

# EARTH & ALTAR

Newsletter of Saint Bartholomew's Anglican  
Church



## PRE-LENT, LENT & PASSIONTIDE

February 4, 2007 – April 1, 2007

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Ps. li. 17*

**P**ayer is vital for Christians because it strengthens our bond to God, opens us to His grace, and keeps him within our line of sight. God soon fades out of the vision of those who do not pray. How should we approach God in Prayer? Unfortunately, some people have the idea that Prayer consists of merely asking God for things, as though he were the Room Service of our hotel! Then, with really bad taste, they grumble when God does not respond in the exact way they hoped, and they neglect to give him the tip! Let us remember that Prayer is Communion with God – it is not just asking him for things. Anglicans learn from their Book of Common Prayer that there are different components to a life of Prayer. *Adoration* is the contemplation, enjoyment and worship of God; *Thanksgiving* is the acknowledgment of God's good gifts to us; in *Confession* we repent of our sins and seek God's forgiveness; we *Petition* God to supply our daily needs; and, we offer *Intercession* for the needs of others. We learn how to pray from our Lord himself in the model that we know as "The Lord's Prayer". He also encouraged his disciples to **Pray Discretely**, and "not as the hypocrites" who pray in order to be seen by men. He taught his disciples to **Pray Simply**, not with vain repetitions "as the heathen", for God knows what we need and he hears even the most simple Prayer. Christ taught his disciples to **Pray in Safety**, by which I mean the safety of God's will. "Thy will be done". For our own protection, God has left himself discretion in the manner and time of his response to our Prayers. NOTE: *Everyone is welcome to take more advantage of Daily Morning & Evening Prayer at the Church this Lent; I'm always glad for company –Fr. McGrath*

## Parish Calendar

### Pre-Lent to Palm Sunday

#### Sunday, February 4 Septuagesima

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Informal Discussion*  
10:00 Holy Communion; 5:30 Evensong  
*Annual Parish Meeting and Potluck Luncheon*

#### Sunday, February 11 Sexagesima

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Acolyte Training*  
10:00 Holy Communion; 5:30 Evensong

#### Friday, February 16 Ladies' Craft Social 7:00p

#### Saturday, February 17 Men's Breakfast 8:30a

#### Sunday, February 18 Quinquagesima

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Schola Cantorum*  
10:00 Holy Communion; 5:30 Evensong

#### February 20, Shrove Tuesday

5:30 Evensong & 6:00 – 8:00 Pancake Supper

#### February 21, Ash Wednesday \*

8:30 Matins & The Litany

5:30 Evensong & 6:00 Penitential Office

*\*the imposition of ashes will be available at all Services*

#### Saturday, February 24 St. Matthias, Apostle

10:00 Matins & Holy Communion 5:30 Evensong

#### Sunday, February 25, Lent I

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Girl Choir Rehearsal*  
10:00 Litany & Holy Communion; 5:30 Evensong

#### Sunday, March 4 Lent II

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Informal Discussion*  
10:00 Holy Communion; 5:30 Evensong

#### Wednesday, March 7: Lenten Wednesday Series

5:30 Evensong - 6:00 Supper, followed by Class

#### Sunday, March 11, Lent III (Daylight Savings)

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Acolyte Training*  
10:00 Holy Communion 5:30 Evensong

#### Wednesday, March 14: Lenten Wednesday Series

5:30 Evensong - 6:00 Supper, followed by Class

#### Friday, March 16 Ladies' Craft Social 7:00p

#### Saturday, March 17 Men's Breakfast 8:30a

#### Sunday, March 18, Lent IV

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Schola Cantorum*  
10:00 Holy Communion 5:30 Evensong

#### Wednesday, March 21: Lenten Wednesday Series

5:30 Evensong - 6:00 Supper, followed by Class

#### Sunday, March 25, Passion Sunday

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Girl Choir Rehearsal*  
10:00 Holy Communion 5:30 Evensong

#### Wednesday, March 28: Lenten Wednesday Series

*Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (transferred)*

5:30 Evensong, 6:00 Holy Communion

6:45 Supper, followed by Class

#### April 1, Palm Sunday (blessing of palms & procession)

8:30 Matins; 9:00 *Informal Discussion*

10:00 Procession & Holy Communion 5:30 Evensong

## *The Seven Words of Christ on the Cross*

harmonized from the four Gospel Accounts  
and arranged in chronological order

- I. *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.* St. Luke xxiii. 34
- II. *Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.* St. Luke xxiii. 43
- III. *Woman, behold thy son! Son, behold thy mother!* St. John xix. 26, 27
- IV. *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* St. Matt. xxvii. 46
- V. *I thirst.* St. John xix. 28
- VI. *It is finished.* St. John xix. 30
- VII. *Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.* St. Luke xxiii. 46

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*These words, or phrases, have long been a source of meditation for Christians. In our hymnal (no. 82), we have a set of seven hymns that are reflections on each of the seven words, written by 19<sup>th</sup> century Anglican priest, Thomas Benson Pollock.*



## Parish Notes

• **Newcomers' Class** A Class is now forming for newcomers to our parish from other Church backgrounds who would like to be confirmed or received, and for young people of our parish who wish to be confirmed. Anyone who has already been confirmed by a Bishop in another communion is invited to be officially received into our Anglican Province. The class is required of candidates for Confirmation, but it is also an option for candidates for reception. We will meet throughout Lent to learn the basics of the Christian Faith and the Spirituality of the Church. Bishop Provence

plans to visit us on April 29 to confirm and receive new communicants to our parish. For more information, please speak to Fr. McGrath.

• **Bible Study in Lent** On 5 Wednesday Evenings in Lent, Fr. McGrath will offer a study of *The Gospel according to St. John*, drawing upon current scholarship, commentary by writers of the ancient, patristic Church and from Anglican divines. Join us for Evensong, a Light Supper and Class, beginning February 28<sup>th</sup> and concluding March 28<sup>th</sup>. •

• **The Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit** provided an enjoyable opportunity for our parish to go on an interesting and informative field trip. Many thanks to Paul & Nancy Johnson for coordinating the trip and reserving our tickets. If anyone still owes the cost of their ticket, please remit your payment to Nancy as soon as possible. Thank You! • **Retirements and**

**New Beginnings** This year there will be several significant changes in our parish leadership, due to expiration of terms of service and/or retirements. Warm and hearty thanks go to Bill Swan for serving so many years on the Vestry, and for serving the past several as Senior Warden. Also thanks to DJ Synnott for serving on the Vestry; to Sylvia Synnott for being our liaison to Hopelink; Charlotte Fulton for serving on the Memorial Committee; and, Barbara Leen for being President of the ACW. We now welcome new Vestry members Paul Brallier and Ranjit Varkey. Gordon Dowrey is our new Senior Warden as we go forward. Debra Scharer is our new liaison to Hopelink, Kathy Swan is our liaison to the Kairos Project. George & Carrie Heim, together with DJ & Sylvia Synnott, will form the new Memorial Committee. The Faculty now includes Gordon Dowrey, Mary Ellen Feagin and Bill Swan. Best wishes to our ACW under the leadership of their new officers: Josette Lyth (president), Catherine Brallier (treasurer), and Phyllis Houlson (secretary). The Altar Guild

welcomes Nancy Johnson as a guild-member-in-training. May God Bless each of you as you serve our parish.

• **Acolytes!** In an effort to have a more consistent group of Cross Bearers, Light Bearers and Readers on Sunday mornings, we are attempting to implement a regular, monthly "Rota", or Serving Schedule. Also, Ranjit Varkey is pioneering the new role of Acolyte Master. Crucifers and Lucifers are welcome come to the Church for Training Workshops with Ranjit on February 11 & March 11 at 9:00a.m.

## THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

...reflections drawn from the work  
of Anglican mystic, Evelyn Underhill

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We do not truly Exist until we awaken to The Spiritual Life, putting to death self-interest and seeking Communion with God. This is the rather striking conclusion of Evelyn Underhill in her book, *The Spiritual Life*. By Communion with God, Underhill is not speaking of what is sometimes [misleadingly] called a "personal" relationship with God on my own terms, where God and I might "have an understanding". Rather Underhill describes Communion with God as consisting of three elements: Adoration of God, Adherence to God and Co-operation with God. The first phrases of the Lord's Prayer are very important to our understanding of proper Communion with God, for we begin by saying *Hallowed be thy Name*, and then continue, *Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done*.

Adoration of God means that we cultivate an attitude of humble thanksgiving and admiring delight of all that God is and all that God has done. Adherence to God means a child-like dependence upon Him for our daily needs. Communion with God does not just mean a passive enjoyment of Him, but it also requires our active participation in His Kingdom. We work for the coming of the Kingdom of God in our homes, our jobs, our political life, our hobbies and our interests. *Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done*, means letting the kingdom come to my life, and letting God's will be done in my life. When my small, selfish, insignificant existence is thus re-configured to the

Heavenly Kingdom and to the Divine Will, it finds a home and a greater meaning within the universe.

The Spiritual Life, a life of Communion with God, consists of Adoration, Adherence and Co-operation: here we have "Three kinds of generosity; Three kinds of self-forgetfulness". It is a formula which enables us to lift up our noses from the grindstone of everyday existence, and participate in eternal Reality.

Evelyn Underhill: "Let us consider what this complete self-giving to the Spirit can mean in our quite ordinary lives. St. John of the Cross says that every quality or virtue which the Holy Spirit produces in men's souls has three distinguishing characters: tranquility, gentleness, strength. All our action must be peaceful, gentle and strong. These characteristics suggest an immense depth, and an invulnerable steadiness as the soul's abiding temper; a depth and a steadiness which come from the fact that our small action is now part of the total action of God, whose Spirit, as another saint has said, 'Works always in tranquility.' Fuss and feverishness, anxiety, intensity, intolerance, instability, pessimism and wobble, and every kind of hurry and worry—these, even on the highest levels, are signs of the self-made and self-acting soul. The saints are never like that. They share the quiet and noble qualities of the great family to which they belong: the family of the Sons of God."

By awakening to the life of the Holy Spirit we 'come to ourselves' as did the Prodigal Son. We awake to Reality, and begin to turn from the feverish wanting, having and doing of the life that is separated from God, and thus only half-real. We leave behind the fuss, anxiety, instability and pessimism of that which is fleeting and temporal. Returning to the Father, bringing nothing but our sinful selves, we ask for the opportunity to adore, to adhere, to co-operate in the Whole, once again.

This Lent, let us seek true Communion with God: let us Adore him as he is, and in what he has done; let us Adhere to him in childlike sincerity, for we can do nothing without him; let us work for the coming of his Kingdom into every part of our lives. In tranquility, gentleness and strength, may we find what it means to truly exist in Communion with God, and thus show forth the trademark of his good creation. -Fr. Daniel McGrath +

NOTE: Underhill's book was read by participants in our 2006 Parish Retreat at the Retreat House of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, by Lake Washington in Bellevue. We hope to have more of you join us on this year's Parish Retreat, this Summer, dates tba!!!

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The Rev'd Dr. Daniel J. McGrath, *Rector*

The Rev'd Dr. Edward H. Miller, *Deacon*

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### Worship Services

The Daily Prayer Offices

Matins 8:30, Evensong 5:30

The Litany

Wednesday & Friday after Matins

Holy Communion

Sunday, and other Feast Days, 10:00

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