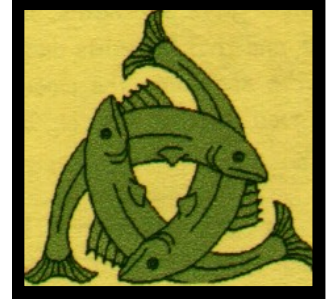


THE TRINITY NEWS



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH SOOKE, BC

People, caring for people, in the light of Christian love.

Vol. 2 No. 4

Our Clergy's Thoughts and Reflections

You should know what it is that underlies all our efforts in ministry. It is a conscious attempt to build upon the good of the past and to surpass it. Notice the two critical elements that need to be held in dynamic tension: "the good of the past" and our prayerful, thoughtful and planned action "to surpass it." In order to be faithful to God's grace being offered us, your clergy, Worship Committee, Parish Council and all other concerned parishioners, must go beyond merely repeating the past and rather: selectively choosing from the past those elements which we judge can still be helpful in responding to the ever new situation in our parish.

All our efforts for ministry are an attempt to build on the good of the past and surpass it.

The Great Vigil of Easter for Saturday,

April 11th at 7:30 pm is an excellent case in point. This will be the first time in the 90+ year history of this congregation that it will be celebrated at Holy Trinity Anglican church in Sooke. This ceremony is not in *The Book of Common Prayer* issued by the authority of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada 1962. It is in *The Book of Alternative Services* of 1985, beginning on page 321.

The ceremony begins at dusk with an outdoor lighting of the paschal fire. We follow Deacon Wally carrying the newly light Paschal candle signifying the risen Christ into the dark sanctuary. There Nancy+ will proclaim the song of exultation of God from the Jewish Sacred Writings from creation to the end of the prophets.

We will then listen to the highlights of the mighty acts of God from the Jewish Sacred Writings from creation to the end of the prophets. Renewal of our baptismal vows and Holy Communion conclude our prayers.

Then at our clergy sponsored reception, we will enjoy hot cross buns (baked by Little Vienna Bakery) and sparkling white wine, tea/coffee.

Come, bring your family, out of town visitors, neighbors to the most important liturgical event of the whole year. After an hour of prayer, we will resoundingly respond to the dismissal, "Christ is risen! Alleluia!" with "Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!"

Sincerely, Alex+/Nancy+

Why The Alleluias Were Buried

Many years ago in France, Normandy and Germany, evidence was found of a minor service for the beginning of Lent called, "*The Burial of the Alleluia.*" During the penitential weeks of Lent the alleluia was put aside (as it is still done today) and the themes of self-examination and confession were stressed. In some services a coffin was provided for the alleluia, with the knowledge that it would rise again with Christ at Easter and would be the first word sung! The actual liturgy was not found in full but a general outline went something like this:

A reader would begin talking about hearing a great voice of many people in heaven saying, "Alleluia!" The people would follow with another Alleluia and give attributes to God's majesty. This was followed by the congregation singing **Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones.** Then the priest spoke asking if the people's minds were set on God's righteousness. They answered that their mouths said they were! "Heaven forbid," replies the priest, "that we should approach God with our mouths and lips alone and not have our hearts in it!" So the people respond asking if that meant they should stop singing their *Alleluias*? The priest goes on to say that there is a time for everything and that it is time to bring forth acts that are suitable signs of repentance. He reminds them that it is a humble and contrite heart that God does not despise. He further reminds them that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night and cautions them to be prepared. The people say they intend to do this and to take upon themselves Jesus' yoke as, "it is easy and his burden is light." Quoting, the priest continues by saying, "Happy are the dead who die in the faith of Christ! Henceforth, they may rest from their labors." Continuing he says, "So says the church of its *Alleluia.*

So during Lent the Alleluia has been gone... until with Christ it rises at His glorious resurrection. When He died, He died to sin, once for all. Living as He lives, He lives to God. In the same way we

must regard ourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, in union with Christ Jesus."

At this point a symbol of the Alleluia is taken from the chancel accompanied by more prayers from the congregation. They conclude by asking God to look with favor on them as they use the season of Lent to help reorder their lives so that others can see God's presence.

This is why during Lent we put aside the singing of the Alleluia until we celebrate with joy and gladness beginning with the Great Easter Vigil right on to Easter morning. I like to remember this little liturgy, and I thought you might, too! Nancy+

HOLY THURSDAY

THE CUP OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: Wine is a gift from God. Jesus knew what He was doing when He selected bread and wine to be the effective and abiding sign of His presence among us. This is where He delights being and the celebrational meal is at the heart of that delight.

We do not celebrate with bread alone. Bread is our nourishment; it is a necessary part of our ordinary lives. Wine delights rather than nourishes. It is the drink of celebration. The virtue of wine is that it is in no way necessary. Bread is the staff of life; wine on the other hand enhances that life. Wine is the sign of the transcendent.

In the symbolism of the Eucharist, wine points to the spirit. It raises the elements above the level of mere practical necessity. It was eminently unnecessary for Jesus Christ to shed blood for us. He did so to show the overflowing abundance of his love. The wine of the Eucharist, transformed into the "cup of the new covenant" continues to manifest this same saving love. This cup contains a reality beyond itself, and so is the sign of the fulfillment of that reality, the eternal banquet of the Kingdom of Heaven.

It was never meant to be drunk alone. True renewal of the Eucharist demands that the sharing of both the Eucharistic bread and cup characterizes the normal celebration and not just special occasions.

For this reason everyone is encouraged to receive from the cup. The liturgy does more than invite us to partake by drinking from the cup. We need not worry about transmission of germs for as the American Medical Association pointed out in 1970s the alcohol content kills all the germs.

GOOD FRIDAY THEN AND NOW

In the past we were accustomed to Good Friday as a day of grief and gloom. It reminded one of attending funerals in days past. Then, black was the prevailing color, followed by purple. Many people dressed in mourning on Good Friday as if they had lost a loved one. Other devotions also emphasized that the Church was in mourning, such as the Stations of the Cross. Among different ethnic groups, in Europe for instance, children carried a small coffin from the church and buried it near a stream to be unearthed on Easter.

Today we must remind ourselves that Good Friday is not a funeral service for Jesus. It is a commemoration of a historical event that happened many centuries ago. It is also a celebration of transcendent moment in human history and the salvation history of each of us. It is a celebration of our redemption. It is a time of thanksgiving and fervent hope.

So gone are the purple drapes which draped the statues and the cross. Vanished are the black and purple vestments which so vividly brought the funeral liturgy to mind. Gone are the references to the killing of Christ and the cursing of the Jews. Instead of homilies, prayer and music that concentrated our attention on our sins and the awful consequences, an attempt is being made to help all of us to see even Good Friday as a time when we worship as a community, not just as isolated individuals.

Deacon Wally continues:

I've been deeply involved in the 'Great Bear Rainforest', first for the province and then for the Nanwakolas First Nations, since 2002. On March 31st, as we approach Easter 2009, the province, First Nations, environmentalists, forest companies and others after intensive negotiation and tension announced a significant milestone in the 'Great Bear Rainforest'.

The details of the agreement are important, but the agreement highlights more universal and important issues. When tension is high, it is easy and powerful to demonize other groups, which increases the solidarity within our own group. In a deeply physical way, we prepare for battle – us versus them. We have all experienced it, and we see it in politics and many other parts of daily life. Christ went to the cross to show a different way.

Christ calls us to a transformed battle that recognizes the image of God in each of us. Our battle is first with that part of ourselves that is less than the image of God, and only after with the part of others that is less than the image of God. The battle is never with the whole other person or group of persons. None are 'them'; all are 'us', brothers and sisters in Christ, each sharing the image of God. When we can do this, we move mountains.



ASHES TO FIRE: LENT, HOLY WEEK & GREAT EASTER VIGIL

Our Lent is about to conclude. Holy Week is nearly upon us. At Holy Trinity we are putting the finishing touches on our preparations for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Great Easter Vigil. We began with Ashes and we will conclude with the lighting of the New Fire at the Great Easter Vigil. We are about to embark on the most important week in the Church Year. It takes lots of planning, and many people to bring about this wonderful week of liturgies.

Holy Week observances began in Jerusalem in the earliest days of the Church, when devout people traveled to Jerusalem at Passover to reenact the events of the week leading up to the Resurrection.

Egeria was a Christian who traveled widely during the period of 381-385 and wrote about Christian customs and observances in Egypt, Palestine and Asia Minor. She described how religious pilgrims to Jerusalem reenacted the events of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday afternoon, the crowds waved palm fronds as they made a procession from the Mount of Olives into the city. Of course, the observances must have begun quite a number of years before Egeria witnessed them, or they wouldn't have been so elaborate. It's just that Egeria's description is the earliest we still have. The pilgrims took the customs home with them. Holy week observances spread to Spain by the fifth century, to Gaul and England by the early seventh century. They didn't spread to Rome until the 12th century.

The purpose of Holy Week is to reenact, relive, and participate in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

At Holy Trinity our reenactions will be like this:


Palm /Passion Sunday - April 5th. Weather permitting, we begin outside where Palm Crosses are distributed, special prayers are read along with a Gospel. From there the congregation processes into the church while singing "All Glory Laud and Honor" re-enacting the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. But then, as in the Scriptures, Jesus' high point of acceptance diminishes and we come to the reading of the Passion -

(this is the reason why the same day is called both "Palm Sunday" and "Passion Sunday"). There will be over a dozen persons participating in the dramatic reading of the Passion: from Jesus in the Upper Room to His death.

Maundy Thursday - April 9th - 7pm. This service commemorates the institution of Holy Communion and Jesus' call to all of us to dedicate our lives by serving others. Similar to a Sunday liturgy there is a special segment dedicated to service.

Good Friday - April 10th - 10am—1pm. At this service (about ½ an hour) there will be no music. The focus is somber and reflective. After the service, the church will be available for quiet reflection. There will be meditative writings and reflections on the stations of the cross available for anyone who wishes to use them. You are strongly encouraged to spend some time in quiet reflection that day, especially during the three hours, when we remember Christ's arrest, trial, crucifixion, death and burial.

Holy Saturday - April 12th - During the day we commemorate the Sabbath on which Jesus rested in the grave. Until that evening when ...

The Great Easter Vigil, at 7:30pm, the most important Liturgy of the Church Year, celebrates the Resurrection. We begin with the lighting of the New Fire, from which the Paschal Candle is lit. This takes place outside; we then process into the darkened church. The Paschal Candle is carried down the center aisle, stopping in three places while we sing, "The Light of Christ Has Come Into The World." Then we are seated and listen to the Exultet; our faith story in song. This is followed by dramatic readings, interspersed with hymns that tell of our faith heritage as it has been passed on to us for thousands of years! We will then celebrate Holy Communion followed by a wonderful reception (hosted by Alex +and Nancy+) This is the first and greatest of the Easter Liturgies and the Celebration does not stop there. 

On Easter morning there is an Ecumenical Service at McGregor Park, 7:30 am. This service (the Liturgy of the Word) will conclude with Holy Communion at Holy Trinity beginning around 8:15 am. At 10:00 am we will celebrate the final Easter Eucharist.

By the time you have spent this last week of Lent - Holy Week - you will know you have experienced the best our Anglican Tradition has to offer and you will be quite ready to shout, "Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!"

~ Nancy+

A Matter of Questioning And Struggle

We too often forget that faith is a matter of questioning and struggle before it becomes one of certitude and peace. You have to doubt and reject everything else in order to believe firmly in Christ, and after you have begun to believe, your faith itself must be tested and purified. Christianity is not merely a set of forgone conclusions. Faith tends to be defeated by the burning presence of God in mystery, and seeks refuge from him, flying to comfortable social forms and safe convictions in which purification is no longer an inner battle but a matter of outward gesture.

Thomas Merton

MEET YOUR NEW PEOPLE'S WARDEN ~ Charles Isherwood



Charles Isherwood is the elder of two sons of Connie (Constance) Dora and T. (Thomas) Foster Isherwood. He attended Willows Elementary School then Oak Bay High, while

being an army cadet with the 2136 Canadian Scottish Regiment at the Bay Street Armory (4 years from Cadet to Warrant Officer) and Vernon Army Cadet Camp in the Summers (from "Green Star" to "Gold Star with Wreath" and finally Company Sergeant Major).

Charles attended Church at Saint Mary's Oak Bay with involvements over the years as a choir boy, server, Parish Council Treasurer, Synod Delegate, Camp Columbia attendee, and Eddy Memorial Handbell Choir Bell Ringer.

He graduated from Mount Douglas High School in 1985, spent 3 years at Camosun College, 1 year at the University of Victoria, 3 years at the University of British Columbia and graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor of Commerce in Urban Land Economics while in residence at the Vancouver School of Theology. He is also a graduate of the Information Technology Professional Program through Continuing Studies at the University of Victoria and a Microsoft Certified Professional and Registered Partner.

Charles has been involved with many volunteer and fund raising activities over the years with the most memorable being as a Security Supervisor at the International Broadcast Centre during the Victoria Commonwealth Games, and a performer and Commonwealth Choir member during the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Charles Isherwood has been a Realtor ® with the Victoria Real Estate Board for 15 years and is currently an Associate Broker with Sutton Group – West Coast Realty. He looks forward to getting to know all of us better and welcomes your comments.

KIDS! An Easter Story for You!

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:1-6

At church one Sunday, Mr. Kane, a teacher gathered his class around him and said, "as all of you can see, I have a great big trunk with me this morning. How many of you would like to see what is inside?" All of the children raised their hands. "Okay, gather around", he said, "and I will unlock the trunk and open it so that you can see what is inside. Look! The trunk is empty!" Then Mr. Kane went on to tell them a story. This is what he said, "When I was a little boy, we would sometimes have special assembly programs at school. One of my favorites was when a magician would come and put on a show."

As you may know, in those days, a magician always had a "beautiful assistant." One of my favorite tricks was when the magician would put his beautiful assistant into a trunk like this one. Then he would lock the trunk and tie ropes around it. Then, as we watched with great anticipation, he would untie the ropes, take a key and unlock and open the lid of the trunk. As I'm sure you know, when he opened the trunk, it was empty. The magician did not open the trunk so that his assistant could get out of the trunk, he opened the trunk so that we could see that it was empty. Then, to our amazement, his assistant would appear on stage as we clapped and cheered with delight.

On the Sunday morning after Jesus was crucified, two women named Mary went to visit the tomb where Jesus had been buried. When they arrived, there was a great earthquake and an angel came and rolled away the huge stone that had been covering the entrance to Jesus' tomb. He sat on the stone and said to the two women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

You see, the stone was not rolled away so that Jesus could get out of the grave, it was rolled away so that his followers could go in and see that the tomb was empty. The magician making his assistant disappear was just a trick, but the empty tomb of Jesus was not a trick -- Jesus had risen, just as he said he would! Today we celebrate the fact that the stone was rolled away -- not so Jesus could come out, but so that we could see that he has risen from the grave, and because of his victory over death, we can enter into eternal life with him.

Let us pray:

Dear Jesus, we are thankful that the stone has been rolled away -- and because the grave is empty, we can enter into eternal life with you.



Jesus is alive!

HOW WILL YOU SHOW YOUR EASTER JOY THIS YEAR? MAKE A LIST OF THE WAYS YOU CAN SHOW YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHAT YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE LOVE OF JESUS BY THE WAY YOU SHOW THAT LOVE TO OTHERS. GATHER WITH YOUR FAMILY AND SHARE IDEAS FOR YOUR LIST AND PERHAPS FOR THEIR LIST AS WELL.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL!

April 5 10:00 am Palm Sunday

7:00 pm Taize Service

April 9 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday

April 10 10:00 am Good Friday ~ Private meditation 10:30am—1 pm

April 11 7:30 pm Great Easter Vigil (First Easter Service) and reception

April 12 7:30 am McGregor Park (Liturgy of the Word)...

8:15 am Holy Trinity (Liturgy of Eucharist continues)

10:00 am Second Easter Service

April 15 1:30 pm Mother's Union (home of Muriel Yates)

April 21 7:00 pm Council Meeting

April 26 10:00 am Masonic Annual Church Parade

April 29 12 noon Men's Luncheon - Castle Café

MAY

May 2 Annual Plant Sale—SeaParc 10:00 am—5:00pm



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CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

6 Laura Baldwin

Darlene Kerruish

8 Helene Barwis

12 Ernie Bacon

20 Rosina Waddell

24 Elizabeth /25 John Etherington

27 Judy Vanden Brink

Anniversaries

6 Beth and Jerry Van Ek

14 Flo and Les Tickner

