

March 22, 2021

Dear Church,



Throughout the Lenten season, we have used the theme, “Again and Again: A Lenten Refrain” to guide our journey. Using devotional guides mailed to each household, the mid-week and Sunday worship gatherings, social media posts, newsletter and e-news submissions and through countless conversations and prayers, we explored together the Lenten refrain of “Again and Again.” We also began Lent with the United Thank Offering (UTO) opportunity to give thanks to God and make note of that gratitude with a monetary offering.

In the past weeks we have explored : 1) How God meets us, 2) How we are called to listen, 3) How we are shown the way, 4)How God loves first and 5) How we are reformed. The topics have been centered around the Sunday Scripture readings for each week in Lent. I have found the theme timely and substantive. I hope you have, as well.

On Sunday, we begin Holy Week 2021 and our refrain now shifts to Christ’s passion as we look at how we draw courage, how we are held together and how we find ourselves here. Easter Day comes to us with the reminder that “again and again, the sun rises, “ giving testimony to Jesus’ resurrection and God’s faithfulness and ongoing presence.

You will notice that I continue to use “Dear Church” as the salutation for this letter. It is used intentionally because this past year has strengthened what I have always believed that the Body of Christ (the people) is truly the church.

We have not been able to gather in person in the church building at 300 Third Street but a few times in more than a year but your presence, commitment and faithfulness has not been deterred. As your circumstances and health have permitted, many of you have continued in worship, study, fellowship, and service. The different and often limiting ways this had to happen did not prevent many of you from participating.

At the same time, I want to acknowledge that there are some of you for whom the avenues of access for worship, study, fellowship and service have not been effective. I hope that the increased mailings and contacts have been sufficient to communicate the care and connection of St. Andrew’s and look forward to the time when we can be together in person in the same space in ways that you find meaningful. Your sense of loss and maybe even disconnection or abandonment is acknowledged as you are held close in the Body of Christ.



As I write this letter, it is still uncertain if we can meet in person for Palm Sunday worship. Thanks to the prayerful leadership of the Worship Task Group and the Vestry, we will be able to regather in person as soon as the Covid Threat Level in Lorain County becomes Level 2 (Orange) or Level 1 (Yellow.) At the time of this writing, it is still Level 3 (Red) and will be updated on Friday so we will know then. (Church voicemail and enews will provide the information.)

For those who would like to give an Easter Offering, please mark “Easter Offering” on the memo line of your check and mail it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate if we are able to gather in person. Your offering supports St. Andrew’s mission and ministry and is received with gratitude.

The Holy Week schedule is provided at the end of this letter. It gives you the details about the Holy Week services and offerings. New this Holy Week is an outdoor “Stations of the Cross “ featuring art by Lauren Wright Pittman with music accessed by QR codes. This installation will be on the Middle Ave. and Third Street sides of St. Andrew’s from the evening of Palm Sunday until the evening of Good Friday.

My prayer for us all is that the Love of God made manifest in Jesus, in whose life, death and resurrection we participate will be known in very real ways this Holy Week. I look forward to seeing you virtually in Zoom gatherings and if permitted, in person on Palm Sunday and Easter Day. The United Thank Offering (UTO) in-gathering will take place on Easter Day, on Zoom and in person if we are able to be in the building. Many of you have already mailed your UTO offering and others may choose to do so, as well. Your gratitude becomes blessing for those in varied ministries around the world.

Holy Week Blessings,
June (Mother June)



Holy Week and Easter 2021
with St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Elyria, OH

March 28 - Palm Sunday

9:30 am Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion on Zoom
*11:00 am Liturgy of the Palms with Holy Eucharist

March 28 5 PM until 5 PM on April 2

Outdoor Stations of the Cross

3rd Street and Middle Avenue

A self-guided outdoor installation on the grounds of St. Andrew's Stations of the Cross featuring art by Lauren Wright Pittman and music through QR codes. Bring smart phone or tablet with QR code reader to access the music.

Tuesday, March 30, Noon Holy Week Noonday Prayer on Facebook Live, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Facebook Page

Wednesday, March 31, Holy Week Wednesday Morning Prayer on Zoom 8:00 am

Thursday, April 1 Maundy Thursday Liturgy on Zoom 7:00 pm

Friday, April 2 Good Friday Liturgy on Zoom 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 3 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil on Zoom 10:00 pm



Sunday, April 4

*8:30 am Easter Day Holy Eucharist

9:30 am Easter Day Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion on Zoom

*10:30 am Easter Day Holy Eucharist

***These services (marked by *) will take place in the church building at 300 Third Street in Elyria, Ohio if the Covid Threat Level in Lorain County is Level 1 (Yellow) or Level 2 (Orange). If the Covid Threat Level in Lorain County is Level 3 (Red) or Level 4(Purple), the in person services on March 28, 2021 and April 4, 2021 will not take place.**

In person Service Safety Protocols:

(Masks, Socially Distanced Seating, Temperature Checks and Contact Tracing.)

Overflow seating, service broadcast and distribution of communion will be available in the Parish Hall on Easter Day.

Link for all Zoom Worship <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7665988948> Meeting ID: 766 598 8948

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,7665988948# US (New York), +13017158592,,7665988948# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 766 598 8948 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kGwW4gtBw>