



Easter 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

This comes to you with my very best wishes for a very Happy and Blessed Easter season. I look forward to welcoming you all to the Ascension this Easter. It is always a joy filled celebration as we proclaim those wonderful words, "Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!"

So that Easter may be more meaningful for you, I invite you to take part in the Holy Week journey from Palm/Passion Sunday through to Easter Sunday. At the Ascension there will be liturgies to help each of us meditate deeply on the meaning of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, as well as His glorious resurrection. Only as we walk the Holy Week journey can we fully receive the very good news that Easter brings.

Holy Week at the Ascension

Palm/Passion Sunday – 29<sup>th</sup> March

*(Palm Procession: Passion Reading and Holy Eucharist 9am and 11am)*

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Messy Church "Easter" 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Holy Thursday: 7pm

*Commemoration of the Last Supper: Foot washing: Stripping of the Altar*

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Good Friday: 11am

*The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday (at the Ascension)*

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April: Holy Saturday 8pm

*Deanery Easter Vigil Service with mass choir.*

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April: Day of Resurrection: 9am and 11am

*Holy Eucharist and Easter egg hunt*

We will not be alone in our Holy Week commemorations. Around the world Christians will be gathering in great cathedrals and in tiny village churches to narrate the story of the last days of Jesus Christ. Rich and heartbreaking in its detail, this story does not simply recount an event that took place over 2000 years ago, but also speaks into our own lives, and the life of the world today.

The story of Holy Week tells of a violent and corrupt regime; the crowd mentality that was easily swayed, and the betrayal of friendships. It is an all too human story repeated in thousands of places around the world.

Imagine hearing the Easter story of resurrection hope when you living in a refugee camp, or war torn Syria, or when you are being persecuted for being a Christian. Imagine hearing that there is life after death when you have been diagnosed with a terminal illness, or when you are struggling to come to terms with the death of a loved one. Imagine knowing that God has experienced the depths of human pain and loss.

The message of Easter is that death does not have the final word. The mysterious and puzzling message of Easter is that new life is possible when there is suffering or death in life.

Retired Archbishop Rowan Williams writes, *“In the mysterious event of the empty tomb, God says, ‘that was not the end, I am alive in Jesus.’ Resurrection is about re-creating a relationship of trust and love on the far side of the most extreme human realities, suffering, abandonment and death.”* (Meeting God in Mark, pg. 66)

May the sorrow of the cross become the joy of the resurrection for you this Easter,

Yours in the hope of resurrection life –

*Anne*

The Ven. Anne. Germond

Rector and Archdeacon.

### **Easter Announcements**

- **If you wish to place flowers in the church on Easter Sunday as a memorial or thank offering, please call Anne Trimmer at 705.566.8127 or email Rev. Anne at [cagermond@bell.net](mailto:cagermond@bell.net)**
- **Your Easter thank offering can be placed in the special Easter envelope which will be found in the pews or in the Easter newsletter. “Pray, Act, Give” is the Lenten call – thank you for your generosity.**
- **Rev. Anne will be taking Easter communion to our parishioners in nursing homes or retirement residences the week after Easter.**