

THE HARVEST – APRIL 2019

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LOCKPORT, NY 14094

GREATER LOVE THAN THIS...

I see a beautiful city and a brilliant people rising from this abyss, and, in their struggles to be truly free, in their triumphs and defeats, through long years to come, I see the evil of this time and of the previous time of which this is the natural birth, gradually making expiation for itself and wearing out. . . .

I see that child who lay upon her bosom and who bore my name, a man winning his way up in that path of life which once was mine. I see him winning it so well, that my name is made illustrious there by the light of his. . . .

It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest I go to than I have ever known.

The above passage is taken from one of my all-time favorite novels: *A Tale of Two Cities*. It is a morally gripping story of transformation and renewal. The story builds throughout the novel culminating in the last chapter as Sydney Carton prepares to sacrifice his life. This passage prophesies two resurrections: one personal, the other national. Just as Paris will 'rise from the abyss' of the French Revolution's chaotic and bloody violence, so too will Carton be reborn into glory after a virtually wasted life.

For you, and for any dear to you, I would do anything. If my career were of that better kind that there was any opportunity or capacity of sacrifice in it, I would embrace any sacrifice for you and for those dear to you.

Sydney Carton declares this to Lucie Manette, the only true love of his life, yet he knows he is not worthy of her love. Despite this, Carton makes clear that he would make any sacrifice for her or her family. In the end, he keeps this promise by making the ultimate sacrifice for Lucie's happiness: to die in place of her husband, so that she could be happy.

What would make you be willing to give up your life for another? Love of spouse or child? Love of country? Nothing??

And what would you expect from the one for whom you made this ultimate sacrifice? During our journey this Lent we have been focusing on the questions of 'Who am I?' and 'Whose am I?'

To be able to be transformed into a new being requires that we move the emphasis from me, myself and I to the Other.

When Jesus found himself in the same place as Sydney Carton it wasn't about him; it was about the Other – not you and me, but faithfulness to the will of the Other – his Father.

A Tale of Two Cities is a story of sin and selfishness, transition and transformation, resurrection and glory. It is the story of a life squandered and ultimately redeemed and lived anew. It could well have been entitled *A Tale of Two Selves*, one who lost everything to sin and the other who found the real self – and redemption – by dying to the former and embracing the authentic and noble self within through sacrificial love of the Other.

Lent is our journey inward in search of connecting with who we know ourselves to be, our better angel, our truer self. But then to bring that self to the fore, to become more fully ourselves and to reflect that by living not for ourselves but for the Other, who calls us out of the darkness to live in the light of his glory.

*Blessings,
Fr. Thomas*

Martha's Vineyard

Sacred spaces, sacred ground...where are they, what are they? Native American soil, land where Indigenous peoples have co-existed with nature for centuries, a mosque, temple, shrine, or church? A still woods where one may feel intrusive just stepping on a twig, an early morning beach where waves are gentle in the waking up, a crystal-clear mountain stream meandering its way to greater waters? Pondering these thoughts, I say yes, to all of them.

Most certainly there are those places that inspire awe, take our breath away, almost require one to bend the knee in reverence. Yet the notion that spaces sacred can be seen in only what our human limitation views as perfection, or that the worldly and mundane have no business being labeled sacred, seems to me, short-sighted and out of focus.

I think, too, it can be a smelly barnyard stall, where bloodied hay gives witness to new birth; a dirty alley where one homeless person shares a meager food find with another; a filth-filled street gutter where the Mother Teresas of this world cradle the least of these. It's inside the prison walls, the homeless shelter, at Fellowship meetings, at the bedside of the dying, the place where one supports the mentally and emotionally ill and dementia resident.

It's easy to feel a place made holy when beauty, gentleness, serenity, tradition and reverence are real and palpable to our senses. Perhaps not so much when our vision is accosted by gruesome and painful reality; when our hearing is interrupted by moans and cries, and true stories that will break the heart; the times when a smell causes one to gag or cover his or her nose and mouth; when the reaction is to recoil and not touch the dirty one or surroundings.

The ground, the space becomes sacred, I believe, when you and I see Jesus in the other, when we love neighbor as self. It's anywhere, that by God's grace, your heart and mine, are moved to see, to create, even the smallest of miracles, the liminal that is transformative.

In humility, realizing that God is Creator of all, may we be attentive to the "ground" upon which we walk, where it is our footsteps takes us, and honor the opportunity to enrich the kingdom.

Peace,
Deacon Martha

Rick, Cindy and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your love and support over the past two months. Your prayers have been our rock, getting us through unimaginable circumstances. God has truly blessed us and lifted us up during this time. Miracles have truly been witnessed especially through Cindy's transformation. She now has a new life with normal oxygen saturation and the pacemaker keeps her heart under control at a comfortable rhythm. Bravo to the doctors and nurses at Strong Memorial/Golisano Childrens' Hospital, but the peace we received when she finally went into surgery came from you and from God. Thank you again and God bless our Christ Church Family!

Faithfully,
Rick, Linda and Cindy Few

From Around the Episcopal Church...

[March 14, 2019] The 2019 Young Adult and Campus Ministry Grant recommendations were approved by the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church during their February meeting in Oklahoma. A total of \$133,150 will be awarded to 21 grant recipients from across The Episcopal Church.

Young Adult and Campus Ministry Grants provide funding for dioceses, congregations, and community college/tribal college/university campuses that are engaging or seek to engage ministry with young adults on and off college campuses.

“These grants help The Episcopal Church live into an expanded understanding of what it means to be in ministry with young adults on and off college campuses,” said the Rev. Shannon Kelly, Officer for Young Adult and Campus Ministries. “This is a growing ministry, one that shows the church how to engage mission and the Jesus Movement in new, innovative ways.”

April Outreach – Thanks for Helping

As we work toward our Christmas Outreach distribution in December, during April we will be collecting:

Canned or boxed broth
Canned meals (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.)

Please leave your items in the beige baskets in the cloister

We also continue to support Brother’s Keeper – they continue to need feminine hygiene products (leave them in the basket under the table in the cloister).

Earthly Matters

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. Psalm 27:8

From John Philip Newell’s book *Praying with the Earth*:

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face
in the light of the moon and pattern of stars
in scarred mountain rifts and ancient groves
in mighty seas and creatures of the deep.
Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face
in the light of eyes we love
in the salt of tears we have tasted
in weathered countenances east and west
on the soft skin glow of the child everywhere.
Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face
there is your face
among us.

I would love to have met recently deceased poet Mary Oliver since being introduced to her works and words several years ago. Some say God’s face can’t be seen; others certain that God’s face is everywhere for those with eyes to see. She and John Philip (I had the good fortune to hear one of his lectures) convince me that with open eyes we can glimpse God everywhere.

This is one of Mary Oliver's poems entitled "Making the House Ready for the Lord."

"Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice-it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances-but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the racoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the snow falling in the yard, and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in."

Seek, and ye shall find,
Deacon Martha

For Strawberry Festival...

We need your help... This year there will be a basket auction at the Strawberry Festival. Laurie Monaco needs baskets – they can be left on the bench across from Paul's Place. If would you like to make a basket please let Laurie know. Please also let her know if you have items that might work well in a basket. Thanks.

Spring Into Nature – Saturday, April 27th, 9-4:00

We often organize events for adults, but don't do as well with activities for kids so here is one you can attend on your own or with friends.

Spring Into Nature is one of the most wonderful events that a young family can attend. It always helps to have good weather, but I cannot stress enough how thrilled children are with the hands-on activities offered. There are live birds, reptiles and amphibians, various speakers and demonstrations throughout the day. The activities are hosted at the Visitors Center on Casey Road except for the Bald Eagle Watch which is at the Cayuga Overlook on Route 77.

In addition to the above, also scheduled will be things like Build a Box (toad abode), Silhouette Painting, Pollinator Garden Planting (which is what I volunteer in usually), Pine Cone Bird Feeders, Hover ball (inflatable) Archery, Guided Trail Walks, Face Painting, Skulls, Skins and Feathers, and Hard Tip Archery. There will be a Blue Goose Guide, a Bumble Costume Guide, and Great Lakes Greg will be there.

If interested I'm hoping you can go on your own, or maybe we can organize a car pool It is just down Route 77 to the Iroquois Wildlife Refuge south of Medina (Alabama Swamps).

Casey Road runs between Route 77 and Route 63, easy to find. It is an all-day event so you can do things at your own pace. I hope you will consider it – you won't be disappointed.

Joan Weet

Spring Into Nature

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
 Saturday, April 27th, 2019
 9:00am – 4:00pm

Little critters mean a lot!
 Come out and say “Hello” to our little friends

New for 2019!
 Come out and discover the new Trail at HQ and naming ceremony!

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
 1101 Casey Rd
 Basom, NY 14013
 ✉ iroquois@fws.gov
 ☎ (585) 948-5445
 🌐 <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois>

Build a Toad Abode – Nature Hikes – Crafts – Pollinator Garden
Eagle Watch – Hunting & Fishing Activities - Live Animals
 Free Admission & Parking - Handicap Accessible
 Food Available for Purchase
 Due to the nature of the event, only service dogs allowed

What is the Mary Hunt Guild?

This is a group of ladies at Christ Episcopal Church. Every woman that attends Christ Church on a regular basis is a member. You don't have to do anything special, all are welcome. We organize many activities such as the annual Strawberry Festival which is held in June and raises the majority of our funds. We give a scholarship annually and contribute to many needs that are brought to our attention. We plan a lunch or dinner out which is very often on a monthly basis. We organize funeral luncheons, have had fundraising dinners, and any kind of social activity we can think of. We are always open for new ideas.

Wondering where the name came from? The first marriage at Christ Episcopal Church took place between Washington Hunt and Mary Walbridge. Washington Hunt later became Governor of New York Stat, but remained a veritable pillar of Christ Church until his death in 1867. Mary Hunt also bequeathed a \$20,000 Endowment Fund to the church, among many other things. Shortly after that, the Ladies Aid Society was renamed Mary Hunt Guild.

Joan Weet, President

This Month at Christ Church

4/7 – Parish Life Planning meeting after the 10:30 service

4/18 – Maundy Thursday service at Grace Church at 7:00 pm

4/7 – Bp Bill to Bp Sean transfer and celebration at the Cathedral

4/19 – Good Friday services at noon and 7:00 pm with Grace Church

4/10 – Women’s Dinner at Shamus at 6:00 pm

4/21 – Easter services at 8:00 and 10:30

4/10 – Men’s Dinner at Fieldstone at 6:30 pm

Weekly Events and Meetings:

4/14 – Palm Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30

Mondays, 7:00 pm – Lock City Glee Club

4/15 – Holy Monday service at 7:00 pm

Tuesdays, 6:30 pm – Girl Scouts

4/16 – Holy Tuesday service at 7:00 pm

Tuesdays – 7:00 pm – Lockport Chorale

4/17 – Holy Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm

Wednesdays, 8:00 pm – NA

Thursdays, 7:00 pm – Choir

Fridays, 8:00 pm – AA

Saturdays, 8:30 am – T.O.P.S.

April Birthdays

2	Marty Upson
3	Florence A. Smith
5	Anne Rucci
6	Cambridge Urtel
8	Jennifer Leveroni
	Matt Goodman
	Richard Witt
9	Jamie Miskell
10	Alan Shaw
11	Barbara Wallace
12	Cono James Sammarco
14	Bob Theurer
15	Brad Few
16	Richard Lang
	Chris Richards
	Sara Heal
17	Melanie Lamar

21	Jeff Herbst
	Phil Faust
	Sue Bauer
24	Barbara Scott
	Joshua McClain
27	Jennifer Lichtenthal
28	Alyssa Strassel
	Cameron Porth
29	Shirley Gaygen
	Sarah Goodman
	Trisha Michaelson
30	Joanne Stanton

April Anniversaries

24	Kevin & Meg Wager
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New Email Address for Christ Church

As part of the technology upgrade, we now have a new email address:

Office@ChristLockport.info



The 27th Annual Chicken Barbecue

Sunday May 5th 11:30 am – until sold out

Adults; \$11.00 Children: \$9.00

Eat-in or Take-out

Meals provided by Krolick's Barbecue

Chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, roll and dessert
(beverages included for eat-in only)

***Proceeds to Food for the Poor "Let's Build a Home"
fundraiser and Christ Episcopal Church***

Christ Episcopal Church
7145 Fieldcrest Drive
Lockport, NY 14094