


**Children's Sunday School** has resumed and will take place on **March 6 and 13** this month.

Children can gather beginning at **9:45 AM** for a time of soft gathering - coloring, visiting, reading, etc., in the upstairs classroom. Formation will begin at **10:00 AM** with Diedre McClurg and Carrie Miller-Mygatt, and will continue until around 10:40 AM, when the children and leaders will join the rest of the congregation in the church for Holy Communion. We are exploring being able to use Zoom for those not able to gather for Sunday School in-person right now, as well.

## St. E's Book Group

Does culture mostly help or hinder us in understanding ourselves and others?



Jhumpa Lahiri's short story "Interpreter of Maladies" explores this question and will be one of the topics St. E's Book Group considers at its regular meeting, Tuesday March 8 at noon in the parish Fireside room. Masks will be required, and the brown bag lunch is cancelled.

Lahiri, winner of numerous literary awards, including the Pulitzer Prize in 2000, is the daughter of Bengali immigrants who came to Rhode Island when she was eight. In her fiction, the author often wrestles with what it means to belong and what it means to be estranged. Her story is the final one in the anthology *Great Conversations 3*, published by the Great Books Foundation.

In April, the Book Group will begin reading the next anthology in the series, *Great Conversations 4*, which can be ordered from your favorite book seller. The selections in the book are chosen to spur meaningful conversations about timeless topics. If you like to read and then engage in thoughtful discussions, consider joining St. E's book group. It meets monthly and each selection can generally be read in one sitting. Undecided? Drop-ins are always welcome. There will be a loaner copy available in the church office. Please email questions to [joyceRnewcomb@gmail.com](mailto:joyceRnewcomb@gmail.com).

## B&G Update

Greetings, everyone! I'm Jim Baur and am the new head of the Buildings & Grounds committee at St. Elisabeth's. I have been a member of the Church since my wife, Polly, and I were married here by the Reverends Kasey in 2003. We have two sons, Duke (15) and Rocky (12), who you may occasionally see at services and other events around the Church when their busy schedules allow! We have always loved how inviting and friendly our parish is and have been blessed to be able to raise our boys and grow as a family at St. E's. My background is in music: I have a doctorate in Music Performance Studies in Guitar from Northwestern University and have been teaching and performing throughout the Midwest for over 25 years.

We on the B&G committee have been quite busy over the last year: Stone, Sash, and Sound; the new roof; various updates and upgrades with the Montessori school; and, the impending remodeling of the Choir room and Library. And while much of the recent work has been anticipated and planned for, certainly there is an element of 'play it by ear' that we often find ourselves working under. To that end, one of my goals is to have a mid- and long-term improvement plan for the Church and Rectory that can allow the Vestry and Parish to have better visibility on the maintenance of the physical infrastructure we all depend on for the betterment of our spiritual infrastructure.

A second goal is to work with Peter Wittleder, my B&G mentor and guru, to further realize his vision of a B&G Handbook that can be a repository of the work that has been done on the Church and Rectory over the years but also a guide for the normal activities and maintenance of the buildings throughout the year to assist those who come to the committee and want to contribute their time, imagination, and energy.

I look forward to seeing all of you in our buildings as Winter turns to Spring, and I encourage you to lend a hand as you are able!

--Jim Baur, *Chair of Buildings and Grounds*

## Pulpit swap with St. Gregory's



The Rev. Anne Jolly preached and presided on Sunday, February 13 and Adam preached and presided at her parish, St. Gregory's in Deerfield, as part of our new, emerging partnership with St. Gregory's, Trinity (Highland Park), and St. Lawrence (Libertyville). For more information about the partnership, feel free to reach out to Adam.



## Thank You

A special thank you to members of St. Elisabeth's for the wonderful contributions and sharing of talents to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season. In November Advent wreaths were made under the leadership of Polly and Jim Baur. Cut greens, candles, and bases filled with oasis were available in the Guild Room on carefully spaced tables. The small wreaths were then taken home. In the main church one candle on the huge Advent Wreath was lit each Sunday preceding Christmas. The church was fully and beautifully decorated by a wonderful team of volunteers including Jim Baur, Anne Tuohy, Susan Chadd, Adrienne and Rod Zimmerman, Mark Tilton, Robert Fischer, John Tuohy, Barbara Ferry, Phil Miller and Hall Healy. Adrienne and Rod filled the planters outside the church that are lasting the entire

winter season. The Badger family contributed a special large wreath that was hung beneath the leaded glass window in the back of the church. Outdoor lights and spotlights were installed in celebration of the Christmas season. So many of you helped to "red" the church including Linda Illes, Leslie Alter, Polly Baur, Adrienne, Rod, Robert, Susan and Larry Whipple and Susan Chadd. Thank you to all, and if I have omitted your name, I'm sorry. Please know how much your help was appreciated! The Children's Christmas Pageant was held at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve followed by an 8:00 p.m. service including the lighting of small candles for each parishioner. An enormous thank you to Dillon Shipman for creating the extraordinary Music and Choir selections throughout the season, as well as organizing the Children's Pageant. We were so grateful for the beautiful services and sermons this Christmas season led by Reverend Adam Spencer in the church and via Facebook Live during this challenging time. Thank you to Rose Sengenberger for managing the Facebook broadcasts and joining the Choir, Kay Rossiter, Rod and Adrienne Zimmerman, Robert Fischer and Mark Tilton helped with cleanup. Thank you to all!

Sincerely, Anne Healy

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## Easter Flowers & Music

I would like to contribute to:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ EASTER FLOWERS

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ MUSIC FUND

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

- In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_
- In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_
- In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_
- No specific intention

**Please Note:** Please print legibly. Easter is on April 17, 2022. To ensure you are listed in the bulletin, return this form with your donation check to the church office no later than **Friday, April 8.** Please write "Easter Flowers & Music" in the memo line of your check. Thank you.

## Saint Elisabeth's Calendar

### *Regular Weekly Schedule*

#### **Sundays**

8:00 AM Traditional Language Holy Communion in the church (& via FBL).

10:00 AM Inclusive Language Holy Communion in the church (& via FBL).

#### **Wednesdays**

7:00 PM – Adult Formation via Zoom

\*(FBL) Facebook Live

### *Special Events*

#### **Tuesday, March 1**

7:00 PM Shrove Tuesday via Zoom

#### **Wednesday, March 3**

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service

#### **Saturday, March 5**

Vestry Retreat via Zoom

#### **Tuesday, March 8**

12:00 NOON St. E's Book Group

#### **Thursday, March 10**

Soup Kitchen

#### **March 21 to 26**

Staff Sabbatical Week (Office Closed)

#### **St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church 2458**

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